

Speech for Palestinian Motion

Canterbury Council has a hugely diverse population, some are from Palestine and others are from refugee backgrounds able to empathise with the pain and suffering Palestinians have experienced during the recent invasion by Israel and from which they are still suffering.

I do not condone violence of any form but Israel's disproportionate response must not be ignored. We have a duty not only to the residents of Palestine but also to our own residents of Canterbury to speak out against injustice. We must not let this be another example of passive observance where good people stand by and let wrong actions pass by without speaking out and objecting.

I have put forward a motion asking our Federal government to hear the voice of one of its many communities. We, as a local government, are representing the voice of our community and I know that that community believes in justice. Justice for war crimes and justice for people who have been denied access to fulfilling their basic needs for food, housing, safety and health.

As a Council, we are not unique in passing such resolutions and we must remember that many of our Community are affected by the plight of the Palestinians. I believe this is a reasonable and appropriate motion for Canterbury Council to endorse.