



WEST LONDON  
ISLAMIC CENTRE

## **WLIC Gaza Correspondence to London Borough of Ealing Parliamentarians & Councillors**

Tues 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2023

The last three weeks have seen an unprecedented escalation of destruction and human suffering in the Middle East. Regardless of the perpetrator, we categorically and unequivocally condemn all acts of terrorism, violence and the targeting of innocent civilians and their infrastructure.

Over 2 million Palestinians remain trapped in the Gaza Strip, cut off from adequate food, electricity, water, shelter and medical supplies. The recent trickle of aid has been pitiful, and the prevention of proper aid supplies is only exacerbating the suffering of innocent civilians who have faced continuous, brutal and indiscriminate bombing night and day, creating what has been referred to as a "hell on earth".

We are immensely saddened and disappointed at the major political parties' failure, to make it clear that any policy of 'collective punishment' of civilians in the Gaza Strip is against international law and existentially counterproductive. Thousands have already been killed and many of the victims are innocent young children, living in a small densely populated area that has already faced a 16-year blockade.

Numerous reports by international agencies cite that conditions of civilians were already dire before this war, with Gaza often being referred to as an "open prison". The current plight of Palestinians in the West Bank is also dreadful, with armed attacks, unlawful killings and arbitrary detentions of large numbers of people. We, the Muslim community of the London Borough of Ealing, acting on the wishes of our congregation and members, request you to call for:

- 1) An immediate ceasefire, end to the military occupation of Palestinian territories and peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- 2) An end to the inhumane blockades, urgent reinstatement of full humanitarian aid and an end to collective punishment.

The application of international law cannot be selective. Human rights, non-discrimination and antiracism must be universal. These rights cannot be withheld from a nation of people based on ethnicity or religion. They cannot stop at borders or enable apartheid. As people of conscience, it is our shared duty to help bring an end to the decades long suffering and dispossession of the Palestinian people, by addressing the root causes, justice and dialogue are prerequisites of peace and prosperity in the region.

There is also considerable concern within our communities. On the rise of Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate crimes, and any potential stigmatisation of young people or curtailment of civil liberties such as the freedom to lawfully protest and peacefully display solidarity against incontrovertible injustices and violations. As mosques and religious organisations, we are dedicated to preserving our faith, which transcends politics and defines a duty to save lives and serve humanity.

Our local civic leadership has always enjoyed support from Muslim communities. We are extremely hopeful that you will take note, acknowledge and action our points of petition above, to condemn all acts of terror, breaches of human rights, ethnic cleansing and war crimes that are reported to be taking place in Gaza. Anything less will cause irreparable disillusionment amongst the voting Muslim community in the Borough of Ealing and undoubtedly across the country. We remain committed to working for the safety and benefit of all our communities in London.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr Abdulkarim Khalil (CEO)**

On Behalf of the WLIC Board & Community

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CENTRE**

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