



**THE RT. HON. SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP**

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*Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham*

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Dear constituent

The Hamas attacks which precipitated the current conflict were barbaric and appalling. Israel had no choice but to defend itself. However, the Prime Minister recognised in his statement yesterday that Israel's response must be within the constraints of international humanitarian law. I pressed him to monitor compliance actively, because it's vital Israel recognises those constraints. You can watch my question [here](#). The Prime Minister didn't answer my point, so I have tabled a Written Parliamentary Question about it today.

The situation on the ground in Gaza is very worrying. Humanitarian access to Gaza must be opened, for supplies of food, water, electricity and medicines. I have written to the Foreign Secretary asking him to press Israel and others in the region to open "safe corridors" so supplies can reach those in need. You can read my letter to the Foreign Secretary [here](#). I will send you his reply as soon as I receive it.

I have consistently supported UK recognition for the state of Palestine. I am deeply worried that illegal settlement building is making it harder to secure the two state outcome – Israel and Palestine as secure neighbours at peace with each other and their neighbours – which appears the only satisfactory one in the long term.

I have arranged to meet representatives from Friends of Al-Aqsa next week in Parliament to discuss the situation and, in particular, discuss ways in which MPs can work with charities and NGOs in the Middle East.

Thank you once again for contacting me and letting me know your concerns. Please do not hesitate to come back to me at any time.

With all best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

**SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP**