



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

30 January 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you as a group of cross-party parliamentarians to express our grave concern over the contents of US President Donald Trump's so-called 'peace plan' for Israel and the Palestinians. The plan presented on 28 January shows contempt for the rights of the Palestinian people and international law, and provides no realistic basis for a return to negotiations. Instead, it makes peace less likely, and threatens to undermine a fundamental principle of the post-WWII international legal order: the [prohibition of annexation and territorial conquest](#).

The [long-standing position](#) of the UK is that a negotiated peace settlement must be agreed to achieve a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, leading to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state that has secure and recognised borders, and with Jerusalem as a shared capital of both states. The vision presented by the US administration is one where Palestinians would have none of these: no true shared capital in Jerusalem, no sovereign control of its borders or security, and with Israeli control far beyond the Green Line. [As a group of 16 UK charities warned this week](#): "if implemented [the plan] will lead to the formal annexation of Palestinian land, perpetual Israeli occupation, and the negation of Palestinians' collective right to self-determination." It is a plan that the Palestinians have no choice but to reject if they wish to maintain their fundamental rights, but that they will be punished for not accepting.

The announcement comes at a time of unprecedented suffering for the Palestinian people, with [increasing rates of demolitions](#) of Palestinian structures and the displacement of families, obstruction of access to healthcare and education and humanitarian collapse in Gaza. Palestinians' perpetual aid dependency is not the result of a natural disaster: it results from the occupation's stranglehold on the Palestinian economy, including the denial of access to Area C's [abundant natural resources](#) and Gaza's territorial waters.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu [has now stated](#) that he will begin proceedings on 2 February to apply Israeli sovereignty to the Jordan Valley, the northern Dead Sea, and Israeli settlements in the West Bank built in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Such a flagrant



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

breach of international law cannot be allowed to pass. The UK government has [repeatedly stated](#) that annexation of part of the West Bank “would be contrary to international law, damaging to peace efforts and could not pass unchallenged.” Now is the time to outline exactly what form such a challenge would take.

The UK must work with other states to respond robustly to both the US plan and any annexation of Palestinian territory. It must demonstrate that serious breaches of international law result in serious consequences, just as the UK and European partners [have rightly done](#) with regards to Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea. Double standards would have dire consequences for the rule of international law, which would endanger all nations and peoples, including our own.

As Foreign Secretary, in 2017 you [warned the Government of Israel](#) that it faced a stark choice: “you have to have a two-state solution or else you have a kind of apartheid system.” Given that the US proposal leaves no room for a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, it opens the door only to the latter option.

We call on you to reconsider the UK government’s position in [welcoming this unworkable and unfair ‘deal’](#) and ask that you make clear to us what response you intend to make to the announced plans for annexation.

As the UK exits the EU this week, there could be no sterner test of our country’s values, its ability to lead, and its belief in the rule of law. We urge you to ensure that the UK remains a true supporter of fairness, justice, and peace.

Yours sincerely,

Rushanara Ali MP	Alistair Carmichael MP	Joanna Cherry QC MP	Crispin Blunt MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP	Ed Davey MP	Stewart McDonald MP	Lord Cope
Emily Thornberry MP	Christine Jardine MP	John Nicolson MP	
John McDonnell MP	Layla Moran MP	Tommy Sheppard MP	
Lord Hain	Lord Steel	Philippa Whitford MP	



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Debbie Abrahams MP	Feryal Clark MP	Mark Hendrick MP
Tahir Ali MP	Daisy Cooper MP	Wera Hobhouse MP
Rosena Allin-Khan MP	Stella Creasy MP	Sharon Hodgson MP
Tonia Antoniazzi MP	Janet Daby MP	Rachel Hopkins MP
Jonathan Ashworth MP	Marsha De Cordova MP	Rupa Huq MP
Apsana Begum MP	Tan Dhesi MP	Imran Hussain MP
Clive Betts MP	Jack Dromey MP	Baroness Hussein-Ece
Baroness Blackstone	Rosie Duffield MP	Baroness Janke
Paul Blomfield MP	Clive Efford MP	Diana Johnson MP
Ben Bradshaw MP	Julie Elliott MP	Lord Judd
Baroness Brinton	Chris Elmore MP	Preet Kaur Gill MP
Lyn Brown MP	Bill Esterson MP	Barbara Keeley MP
Chris Bryant MP	Stephen Farry MP	Liz Kendall MP
Karen Buck MP	Margaret Ferrier MP	Baroness Kennedy QC
Richard Burgon MP	Vicky Foxcroft MP	Afzal Khan MP
Dawn Butler MP	Kate Green MP	Stephen Kinnock MP
Liam Byrne MP	Lilian Greenwood MP	Ben Lake MP
Dan Carden MP	Andrew Gwynne MP	David Lammy MP
Ruth Cadbury MP	Louise Haigh MP	Chris Law MP
Wendy Chamberlain MP	Fabian Hamilton MP	Emma Lewell-Buck MP
Sarah Champion MP	Emma Hardy MP	Clive Lewis MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tony Lloyd MP	Brendan O'Hara MP	Jeff Smith MP
Holly Lynch MP	Sarah Olney MP	Jo Stevens MP
Shabana Mahmood MP	Chi Onwurah MP	Jamie Stone MP
Khalid Mahmood MP	Kate Osamor MP	Wes Streeting MP
Seema Malhotra MP	Matthew Pennycook MP	Zarah Sultana MP
Rachael Maskell MP	Toby Perkins MP	Gareth Thomas MP
Chris Matheson MP	Jess Phillips MP	Stephen Timms MP
Kerry McCarthy MP	Lucy Powell MP	Valerie Vaz MP
Andy McDonald MP	Lord Purvis	Claudia Webbe MP
Conor McGinn MP	Yasmin Qureshi MP	Catherine West MP
Alison McGovern MP	Steve Reed MP	Matt Western MP
Catherine McKinnell MP	Lloyd Russell-Moyle MP	Alan Whitehead MP
Anna McMorrin MP	Tulip Siddiq MP	Nadia Whittome MP
Stephen Morgan MP	Naz Shah MP	Munira Wilson MP
Grahame Morris MP	Virendra Sharma MP	Lord Wood
Ian Murray MP	Baroness Sheehan	Mohammad Yasin MP
James Murray MP	Andy Slaughter MP	Daniel Zeichner MP
Baroness Northover	Alex Sobel MP	