

20 February 2024

Notice of Motion, Cr Jamal Hakim: Reflecting community sentiment on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Motion

That the Future Melbourne Committee:

1. Endorses the following statement:

The City of Melbourne acknowledges the enduring trauma stemming from the conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This pain resonates deeply worldwide and within our community. We mourn the horrific loss of innocent lives in both Palestine and Israel and unequivocally condemn all attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure including hospitals, utilities, homes, and places of worship, education, and culture.

We acknowledge the distress caused by the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza and recognise the profound impact of recent events, including the atrocities committed on October 7th, the hostages held in Gaza and in Israel, the continuous bombing and total siege of Gaza, including the bombing of Rafah, the last 'safe zone', and that these are part of a history of violence for over 75 years. These experiences are traumatising for many Melbourne residents who have relatives or a connection in the region, or who come from war-torn countries. We express solidarity with these communities.

We recognise that Melbourne is a diverse, multi-cultural, and multi-faith community. We stand firmly against racism, vilification, and discrimination, including Islamophobia and antisemitism.

We support Australia advancing the cause of peace and call on the Australian Government to urgently advocate for a permanent ceasefire, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, recognition of Palestine and Palestinians' right to self-determination, and the establishment of a just and sustainable peace.

2. Requests that the Lord Mayor relay the above statement to the Australian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, while calling on the Australian Government to:
 - 2.1. Advocate for a permanent ceasefire and the immediate lifting of the siege on Gaza to allow Palestinians in Gaza to have adequate and unimpeded access to food, water, fuel, electricity, medical supplies and construction materials to repair damaged homes and civilian infrastructure.
 - 2.2. Demand the immediate release of all Israeli hostages held in Gaza by Hamas, and the immediate release of Palestinians held in Israeli prisons without charge, including children.
 - 2.3. Urgently provide humanitarian aid to those in need and advocate for safe and unimpeded humanitarian access to the people of Gaza.
 - 2.4. Provide assistance to those who have arrived in Australia after fleeing the conflict, including accommodation, food, and access to employment and health services, including mental health services.
 - 2.5. Advocate for an end to illegal settlements and the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, in alignment with applicable UN resolutions and international law, and the establishment of a just and sustainable peace.
 - 2.6. Address the rise of antisemitism and Islamophobia in Australian communities through support for local, community led initiatives.
 - 2.7. Urge all parties to uphold international law, including decisions of the International Court of Justice.

Moved: Cr Jamal Hakim

Seconded: Cr Davydd Griffiths