



All-Party Britain-Israel
Parliamentary Group

Rt. Hon. Liz Truss, MP
Foreign Secretary
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street, London
SW1A 2AH

22 June 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary,

We write to you following our letter to your predecessor last year, concerning our desire that the United Kingdom commit to supporting the United States in establishing an International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace. Recent events in Israel and the Palestinian Territories have, in our view, only heightened the importance of the UK giving urgent, meaningful support to peacebuilding projects that can bring together Israelis and Palestinians, most especially the youngest citizens.

Last year's Gaza/Israel war and the terrible intercommunal violence between Arab and Jewish Israelis serve to demonstrate how urgent this priority is. This year we saw heightened tensions around religious holidays, and continued violence and dehumanisation. The sort of projects that an International Fund can scale have been proven to be effective in disrupting and reversing the attitudes that extremists are seeking to inflame, and creating the trust that we know is necessary for any real peace process to be viable.

There has been a failure by the international community to properly invest in long-term, stable peacebuilding initiatives aimed at building meaningful relationships between Jews and Arabs within Israel, and Israelis and Palestinians, founded on trust and shared values. Championed by the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) and inspired by Anglo- American support for peacebuilding in Northern Ireland, the International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace is an idea whose time has surely come. The UK showed leadership in being the first country on earth to endorse the concept in 2018, and it now enjoys the sort of cross-party support that is all too rare on this often divisive issue. Critically, the United States Government has made \$250m available for these sort of priorities via the bipartisan Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA). Its advisory board recently provided unanimous support for exploring internationalisation of this project, with an opportunity now for the UK to lead alongside its closest ally in the creation of an International Fund.

The forthcoming G7 summit in Munich, which will be attended by all key donor states concerned with Israeli/Palestinian peace, offers an opportunity for the UK to lead on the delivery of this

project. It is our understanding that all attendees have been briefed on the idea, and UK leadership can deliver it into being.

We would welcome an early reply and your commitment to raising this issue with our closest partners in Munich later this month, and to demonstrating Global Britain's capacity to spearhead a new and innovative approach to Israeli-Palestinian peace.

With kind regards,

Bob Blackman MP - Chairman of the Britain-Israel APPG

Baroness Altmann

Caroline Ansell MP

Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top

John Cryer MP

Baroness Deech

Lord Gold

Baroness Goudie

Chris Green MP

Antony Higginbotham MP

Dame Margaret Hodge MP

Lord Hunt

Ben Lake MP

Robert Langan MP

Steve McCabe MP

Lord McDonald of Salford

Sheryll Murray MP

Lord Palmer of Childs Hill

Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale

Nicola Richards MP

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Greg Smith MP

Lord Stone of Blackheath