

Dear First Minister,

We write to you concerning the terrible situation in Palestine and to ask that the Welsh Government declare support for a ceasefire.

More than 9,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 3,500 children. Hospitals are unable to provide essential care; people lack access to clean water, medicines and food; and thousands have been injured, lost their homes and seen their families killed. This is a humanitarian catastrophe.

It is a great shame that on this issue Wales is represented by a UK Government that has given its 'unequivocal' support to the Israeli Government and declined to support motions calling for a ceasefire at the UN. We do not want those actions to represent Wales's contribution at this pivotal moment in time. History will not look back kindly at those who supported this massacre, nor those who stood by.

We note your support for a 'humanitarian pause', but a 'pause' is not enough. A break in the bombardment, only for more civilians to die once it resumes, is insufficient. A ceasefire is urgently needed, and is the only way to prevent further loss of life and begin to take steps towards negotiations for peace. It is supported by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, governments across the world and agencies including UNICEF, Save the Children, Amnesty International and Oxfam, as well as 76% of people in Britain.

We ask that you instruct your fellow Ministers and MSs to vote in support of motion NDM8391, which will be debated in the Senedd on 08/11/2023 and that you publicly and unequivocally support these calls:

- An **immediate ceasefire** for all parties and an end to the siege on Gaza.
- The **urgent opening of routes for humanitarian aid** to enter Gaza and the restoration of power, water, adequate food and medical supplies.
- An **investigation into war crimes** that have been committed during the conflict.
- A **commitment to peace negotiations** and the use of nonviolent tactics by the international community such as boycotts, divestment and sanctions on the Israeli Government.
- An **end to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and the oppression of the Palestinian people**, with a right to return for refugees and a commitment to justice and peace for all citizens of Israel and Palestine.

The First Minister of Scotland, the leader of Scottish Labour and the Mayors of London and Manchester have called for a ceasefire, as well as MPs and MSs from all parties, and elected politicians around the world. It would be a shame if our First Minister, leader of a Nation of Sanctuary with a proud tradition of internationalism, did not join those calls.

Wales may not have powers over international affairs but we do have a voice. You have a democratic duty to represent the majority of people in Wales who want to see a ceasefire, as well as a moral duty to use your position to join the growing international chorus for peace.

Yours sincerely,

1. Bangor and Ynys Môn Peace and Justice Group
2. Black Lives Matter Cardiff & Vale
3. CADNO (Society for the Prevention of Everlasting Nuclear Destruction)
4. Cardiff Palestine Solidarity Campaign
5. Cardiff People's Assembly
6. Cardiff Stop the War Coalition
7. Cardiff and the Vale Welsh Labour Grassroots Organising Committee
8. CND Cymru
9. Codi Pais magazine
10. Côr Cochion
11. Côr Gobaith
12. Cymdeithas Niclas y Glais
13. Cymdeithas yr Iaith
14. Cymdeithas y Cymod (The Fellowship of Reconciliation)
15. Desolation Radio
16. Ethnic Minorities Youth and Support Team (EYST)
17. gentle/radical
18. Glitter Cymru
19. Grangetown Muslim Cultural Centre
20. Heddwch Nain/Mam-gu
21. Left Unity Wales
22. LUMIN Press
23. Maldwyn Literary Circle
24. Melin Drafod
25. Merched y Wawr
26. The Morning Star
27. Muslim Council of Wales
28. PAWB (People Against Wylfa B)
29. Peace Action Aberystwyth
30. Peace Action Wales

31. Plaid Ifanc
32. Planet: the Welsh Internationalist magazine
33. The Presbyterian Church of Wales
34. Queer Manifesto for Wales
35. Race Alliance Wales
36. Rhondda Cynon Taf Palestine Solidarity Campaign
37. Trans Pride Cardiff
38. Trans Aid Cymru
39. Undod
40. Unite Cambria
41. Unite North West Wales Community Branch
42. Urdd Gobaith Cymru
43. Voice.wales
44. Welsh Communist Party
45. Welsh Underground Network
46. Wales Green Party
47. Wales Young Communist League
48. Welsh Labour Grassroots