

Antony Higginbotham MP
Member of Parliament for Burnley



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12 February 2021

Dear Constituent,

Re: Peace in the Middle East

The ongoing situation in the Middle East, particularly in relation to Israel and Palestine, is something I follow closely. When circumstances allow, I hope to visit the region to meet with Israeli and Palestinian politicians to discuss the issue and see the situation on the ground for myself.

I stand firmly behind the UK's long longstanding position on the Middle East Peace Process. The only way we can resolve the current impasse is by having a negotiated settlement which leads to a safe and secure Israel living alongside a viable and sovereign Palestinian state, based on 1967 borders with agreed land swaps. Jerusalem as the shared capital of both states, and a fair and realistic settlement for refugees.

The UK Government consistently calls for an immediate end to all actions that undermine the viability of the two-state solution and they have my support in doing so. There are faults on both sides and it is only by recognising this that a solution can be found.

Any initiative that gets both sides around the negotiating table can only be a good thing. The absence of such dialogue creates a vacuum that only fuels instability and leads to the drifting of the two sides further and further apart. That's why I would encourage both sides to give the plan announced by the USA earlier this year genuine and fair consideration. Having reviewed the plan in detail, I believe that it might prove a useful first step on the road back to negotiations.

The UK's position has not changed, including towards the West Bank and the 1967 borders, and I am glad that we repeatedly reaffirm this commitment including most recently at the UN Security Council. We will continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Higginbotham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Antony Higginbotham MP
Member of Parliament for Burnley