

Public Statement - recent events in Palestine

We write as three Members of Parliament representing Nottingham to express our views on the recent events in Sheikh Jarrah and at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the subsequent escalation of violence in Israel, Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territory.

These events are a continuation of a long-running struggle that people in Nottingham feel strongly about. Recent demonstrations and the overwhelming amount of correspondence from our constituents have shown the solidarity that people locally feel with the Palestinian people.

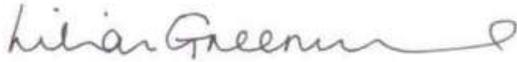
There is no military solution to this conflict. We must establish a meaningful peace process that ensures a sovereign Palestinian state alongside a safe, secure Israel becomes an achievable prospect.

In Opposition there is a limit to what local Labour MPs can do to ensure this happens but we are strongly committed to using our precious platform to do whatever we can to advance the following aims:

- We urge the UK government to demand an end to the forced displacement of Palestinians from their homes in occupied East Jerusalem and an immediate halt to all new settlements in the West Bank. The continued expansion of illegal settlements and expulsions are in flagrant violation of international law, they entrench divisions, and make peace harder to achieve.
- There must be urgent humanitarian support for Gaza, which already faced a desperate situation prior to this latest outbreak of violence. There must be an end to the blockade which has led to an acute humanitarian crisis. At the same time, the UK should work with our allies and international partners to do all it can to disrupt the flow of rockets and military technology into Gaza.
- Sacred sites of all faiths must be treated with the utmost respect. –There must be no repeat of the recent scenes at the al-Aqsa Mosque.
- We believe the UK Government must undertake a full assessment of the use of all UK exported arms and equipment in this conflict. We believe that this should include a comprehensive report delivered to Parliament that sets out whether further licences issued for the export of arms and equipment to the Israeli security forces could be used to commit acts of internal repression, external aggression or violations of international humanitarian law.
- We support the investigations of the International Criminal Court to establish whether war crimes have been committed by any party.
- We call on the UK Government to join the 140 other countries that have recognised Palestinian statehood.

With our long standing connection to the region, Britain can play a leading role in bringing about peace and an end to the daily suffering of the Palestinians. The steps above would be a good start.

We welcome, as we have throughout, the continued engagement with constituents on this matter.



Lilian Greenwood MP

Member of Parliament for Nottingham South



Alex Norris MP

Member of Parliament for Nottingham North



Nadia Whittome MP

Member of Parliament for Nottingham East