



Sam Lim MP

Your Federal Labor Member for Tangney

Formal Statement by Sam Lim MP

I am deeply saddened by the escalating conflict in Gaza, and I grieve with my community for the innocent loss of lives of both Israeli's and Palestinians. As a Federal Member of Parliament, I feel a sense of responsibility to address the humanitarian crisis that is growing in this region.

I acknowledge that this is a very distressing time for communities in Australia with connections to the region. This extends to how difficult I can imagine it must be for many in our community personally. The stories you are hearing, the pain that is being shared with you is a heavy load. I am hearing this directly from people in Tangney and wanted to acknowledge this. I stand with you in this time of grief and sorrow.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza is dire. We have already witnessed a devastating loss of life, and innocent civilians on all sides are suffering. I reiterate what the Prime Minister has said every innocent life matters, whether Israeli or Palestinian.

The Australian Government has consistently called for the protection of civilian lives. Innocent Palestinian civilians should not suffer because of the outrages perpetrated by Hamas. Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people and undermines the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people.

The Government has been clear that the observance of international law and the protection of human life is paramount. The Government has also repeatedly called for safe, unimpeded, and sustained humanitarian access so food, water, medicine, and other essential assistance can reach people in desperate need, and so civilians can get to safety.

There has been access in recent days but nowhere near enough. The Government has called for humanitarian pauses on hostilities.

How are humanitarian pauses different from a ceasefire, you might wonder? A ceasefire is generally part of a political process, agreed upon by the parties, towards the resolution of a conflict. But there is an urgent need now.

We are calling for humanitarian pauses on hostilities so food, water, medicine, and other essential assistance can reach people in desperate need, and so civilians can get to safety.





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Today, the Government announced Australia will provide an additional \$15 million in humanitarian assistance for civilians affected by the conflict in Gaza, the West Bank and across the region.

This funding will be delivered through trusted partners to help address immediate and emerging needs including food, water, medicine, and other essential services.

The funding will be allocated as follows:

- \$6 million for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to provide life-saving assistance including food, water, and medical care.
- \$2 million to UNICEF for the provision of emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- \$2 million to UN agencies to preposition supplies and to support those who have been displaced by the conflict.
- \$2 million to UNFPA to provide urgent women's health services.

The remainder will be provided to trusted partners to address emerging needs.

This funding is in addition to the \$10 million already committed by the Australian Government and brings our total package of assistance to \$25 million since 7 October.

These are the practical measures, along with diplomatic work that the Australian Government is doing to assist in the humanitarian crisis that is unfolding in Gaza.

I have always been an advocate for peace. I pray that all parties involved in this conflict to listen to the calls for restraint. It is only through this that we can pave the way for negotiations and, ultimately, peace.

Humanity should be our guiding principle. We must keep this consciousness at the forefront of our fight against antisemitism and Islamophobia.

In these challenging times, let us remember our shared humanity and longing for peace.

Sam Lim MP
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