

COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2023

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MOTION 2

Motion 2 – Standing in solidarity with Islington’s diverse community in times of conflict by supporting the cessation of hostilities on all sides

The proposed amendment is cross-party and will be moved by:

Councillor Roulin Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture and Inclusion, and
Councillor Caroline Russell, Green Group Business Manager

The amendment will be seconded by:

Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner, Migrants Champion
Councillor Benali Hamdache, Leader of the Opposition
Councillor John Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety
Councillor Saiqa Pandor, Women and Girls Champion

This Council notes:

- The pain and trauma caused by the conflict in Israel and Palestine, and expresses solidarity with local people who have loved ones in the affected region, in particular concerned with the rising number of civilian deaths and **unacceptable high** number of children who have been killed.
- Many local people have been deeply affected by the conflict, which is why our focus continues to be on ensuring our borough remains the cohesive, welcoming place we all know and love, and that our diverse communities are safe, reassured and know that we are on their side.
- Islington is a diverse place, with different communities from all around the world that have made this borough their home. Nearly 40% of people who live in Islington were born outside the UK and even more have parents and grandparents who came to this country and made Islington their home.
- Our continued celebration of **and solidarity with** Islington’s diverse faiths and community groups.
- Prominent faith leaders from across Islington, as well as both of our local MPs and Islington councillors from all parties came together in November to

remember those who lost their lives in conflict and recommit to aim for peace across the world.

This Council further notes:

- There has been a vast increase in the number of hate crime incidents in Islington since the start of the conflict primarily incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia.
- The support of Islington Faiths Forum with the organisation of a Peace Vigil in Islington Green in October, which was a chance for local faith leaders and representatives to come together, say prayers and mourn the loss of life we have seen during this conflict.
- The Council statement in November to mark Islamophobia Awareness Month, including the event held on Wednesday 29th November, reaffirmed our commitment to stand united in the face of Islamophobia and antisemitism, and all forms of hate in our communities.
- The Council's previous adoption of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia in 2019 and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism in 2017.
- Over 300 organisations have signed the Islington Hate Crime Pledge, which is to allow individuals and organisations in the borough to support and participate in ongoing efforts to reduce hate crime in the area.
- [The UK government has a unique role to play in reaching peace, as a UN Security Council member with the platform and power to influence the situation.](#)

This Council resolves to:

- Support those in Islington with loved ones in the affected region by writing to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to support calls - made by the Mayor of London, a number of trade unions including Unite and UNISON, the UN General Assembly, over 200 countries and many global humanitarian aid agencies - for an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the release of hostages [and political prisoners](#). Also to support calls for an [embargo on the sale of offensive weapons for this conflict](#), an investigation by the International Criminal Court into alleged breaches of international law during this conflict and to begin a political process for permanent peace.
- [Write to our local MPs and ask they use every avenue to pursue peace and to call for ceasefire.](#)
- Continue to work with faith and community leaders from across Islington to preserve and celebrate our borough's diversity and cohesion, this will include working with the Islington Faiths Forum to organise an inter-faith event in early 2024, allowing people from all parts of Islington to come together and celebrate our community's shared values.

- Further promote the work of the Council's Hate Crime Prevention Champions, encouraging more local people to take ownership and support our drive to tackle hate crime in Islington.
 - Continue to promote the work of Islington-based charities working to support those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Israel and Palestine.
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The amended motion would read as follows:

Motion 2 – Standing in solidarity with Islington's diverse community in times of conflict by supporting the cessation of hostilities on all sides

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