



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Hamish Falconer MP
Minister for Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

25 September 2025

Dear Hamish,

A two-state solution is the only viable pathway to a free and prosperous Palestine and a safe and secure Israel. But due to the events of the past two years, many on both sides have lost faith in this vision.

It is therefore incumbent on the international community, including the UK as a leading voice for peace in Israel and Palestine, to step up and provide credible, pragmatic solutions that develop trust on all sides and provide a secure, equitable, and dependable pathway to peace.

In this light, I welcome the Government's recognition of the State of Palestine on 21 September 2025. This is a key prerequisite for any secure and lasting peace.

Beyond this, I urge the Government to investigate the following peacekeeping initiatives to aid in securing a lasting peace.

1. Peacekeeping mission

We all desperately want a ceasefire in Gaza - but this will only be the start of the long journey towards lasting and sustainable peace. In many former conflict zones, peacekeeping missions are essential to this - serving as a stabilising force and led by countries which act as neutral mediators between the relevant parties.

I therefore urge the Government to explore with United Nations, European, and Arab allies the setting up of a peacekeeping mission to observe or enforce ceasefire compliance and respect for international humanitarian law.

There is significant precedent for this, including EUFOR in Bosnia or UNIFIL in Lebanon.

2. Observation mission at Egypt-Gaza border

Gaza is in the midst of a terrible humanitarian catastrophe - the World Health Organization reports 640,000 face 'catastrophic levels of food insecurity' and a further 1.5 million are in 'emergency' or 'crisis' conditions.

Aid organisations stand ready to help, but they are forbidden from operating in Gaza and aid trucks are prevented from crossing the Rafah land border.

To bring this impasse to an end, I urge the Government to explore, with Egypt's consent and cooperation, the establishment of a coalition of the willing to station forces on the ground at the Rafah crossing to ensure the safe passage of aid and civilians, and to monitor and prevent interference by the Israeli Government.

3. No-fly zone

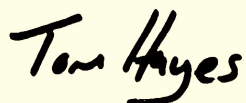
Airstrikes launched by warplanes have been at the centre of Israel's military strategy in Gaza.

In such a densely-populated space with so many tall buildings, these airstrikes have often been indiscriminate and have been responsible for killing many of the 60,000+ dead and near-total destruction of civilian infrastructure including homes, schools, and hospitals.

As well as the tragic human cost, this kind of brutal, mass-casualty warfare is deeply inflammatory, making peace and reconciliation even more difficult, and promotes a continual cycle of violence and escalation.

For these reasons, I urge the Government to explore the establishment of a no-fly zone over Gaza and the West Bank to complement a peacekeeping mission on the ground. This would serve as a key pillar for any long-term peace.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Hayes". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Hayes MP
Labour Member of Parliament for Bournemouth East