I am writing as your constituent to urge you to call for an immediate ceasefire in Israel and Gaza and for unfettered humanitarian access to Gaza.

I am deeply concerned about the positions taken by the UK Government and the Opposition in response to the war in Gaza. Specifically, the failure to call for a ceasefire or, in any meaningful way, require Israel to uphold international law, and together with Egypt, facilitate immediate and appropriate levels of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. Despite clear evidence that, in addition to over 30,000 deaths, including thousands of women and children, famine is now a real prospect, particularly in the north.

I am also disappointed by the Government’s response to the International Court of Justice findings. As a signatory to the Genocide Convention, the UK is bound to ensure it helps prevent, and ensure it is not complicit in, violations of the Convention. In light of the Court’s findings, there is now a clear risk that British arms and military equipment transferred to Israel might be used to facilitate or commit violations of the Genocide Convention. Therefore, the Government must ensure that it publicly supports the provisional measures announced by the International Court of Justice and reflect them in its policies.

The murders, attacks, and hostage-taking by Hamas on 7 October were heinous crimes, and those responsible must be held to account. Securing the hostages’ safe release is of paramount importance. The subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza has added enormously to the toll of civilian suffering. Innocent Palestinians are going through an increasingly grave humanitarian crisis as a result of the Israeli government’s strategy of relentless bombardment, which has left no place safe, and of siege, which effectively strangles life. With no end to the war in sight the current appalling death toll in Gaza of over 30,000, will no doubt rise in the coming weeks, possibly dramatically, unless there is an immediate end to hostilities and access to humanitarian aid.

All human lives are equally valuable, and nothing can justify the deliberate targeting of civilians – whether the killings and hostage-taking by Hamas or the illegal cutting off of food, electricity, medicines and water supplies and forced displacement of civilians by the Israeli authorities. Whilst the allegations about the involvement of UNWRA staff in the 7 October attack are shocking, the UK Government’s decision to suspend funding to UNWRA, despite UNWRA taking decisive action against implicated staff, further risks the lives of millions of civilians. The decision only punishes the millions of vulnerable civilians who are dependent on aid that only UNRWA has the capacity to deliver.

Specifically, I ask you to call upon Britain’s political leaders to:

* Demand an immediate ceasefire without conditions.
* Demand the unconditional and immediate release of all hostages.
* Call for unfettered and immediate humanitarian access, as urged by the UN, including immediate reconnection to water and electricity.
* Acknowledge the findings of the International Court of Justice and support the implementation of provisional measures.
* Reverse the decision to suspend funding to UNWRA.
* Acknowledge the failure of the international community to engage in any meaningful peace process in the Middle East, and to commit to addressing the root causes of the violence, which must include an end to the Israeli occupation and an end to the 16-year blockade of Gaza.

I hope you will take swift action to address these issues. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,