

## Written evidence submitted by Nasar Malik (IPC0024)

### Background Information about me

1. My name is Nasar Malik, a resident of Tatton constituency. I am a chartered civil engineer, employed as a director with an international firm of Consulting Engineers. I am also a Trustee and Board Director of my local Mosque.
2. I have long believed the Israeli Occupation of Palestine to be a western colonial project and have seen over the decades how, despite positive proclamations, the international community has failed to secure the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. This has, in effect, provided Israel cover to continually expanded its illegal settlements in the Palestine by forcefully taking land belonging to the Indigenous Palestinians.
3. I visited Jerusalem and the Occupied West Bank in September 2023 seeing and hearing first-hand the apartheid nature of the control Israel exercises over the Palestinians, including the apartheid wall and check points, the different coloured car number plates and roads for Israelis and Palestinians and the intimidation and violence by the heavily armed Police around the Al-Aqsa Mosque, including their regular trespass into the Mosque.
4. I submit this evidence as a member of the public, in my personal capacity. I decided to do this because like millions of people across the country I've been appalled by the utter brutality of the Israeli military's actions in Gaza: through indiscriminate bombing destroying whole towns and cities, bombing refugee camps in declared safe-zones, snipers directly shooting children in the head, forced starvation of the entire population etc. I have been even more appalled at our successive governments' total support Israel including I understand, the direct provision of intelligence and weapons supplies to help Israel execute the so-called war. I cannot help but notice how this stance is diametrically opposed to the stance the government has taken over the Ukraine war.

**Question One:** What can – and should- the UK do, in cooperation with regional and international partners to help bring about a ceasefire?

### Answer:

5. Firstly, I urge the government to end all arms sales to Israel, and to urge other international partners, including Germany and the USA to do so as well; this would reduce the weapons supply and thus incentivise moves towards a ceasefire.
6. Secondly, I would strongly urge the UK government to encourage international partners to end financial aid to Israel, and instead redirect the funds to helping rebuild Gaza and regions of Lebanon affected by Israel's actions. This would pressure Israel to seek a

ceasefire and will lessen the impact on innocent civilians and begin the process of rebuilding a functioning society.

7. Furthermore, I ask that the UK and key regional and international partners demand the Israeli government to allow aid trucks into Gaza; this is key to paving the way for a ceasefire deal as it alleviates the damages of war on Palestinian civilians. This would initially require written affirmation that Israel would not attack or bomb the aid trucks, or else it would face a sanction as seen fit by each member state.
8. Additionally, to allow a free and candid documentation of the events in Gaza, the UK and her allies must demand of Israel that the Palestinian Press and journalists be protected and there must be written and recorded assurance from Israel that they shall not be targeted. This is fundamental in the creation of a ceasefire deal as it highlights the importance of Palestinian lives and perspective, which has previously been undermined.
9. I ask that the UK government collaborate with key countries in the region to gain a balanced view of the current crisis and understand how to achieve a ceasefire deal beneficial and fair for all members involved.
10. Lastly, I implore that a Palestinian state be recognised by the UK; a ceasefire deal would be more feasible if the Palestinians were truly treated as equals with the Israelis.
11. These are all actions the United Kingdom can undertake, to reach a sufficient and long-lasting ceasefire deal that will lead to long term peace within the region. Given our history with Palestine and Israel, the UK government has a moral duty to encourage regional and international partners to take these same actions, to end the pain and suffering of innocent civilians, caused by Israel's indiscriminate bombardment.

**Question Two:** What can be learned from the record of UK Government policies to date?

**Answer:**

12. The record of UK government policies to date has fallen far short in providing a viable solution to the end of the suffering through numerous of ways:
13. Firstly, though the UK has called for a ceasefire, there have not been any tangible measures taken to enforce this.
14. Secondly, the Labour Manifesto stated that there would be consideration of the recognition of a Palestinian State, yet that has not happened, despite Labour being in government for many months. Labour has stated that it will recognise a Palestinian state alongside a "safe and secure Israel" when it judges this will best support the peace process. However, a ceasefire is integral to the peace process, and the lack of

recognition of the Palestinian State's right to exist proves how little the UK values Palestinian lives.

15. Thirdly, the Foreign Secretary David Lammy has suggested "trusted" Arab states may take a security role in Gaza. This negates the Palestinians' fundamental right to select their own government and allows other countries to decide which states may take a role in Gaza. The Palestinians must be given right of self-determination as well as the resources and support to rebuild financially; the UK's involvement in selecting the political leadership in Gaza must end.
16. Finally, the Government has kept from the public the legal advice it has received in relation to its ongoing support, and weapons supply to Israel. I urge that this advice be published in full, so the UK public can be assured that our government is acting fully within international law.

**Question Three:** How can the UK assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace at a time of uncertainty caused by conflicts elsewhere and changes in leadership in the international community?

**Answer:**

17. At a time of uncertainty caused by conflicts elsewhere and changes in leadership in the international community, the UK can assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace by:
  - Protection of civilians on all sides of the conflict – directing funds towards rebuilding Palestinian communities and providing aid to those in need.
  - Holding countries to account that may have violated international law. The UK government should cooperate with the International Court of Justice in conducting a detailed review of whether Israel has violated international humanitarian law. This is integral in ensuring long lasting peace in the region as justice will have been imparted.
  - Ensuring freedom of speech and accurate media broadcasting: the UK government must hold an investigation towards the news broadcasted by the BBC (our supposedly impartial news service) and other national news outlets and ascertain the accuracy of their sources and bias in their portrayal of the ongoing crisis. In addition, the reporting by Palestinian journalists present on the ground must be recognised and images taken by Palestinian individuals in Gaza must be acknowledged and presented in the British Media.

- Stopping the shocking intimidation of independent journalists using cover of Anti-Terror legislation, simply for their factual reporting of the Israeli atrocities and documenting potential war crimes and crimes against humanity. Thus, allowing the UK public to have a full view of the reality, rather than be fully dependent upon the biased main stream media.
- Recognising a Palestinian state and the right of Palestinians to be safe, secure and have a peaceful place to live – to date, these rights have only been applied to Israel by the UK and her international allies such as the USA.

18. These actions must begin, pre-ceasefire and must continue post-ceasefire. The UK must show true leadership by remaining neutral and impartial in its support for humanity and be an active partner in bringing lasting peace to the region.

END

*28<sup>th</sup> December 2024*