

NOTICE OF MOTION	Date of Council Meeting: 21/05/25
	Mover: Councillor Yasseen
	Seconded: Councillor Tarmey
	Title of Motion: Upholding International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights in Gaza

That this Council notes:

- The ongoing concern of Rotherham residents about the continued attacks on Gaza, blocking of aid and suffering of the Palestinian people, as demonstrated in last year's petition signed by over 4,000 residents and the flying of the Palestinian flag outside the Town Hall.
- Rotherham residents have been campaigning tirelessly for a year and half demanding an end to the genocide in Gaza. Through protests, petitions, public meetings and community-led actions, they have consistently raised their voices in solidarity with the Palestinian people and called for justice, peace and meaningful political intervention.
- The ongoing genocide and humanitarian crisis in Gaza has resulted in the loss of over 50,000 Palestinian lives, mostly women and children, with entire families wiped out and communities reduced to rubble. The scale of devastation is unimaginable, with hospitals, schools and places of worship targeted, leaving a trail of destruction and trauma that will endure for generations.
- That more than 2 million people are now trapped in dire conditions, facing acute shortages of food, water, and medical aid. The deliberate use of starvation as a weapon of war is not only abhorrent but a clear violation of international humanitarian law.
- Recent findings that UK firms exported military items to Israel despite a suspension of certain arms export licences, raising concerns about compliance with international law.
- Statements from UK MPs and organisations such as Amnesty International acknowledge that Israel's blockade of Gaza constitutes a breach of international law.
- Calls from MPs across party lines, urging the UK government to recognise the State of Palestine and with immediate effect demand the end of the genocide, and reassess its foreign policy stance.

That this Council believes:

- That international humanitarian law must be upheld and Israel should facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza.

- That the UK government should ensure its foreign policy and trade practices do not contribute to violations of international law.
- That recognition of the State of Palestine could contribute to a just and lasting peace in the region.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Foreign Secretary and local Members of Parliament conveying the content of this motion, and requesting:
 - The Labour Government urgently calls for immediate international action to stop the genocide in Gaza.
 - The deliberate targeting of civilians, civilian infrastructure, use of starvation as a weapon, and mass destruction of infrastructure must end now.
 - Express their solidarity with all civilians affected by the conflict and support efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza.
 - Write to the UK government to review its arms export policies to ensure compliance with international law and prevent complicity in potential violations.
 - That the UK government formally recognise the State of Palestine, aligning with international consensus.