

16th November 2023

Subject: Vote on Gaza Ceasefire

Dear Rt. Honourable Mr Barry Sheerman,

We, at the Huddersfield Council of Mosques, sincerely hope that this letter finds you in improving health following your recent setback, and we wish you a swift and complete recovery.

Our purpose in reaching out to you today is with a heavy heart and deep concern regarding the recent Parliamentary vote concerning the tragic events unfolding in Gaza. The rapid escalation of loss of lives, especially the cold-blooded killing of 12,000 innocent civilians, including nearly 5,000 children, has deeply distressed our community.

The continual bombardment of hospitals, places of worship, schools, and refugee camps compounds this tragedy, making it one of the most inhumane atrocities of this century. The daily influx of images and reports depicting the dire human suffering only intensifies our anguish.

As constituents in your area, we look to our elected representatives to mirror our shared values of compassion, justice, and humanity. Regrettably, the Parliamentary vote against an immediate ceasefire in Gaza has left many in our community feeling abandoned and disheartened. We acknowledge the complexities of international relations, but the urgency of the situation demands decisive action to halt the ongoing violence and prevent further loss of innocent lives.

Our disappointment stems from the belief that, as our representative, you possess the influence to shape policies aligned with our shared values of peace and justice. We implore you to advocate for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza through the Labour leadership, thereby putting an end to the brutal killing of innocent civilians.

While we appreciate the necessity for a nuanced and diplomatic approach to international conflicts, we firmly believe that the fundamental principle of preserving human life should transcend political considerations. The lives lost in Gaza represent more than statistics; they are children, parents, siblings, and loved ones whose suffering demands urgent attention.

As a representative of our diverse community, your support for an immediate ceasefire would convey a powerful message about the values we collectively hold dear—values that prioritise peace, compassion, and the protection of innocent lives.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns. We trust that you will reflect upon the sentiments of your constituents and take action in alignment with the principles that bind us together as a community. We eagerly await your response.

Sincerely,

The Huddersfield Council of Mosques