

Dyddiad/Date: 8th November 2024

Dear Parliamentary Representatives,

RE: Notice of Motion on the conflict in Gaza

At the last meeting of Full Council, Members debated and subsequently supported a <u>Notice of Motion</u> on the ongoing conflict between Israel and Gaza, which saw its first anniversary marked on October 7th.

In agreeing the content of the Motion, Council resolved that I write to you as a Member of Parliament that represents communities within our County Borough in order to request that you support the position outlined in the Motion and urge the new U.K. Westminster Government to do so as well.

We have all seen the images and footage from Gaza and read the daily reports of the unimaginable scale of the devastation. The loss of life is truly incomprehensible, with tens of thousands of innocent civilians – many being women and children – being killed in the conflict and millions more being displaced. The recent escalation of the conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon further deepens the instability in the region.

To that end, it is imperative that the U.K. Government uses any available levers to press the need for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza which can then allow for a large-scale humanitarian aid programme to be initiated to alleviate the grave situation that civilians are facing.

While the historical context of the conflict means that the political, cultural and religious challenges remain complex, the aspiration to see a viable and peaceful two-state solution must remain the goal that the international community strives towards.

Here in Rhondda Cynon Taf – and indeed in Wales – we remain committed to tackling all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism and islamophobia, and the Council is rightly proud of the role it plays in upholding the well-being of our residents and promoting more inclusivity and cohesiveness within our communities.

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Whilst the conflict may be taking place thousands of miles away from our County Borough, it is nevertheless an issue that is highly emotive, with Councillors and our communities united in possessing strong feelings about the destruction and loss of life.

Yours sincerely,

H wordow

Y Cynghorydd Andrew Morgan OBE Arweinydd y Cyngor a Chadeirydd y Cabinet Councillor Andrew Morgan OBE Leader of the Council and Chair of the Cabinet

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