

Motion *re* the situation in Israel and the occupied Palestinian Territory

Body

That Dáil Éireann:

—unreservedly condemns the brutal attack by Hamas in Israel on Saturday, 7th October last, indiscriminately and systematically targeting civilians, and resulting in over 1,400 deaths;

—emphasises that the deliberate taking of hostages, including children and the elderly, is unconscionable and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

—recognises Israel's right to defend itself from attack, in line with international law;

—stresses the universal applicability of international law and international humanitarian law – including the prohibition on the targeting of civilians, the principle of proportionality, the prohibition on collective punishment, the prohibition on the use of "human shields" and the prohibition on indiscriminate attacks – to all in armed conflict;

—emphasises the obligation on parties to take all feasible precautions to protect the civilian population and civilian objects under its control against the effects of attacks; and calls on all actors to abide by their obligations in this regard;

—recalls that abiding by international humanitarian law is not optional and that it is an obligation that is binding on all parties, in all conflicts; state actors and non-state actors alike;

—calls on all actors to abide by their obligations in this regard, and condemns all violations of international humanitarian law;

—expresses its alarm and deep concern at the rising death toll of civilians and acute humanitarian needs in Gaza; underlines that, under international law, Israel has responsibilities in respect of the basic needs of the population of Gaza including food, water, medical and energy supplies and calls for these supplies to be urgently restored;

—calls for immediate and unimpeded humanitarian access to meet the urgent needs of all civilians in Gaza, through humanitarian corridors or any other means necessary;

—in this context, calls for a humanitarian pause, to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of all civilians in Gaza, who are suffering the appalling consequences of violence;

—extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of all of the victims who have been killed, injured and taken hostage;

—in line with the call by the United Nations (UN), strongly urges Israel to rescind the order for civilians in Gaza to move south of the Wadi Gaza line, and reiterates in the strongest terms that this is causing a humanitarian catastrophe;

—expresses its deep concern at the increase in violence in the West Bank, including further forced displacement of Palestinian communities;

—emphasises the grave risks of a continued escalation of violence in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as in the wider region, and calls for immediate de-escalation, through regional and international diplomacy;

—in line with UN Security Council Resolutions, notes that that lasting peace can only be based on an enduring commitment to mutual recognition, freedom from violence, incitement, and terror, and the two-state solution; re-affirms the Government's firm support for these principles; and calls on all members of Dáil Eireann to unambiguously commit to these principles;

—emphasises the vital need for continued and uninterrupted development and humanitarian aid to be provided to the Palestinian people, including through established channels with the Palestinian Authority;

—notes the statement of Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas, rejecting the killing and abuse of civilians, and reiterating the commitment to a peaceful path towards Palestinian self-determination;

—expresses its deep concern at the rise in the circulation of disinformation and hate speech, in particular on social media, and reminds relevant companies of their legal obligations in this regard;

—emphasises the urgency of intensifying diplomatic efforts – bilaterally, through the European Union and the UN – to contribute to de-escalation; and recalls the moral and political obligation of all members of the international community to develop a pathway back towards a political horizon;

—affirms that building a just and sustainable peace, in any conflict, requires addressing poverty, inequality, injustice and all the root causes of violence, and meaningful accountability for breaches of international law, in the context of the Middle East Peace Process and in all contexts; and

—recalling the successive resolutions of the United Nations, expresses its conviction and commitment to achieving a two-state solution that meets Israeli and Palestinian security needs and Palestinian aspirations for statehood and sovereignty, ends the occupation that began in 1967, and resolves all permanent status issues in order to end the conflict.