



Subject:	Notice of Motion – Solidarity with Palestine
Date:	22nd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input type="checkbox"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion received for the meeting of the Council on 4th March in relation to Solidarity with Palestine.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the motion and agree to either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Orders 13 (m) to (r), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, are as follows:</p> <p>(m) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will have delegated authority to adopt or reject Notices of Motion. The Lord Mayor will indicate at the Council meeting those Notices of Motion that have been considered by the Standards and Business Committee and whether such Notices of Motion were rejected or adopted. In either case, the proposer only may speak on the issue at Council.</i></p> <p>(n) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</i></p> <p>(o) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will refer Notices of Motion for consideration by full Council when the Notice of Motion relates to a strategic or constitutional matter.</i></p> <p>(p) <i>The Standards and Business Committee will not have the power to amend the wording of any Notice of Motion that is being referred to the full Council for debate.</i></p> <p>(q) <i>Any amendments to Notice of Motions to be proposed at the Council are to be furnished at least one day in advance of going to the full Council and will be circulated to Party Group Leaders in advance of the Council meeting.</i></p> <p>(r) <i>In referring any matter to the full Council, the Standards and Business Committee may determine to restrict contributions to the debate in relation to any Notice of Motion to one per political party. At the Council meeting, the Lord Mayor will clearly indicate if the restriction applies.</i></p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Solidarity with Palestine</u></p> <p>“This Council notes with horror Israel's ongoing war crimes in Gaza.</p> <p>According to UN statistics, over 28,000 Palestinians have now been killed, 10,000 of them children. 60,000 people have been injured, with 1.9 million more displaced, with Gaza's infrastructure decimated under Israeli bombs.</p>

Despite repeated calls from international human rights organisations for a ceasefire, Israel continues to bombard and assault an already beleaguered population in Gaza.

The Council recognises Israel's actions are facilitated by the military, financial and political support of Western Governments, most notably Joe Biden and the US Administration: which gives \$3.8billion of US military aid each year to Israel.

Further notes the US administration has been a consistent supporter of the Zionist project historically, and an enthusiastic proponent of Israel's current offensive which has caused such death and destruction in Gaza.

In recent months, the US has used its power on the UN Security Council to block calls for a humanitarian ceasefire, vetoed UN efforts to send aid to Gaza, and allocated emergency military funding to Israel in 2023. The current Biden administration has even taken the unprecedented move of bypassing Congress in order to transfer more arms to Israel to support its ongoing genocide in Gaza.

In this context, this year's St Patrick's Day presents an opportunity for Irish politicians to promote the principles of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: by refusing to meet or engage with any US officials complicit in Israeli war crimes.

By boycotting these ceremonies we could send a resounding message to the people of Gaza, and the world, that Ireland stands with Palestine.

The Council will therefore write to the Irish Taoiseach and all political parties North and South in Ireland calling on them not to attend St Patrick's Day celebrations in the White House, nor to meet with President Joe Biden or any representative of his administration as part of the St Patrick's Day events.

The Council will also write to Claire Cronin, US Ambassador to Ireland, British Foreign Secretary, David Cameron and Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, calling for an immediate suspension of all military, financial, and diplomatic support for apartheid Israel and its genocidal war on Palestine."

Proposer: Councillor Michael Collins

Seconder: Councillor Anthony Flynn

- 3.3 The motion calls upon the Council to undertake a number of actions, that is, calling on all political parties North and South in Ireland to not attend St. Patrick's Day celebrations in The White House and to write further letters for an immediate suspension of all military, financial, and diplomatic support for apartheid Israel and its genocidal war on Palestine - the Committee can either adopt the motion, refer it for debate at the Council meeting (with or without restrictions) or reject the motion.

3.4 **Financial and Resource Implications**

None associated with this report.

3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.