

Full Council – 14 November 2023

Agenda item 7

Petitions notified / presented by councillors



- Petitions can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affect the city.
- Councillors presenting petitions will be permitted to read out the objectives of the petition.
- A written reply will be provided to the councillor / lead petitioner within 10 working days of the meeting.



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## Petitions to be presented by councillors:

The following petitions have been notified:

### **Petition CP 01 – Cllr Zoe Goodman and Cllr Farah Hussain**

**Petition title: Petition on Israel-Gaza Conflict**

#### **Petition wording:**

We the undersigned as residents, workers and students in Bristol, call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and a lifting of the siege to end the humanitarian disaster.

We ask all Bristol councillors to do the same.

We ask for a minute's silence to be held in Bristol's Full Council meeting on Tuesday 14th November, to commemorate all those killed in the atrocities.

We ask for City Hall to be lit up in Palestinian colours, to express sympathy for those who have lost their lives or been injured, the same as it did when lighting up City Hall in the colours of the Israeli flag.

By the time of the United Nations Security Council meeting of 30th October, 8,300 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza, over 3,400 of them children, with over 6,300 children injured. As the UNICEF representative pointed out, that is an average of more than 420 children being killed or injured each day in Gaza.

Palestinians should not be facing collective punishment; no nation, no people or community should have to endure collective punishment. This has included the blockade of electricity, food, water and fuel and the forced displacement of civilians. These actions constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law and we must not stand by and let it happen.

Gaza is home to 2.2 million people, over half of whom are children. Before this crisis began, over 80% of the population relied on aid, now this crisis has turned to catastrophe. The innocent civilians in Gaza have had nothing to do with this crisis and bear no responsibility to its outcome.

Five UN agencies, including The World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have called for a humanitarian ceasefire as they described the conditions in Gaza as "catastrophic". Leaders across all faiths, including the Archbishop of Canterbury, have also called for a ceasefire and polling shows over three quarters of the British public support a ceasefire.

We call for a just political settlement and we ask Bristol's political representatives to add their voices to this call.



As a City of Sanctuary, we will all work together to ensure the safety of all our communities – Muslim and Jewish alike and are ready to welcome refugees from Gaza.

**Number of signatures 2,802**

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