

Media release – Tuesday 17 October

Statement on Middle East conflict motion and vote

Yesterday, I voted in favour of the government's motion in relation to Israel in full. That motion unequivocally condemned the attacks on Israel by Hamas and recognised the right of Israel to defend itself. That remains my position.

I unequivocally stand with Israel in response to the barbaric terrorist attacks by Hamas.

During debate, I also voted in favour of a motion that recognised innocent Palestinian lives are also being lost and that any military action should be in line with international humanitarian law.

ENDS

For media inquiries and interviews with Dr Sophie Scamps MP please contact:

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MOTION BY LEAVE

Motion to be moved by a minister on behalf of the Government

PRIME MINISTER:

To move—That the House—

- a) unequivocally condemns the attacks on Israel by Hamas, which are the heinous acts of terrorists, and have encompassed the targeting and murder of civilians, including women and children, the taking of hostages, and indiscriminate rocket fire;
- b) stands with Israel and recognises its inherent right to defend itself;
- c) condemns antisemitism and recognises that generations of Jewish people have been subjected to this hateful prejudice;
- d) calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages;
- e) recognises that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people, nor their legitimate needs and aspirations;
- f) acknowledges the devastating loss of Israeli and Palestinian life and that innocent civilians on all sides are suffering as a result of the attacks by Hamas and the subsequent conflict;
- g) supports justice and freedom for Israelis and Palestinians alike;
- h) supports international efforts to establish and maintain humanitarian access into Gaza, including safe passage for civilians;
- i) reiterates Australia's consistent position in all contexts is to call for the protection of civilian lives and the observance of international law;
- j) supports Australia's engagement with countries in the Middle East and beyond, at all levels, in support of the protection of civilians, and the containment of the conflict;
- k) supports the Government's ongoing efforts to provide consular assistance to affected Australians and to facilitate the departure of those who want to leave the region;
- l) acknowledges what has unfolded is deeply distressing for many in the Australian community, close to the heart of many, and it is important that we maintain respect for each other here at home as people express their views;
- m) condemns all forms of hate speech and violent extremist activity, including Antisemitism and Islamophobia;
- n) recognizes an attack on any religion is an attack on all religions and that we all share a responsibility to unite, condemn and defeat such an attack on our common values and way of life;
- o) notes that undermining social cohesion and unity by stoking fear and division risks Australia's domestic security; and
- p) affirms in the strongest possible terms that hateful prejudice has no place in Australia.