

Jane Samson statement

I can't sleep at night

I have a constant headache, my mental health is deteriorating.

My GP has prescribed anti-depressants.

I grind my teeth at night.

I feel like I am living a nightmare.

I go to bed thinking about it. I wake up thinking about it.

If I wake during the night it floods into my consciousness and I can't get back to sleep.

I am exhausted and ill.

I feel permanently on edge

I find it difficult to relate to my family and friends. It's like they exist behind a wall.

I don't know what to do. I feel helpless.

There is nothing I can do. But I can't do nothing. I can't move forward with my life. Everyday things don't mean anything any more.

When I look at my small grandchildren, playing happily, full of joy, I think about children having their limbs amputated without anaesthetic on bloody floors, or being picked out of rubble in little pieces and being put in a bin liner.

A vision of hell.

I have lost my faith...

My life will never be the same again.

This is what I hear everyday from many people I know and local people who I am getting to know who live in Bath and North East Somerset. Their numbers grow by the day, a rising tide of beleaguered people looking to their political leaders to act.

For Palestinians resident in BANES with family in Gaza it's of an entirely different order. I try but I can't begin to really comprehend what they have been going through since the start of the mass displacement and genocide. The second Nakba.

How do you function when you know that your parents are starving to death? When your three your old twin cousins have been blown up in their uncle's lap and the pieces can't be found? When you feel the terror, trauma and despair of your loved ones who have been abandoned by a heartless world? When you feel utter helplessness and hopelessness?

I have no idea. I can't comprehend the level of alienation that they feel and the cruel realization that the vast majority of politicians, whether on a national or local level, simply don't care, or do 'both-siding', or bury their heads in the sand or, unbelievably, side with the oppressor.

Where is your humanity?

Don't tell us that this is just an international issue that you have no power to influence. That it is not proper council business.

You cared about the Ukrainians. You flew to their aid and drew them to your bosom. You raised their flag and twinned with a Ukrainian town. You couldn't do enough too quickly.

Don't tell us it's not your business. It **is** your business! We are your constituents. We voted you in. We put you in power. Our mental health is suffering and we are terrified by the prospect of a 'so called' democracy that ignores the will of the people.

We are appalled that you do not care enough even to have a debate.

How dare you treat this genocide, this holocaust, as if it is an inconvenience? How dare you sweep it under the carpet? How dare you turn your backs?

Do you not understand international law? Do you not follow what is going on at the International Court of Justice? Do you not realize that those politicians who do not act to do everything in their power to stop this slaughter are complicit and culpable?

If you don't want to table a ceasefire motion because it's 'complicated', understand that it really is not. Go away and do your homework! Wake up! Get out of your comfort zone! Stop being so intellectually dishonest!

Shame on Bath and North East Somerset council.

Shame!