

**Motion Title: A Borough of peace, tolerance and inclusivity**

**Proposer: Councillor Abid Hussain**

**Secunder: Councillor Aqeela Choudhry**

“Council welcomes and celebrates the diverse mix of communities which collectively make up Sandwell, a borough whose foundation is one of peaceful tolerance, community cohesion and inclusivity.

Council notes that as a diverse borough, overseas conflicts and terrorist attacks can directly impact Sandwell’s residents and communities.

These impacts are directly felt through the historic, cultural, familial and religious ties that bind our borough together and give our six towns their unique character and cultures.

Council deplores and condemns the rise in Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate crime in this country and urge our residents and communities to work together on the issues which unite us and protect our hard-won community cohesion.

Council notes with deep concern the continuing tragic events in Israel and Gaza, the tragic losses of civilian lives on both sides of the conflict and its ongoing humanitarian impacts. The implications are being keenly felt within the communities of Sandwell by those who share historic, cultural, familial and religious ties with those in the midst of this conflict. Council expresses its sympathy and reiterates its support to all our communities who are being impacted by these tragic events.

Council further notes and welcomes calls made by the United Nations for an immediate ceasefire, a safe route for immediate humanitarian aid to civilians still living in Gaza and the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

Council endorses and reiterates its community focussed response to any matter which impacts our residents and communities, and Council further reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity, tolerance and community cohesion through continued close working with partner organisations across Sandwell.

Council therefore calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands setting out the terms of this motion and asking he set out what steps are being taken to maintain and support community cohesion to ensure the safety of all communities in Sandwell and the wider West Midlands region.”