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## **UPDATED Statement on Israel/Hamas/Palestine, February 5, 2025**

It was with a deep sense of relief that we welcomed the news of a ceasefire and hostage deal reached by Israel and Hamas. It has taken too long to reach this moment – and now that it is here, we must double down on our peace efforts with a new feeling of hope.

For Israelis, Palestinians, and all those across the region, this is an important first step toward lasting peace and a two-state solution. **We need to ensure the continued release of all remaining hostages and allow critical medical and humanitarian assistance into Gaza to help the innocent Palestinian civilians, and especially the children, who have been impacted so deeply by the devastation.**

President Trump has suggested a proposal for Gaza. **Madness is the only word I can think of to describe his proposal.** Gaza is not a real estate deal. Not only would it break multiple international laws, it may also, if carried out, constitute a war crime. There are more urgent issues to focus on – let us not waste time entertaining this madness.

I support all rulings of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC). **The ICC has issued warrants of arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant – I support their decision.** Our Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister have also stated that Canada will [abide by the ruling](#).

Many Jewish constituents have expressed that they no longer have confidence in UNRWA and would like to see its immediate replacement. An [Independent Review Group was appointed](#) by the UN Secretary-General in response to allegations made by the Government of Israel that some UNRWA staff may have participated in the October 7 attacks. **My understanding is that those employees were promptly terminated and that UNRWA has worked to ensure the [Colonna report](#)'s recommendations are fully implemented.** Despite this, there are still grave concerns about this organization, which must be taken seriously.

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I will say this: **UNRWA is currently the only organization that is set up to provide aid all across Gaza.** Moving forward, if we are to support UNRWA's replacement, there must be a credible organization that has the capacity to urgently deliver humanitarian aid and support to civilians in Gaza.

Some of my colleagues have called for Canada to play a [more active role in ensuring ongoing peace in the region](#) - namely, by leading peacekeeping efforts in the region. **I strongly support this call to action.**

**Here in Canada, I continue to denounce, in the strongest possible terms, all forms of hate, racism, and discrimination.**

Davenport constituents continue to share with me the antisemitism they are experiencing, most of them for the first time. As a result, I have called for three things:

**For Mayor Chow to reconsider implementing [bubble zones](#) for community and sacred spaces.** This request has been shared nationally with Attorney General and Minister of Justice Arif Virani.

**For all three levels of government to meet with all key stakeholders on the rise of antisemitism in Canada.** This call to action, for which I strongly advocated, has been met: there will be a meeting in Ottawa in March.

**For proper training around antisemitism to be implemented within our police force.** I have been working on this with Jewish leaders and community members. Engaging in this work has revealed a number of federal funding sources available for this training.

As we see a path toward peace in Gaza, in Israel, and in the surrounding region, I will be inviting members of the Davenport community together so we, too, can heal from the divisions that have grown between us over the past year and to strengthen our community.

Sincerely,

Julie Dzerowicz  
Member of Parliament – Davenport