



Standing together today for justice in the area of Palestine represents true British values

“Be ever steadfast in your devotion to God, bearing witness to the truth in all equity; and never let hatred of anyone lead you into the sin of deviating from justice. Be just: this is closest to being God-conscious. And remain conscious of God: truly, God is aware of all that you do.” (Qur’an 5:8)

As we approach the end of 2008, a year that marks one of the greatest achievements of the modern world when a black person with the middle name “Hussein” became a symbol of world hope, we witness on our television screens what symbolises the great wrong in our world. We are witnesses to evil and inhumanity, to the merciless warfare upon a long-suffering people by one of the most advanced military machines in the world.

We, the British people, have always understood what is right and fair. Across the world we continue to have a reputation for our sense of fairness. And the response of many from the British public, witnessed in the demonstrations of recent days against the military bombardments, is testament to our sense of right and wrong, transcending colour and creed.

We have stood together as a people against tyranny and wrong many times before. We must do so today.

All human life is precious. The life of an Israeli citizen is precious and the life of a Palestinian citizen is precious. The mindless killing of people must be put to a stop - it brings about more mindless killing. We must, as a free and influential nation, be a voice for the voiceless, and not lose sight of the impact, the devastating impact that the killing and bombing that is going on has on the lives of ordinary people. All people want to live in peace and have opportunities. That is why we have modern democracies.

The Palestinians are a nation of people Britain has a strong historical connection with. These are innocent people who have been deprived of their most basic human rights, who are starving, suffering and dying. Who have been dehumanised and whose sense of being wronged runs deep - it passes from generation to generation.

Our message is that we all must rise together as British people for the people of Palestine like we haven't done before, but like we did for other causes, going on to make a real and lasting difference. We must rise together and let our voices be heard together. For the evil and injustices that have been allowed to carry on in the area of Palestine do not represent “a Muslim issue”... they represent *the great wrong* in our collective struggle for an enlightened world. Standing together today, for real justice in the area of Palestine, represents all that we as people together hold as British values

Why the hate? Why the suffering? Why the killing and attempted killings? Why, in the world, is this conflict happening? We must rise above our prejudices and do some honest soul searching to answer these questions. For the sake of justice in our world and for the sake of peace in our children's lives. We cannot turn back the clock. But we cannot just watch the clock either.