

Mohammed Alruzzi

Today, I stand before you to ask a fundamental question: How much do you truly care about Palestinians?

Last time I addressed this council, I spoke of the plight of the Palestinians—left alone in their struggle for survival. Yet, paradoxically, they are not alone; this government is complicit in their ongoing suffering. No sanctions, no arms embargo, no ceasefire—nothing has been done to alleviate their pain.

In a previous council meeting, when I expressed these concerns, the response was dismissive. A Question about my experience living in Bath under these circumstances was brushed aside in favour of adhering strictly to the agenda. This disregard speaks volumes about the invisibilization, dehumanization, and hypocrisy we face. It reveals a chilling indifference not just to me, but to the regular protests in Bath—a cry for attention and help that goes unheard.

Yesterday, people around the world commemorated the 76th anniversary of Al-Nakba, the events of ethnic cleansing undertaken by what became Israel in 1948, which resulted in the displacement of more than 700,000 people from their homes. My family was among them.

Al-Nakba occurred also because of the British promise to establish a homeland for Jewish groups in Palestine, at the expense of its indigenous population. Would you contest this fact? The position of the UK has not changed since then, despite international law, hundreds—yes, hundreds—of UN resolutions affirming Palestinian rights, and the plausibility of genocide in the ICJ ruling in the South Africa vs. Israel case.

How many of you have truly asked about our daily lives? How do we cope each minute, watching the news with dread, our phones buzzing with updates about our families back home, struggling to secure basic necessities like food, water and medication?

Despite numerous e-petitions, calling for family reunion schemes for those affected by the genocidal acts of Israel in Gaza, this government remains passive. Their inaction contrasts with their response to other global crises, like the war in Ukraine, revealing a selective empathy based on geopolitical interests.

This stance shatters any illusion of a democracy. It erodes the belief in a society that values pluralism and diversity. Today, you have shown us that there are no universal standards of humanity—only those dictated by political convenience.

So, I ask you now: What will it take for you to change your stance in regards to justice for Palestine?

I'd like to conclude by quoting the Palestinian writer and activist, Mohammed Al-Kurd
Quote

To see the picture with all of its details. As deadly and treacherous and unrelenting as it is, the Nakba will not last forever. The world is changing because it must. If

seeds can germinate in the inferno, so can revolution. On the phone, my mother tells me, rain is coming and God is almighty

End of quote

The question to you, where do you stand?