



## United Nations Association

### London & South East Region

From: The Policy Conference Chair,  
30 Culverhouse Gardens, Streatham, London.  
SW16 2TX  
Tel: 020 8769 5095

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP,  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH  
United Kingdom

31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary,

You will be aware of the work of the United Nations Association which, since 1945, has been the country's foremost advocate for UK action at the UN; the UK's leading source of analysis on the UN; and a vibrant grassroots movement of 20,000 members and supporters from all walks of life.

I write to you to share the resolutions adopted this weekend by UNA London & South East Region (UNA LASER) at our AGM on 28<sup>th</sup> October.

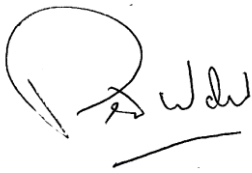
On **COP 28** we have highlighted a number of key issues that need to be tackled at the COP which we encourage the UK to pursue vigorously with other parties before and during the meeting. We have also highlighted key domestic policies implementing past commitments that will help us to continue to provide the sort of leadership that we believe has encouraged more ambition by others at previous COPs and which must be built upon if we are to avoid the worst effects of climate change on conflict, sustainable development and global security.

On **Israel/Palestine** we have shared the mounting global alarm at developments in the Middle East and in agreeing the attached resolution we also wanted to support the leadership and recent statements made by the Secretary General in tackling this latest horrifying escalation in what is now a very long-standing conflict. Speakers also highlighted: the deaths and injuries of UN workers; that children were amongst the hostages taken by Hamas and amongst those being killed in Gaza; and that Palestinians are also being killed and expelled in the West Bank, some of them reportedly by Israeli settlers. The call by the General Assembly for an immediate and sustained humanitarian truce was welcomed and it was noted that Canadian proposals to include language condemning the October 7<sup>th</sup> attacks by Hamas had been supported by a majority of those voting, even if not the requisite two thirds majority. Several LASER speakers highlighted the need to focus on stopping the killing, as well as then to focus on the need for a durable resolution of the conflict as highlighted in Point 7 of the attached, which is likely to require the involvement of peacemakers who deliberately avoid taking sides between the parties. Finally the importance of ensuring a right of return to those displaced by this phase of the conflict as called for in Point 8 was highlighted, first, because civilians will be put at risk by a fear that if they move out of harm's way temporarily they could become victims of forced displacement, and secondly because the conflict is allowing increased expulsions of Palestinians on the West Bank.

UNA LASER speaks for itself in these matters and is not claiming to represent the views of UNA UK nationally. We would nonetheless like to commend to you the excellent statement on the devastating violence in Israel and Gaza that they published last week on 26th October (<https://una.org.uk/news/una-uk-statement-devastating-violence-gaza-and-israel>) which also has our support.

We would welcome your response to the calls for government action in the attached resolutions. We plan to share your response with UNA members and supporters in London & the South East (and to publish it on our website) to encourage further debate and discussion, including with local MPs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Webster', with a horizontal line underneath.

Peter Webster  
Chair, UNA London & South East Region Policy Conference