

## COUNCIL STATEMENT

Potholes are a huge problem for Bath residents but for some it's not their only concern.

Right here in Bath, there are residents with families in Gaza who would see that as a minor inconvenience. They have huge craters where their homes & streets used to be & have no other option than to navigate their way through those ruined streets, dodging IDF snipers to get food & water. In the refugee camp in Rafa, basic humanitarian aid is being blocked by Israeli settlers who are rejoicing, singing & even holding BBQs just metres away from where children are dying of starvation.

Imagine then, what it's like to be a Bath resident with family in Gaza and *still* have to carry on working, living or studying despite the enormous grief and worry that you have to shoulder.

When arriving at the decision to reject the motion, did the Monitoring Officer or Chair think about the 14000 babies and children who have been slaughtered? Did the faces of the 30000 orphans in the refugee camps, covered in dirt from being dug out of the rubble, or the haunted faces of the starving children not enter their thoughts? To dismiss the peace motions put forward as 'out of order' and 'not relevant' is shameful.

The statement issued by Bath Council regarding the ceasefire fell way short of what other councils have done. They won't be remembered for sitting on their hands. There are no actions linked to it. Bath Council has refused to act as other councils have done in calling for a ceasefire which is astonishing. There is live streaming of mass slaughter filmed by the victims themselves that can be watched on every tv, laptop & iPhone all over the world. The shocking evidence of the humanitarian crisis & war crimes committed by Israel as well the ICJ's guilty verdict has global coverage & can't be ignored.

It was stated that the council is keenly aware of the impact on local individuals & communities & will listen to what they have to say, which is

not true. We have had fortnightly rallies & vigils where the Palestinian speakers have given personal accounts of family tragedies & spoken about how vulnerable they are feeling yet no one from BANES aside from our Green councillors have attended or even engaged with the residents affected.

You had the opportunity to use your voices and join the global call for a ceasefire and rejected it. By removing our democratic right to debate on the ceasefire you have effectively silenced the residents of Bath.

It is not and never has been a time for 'both siding' or repeating platitudes about peace talks. Netanyahu does not want peace, he only wants Palestine, & at any cost.

You could have raised your voice for Palestine but you chose not to.