



**Dr Beccy Cooper MP**

Member of Parliament for Worthing West

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon David Lammy MP  
Foreign Secretary

Hamish Falconer MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East

By email

26 August 2025

Dear David and Hamish

**Declaration of famine in Gaza City**

I await the Foreign Secretary's response to my letter of 29<sup>th</sup> July in which I raise the violations of international law widely understood to be being committed by the State of Israel. This includes the obstruction of food distribution systems which has pushed an already devastated population to the brink of starvation.

Since then, a state of famine has been declared in Gaza City. We also see figures this week reporting that 83% of casualties within this conflict have been civilians. Such actions violate the basic principles of distinction, proportionality, and humanity under the laws of war and may well amount to war crimes.

Alongside all efforts to protect aid and secure lasting peace, we must act to ensure Israel upholds its obligations under international law and demand accountability for violations. Can I ask again what actions our government is taking to support ongoing investigations in the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice?

With mounting evidence of a pattern of systematic violence against women and girls as well as the targeting of civilians, humanitarian aid, food and healthcare systems, there remains intense scrutiny on the UK's actions. I must ask then whether it is wise to be deepening strategic military ties to a UK subsidiary of an Israeli defence contractor through strategic MoD contracts at this time.

More broadly, what risk assessment has been carried out in relation to the UK's involvement in Israeli value chains? I share the concerns raised by my constituents that the UK cannot - legally, under the Rome Statute, as well as morally - be complicit in any acts that may constitute genocide.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Beccy Cooper MP

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