

The Rt. Hon. Edward Davey MP  
Leader, Liberal Democrats  
House of Commons  
Houses of Parliament  
St Margare Street  
London SW1A 0AA

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Dear Ed,

**Open Letter from Firefly International**

Please would you use your significant influence and credibility in both Houses of Parliament to call again, and more publicly, for an immediate bilateral ceasefire in Gaza, for all hostages to be freed and for peace negotiations under UNSC agreed mandate to be instigated. Your credibility deriving from the Liberal Democrats being the only UK-wide party to call for an immediate bilateral ceasefire carries huge potential, nationally and internationally, to be effective.

Firefly International, an Edinburgh-based charity, helps war-affected children in Bosnia, Turkey (for Syrian refugees), northern Syria and Gaza. In Gaza our partners have been running a child mental health trauma centre. We have heard from the centre manager when his phone has charge. His most recent message to his UK partners, sent during the temporary truce, was this:

*'Hello, my family and I are fine - there is no internet yet. My family and I have not received the aid. The situation is catastrophic. Please tell the partners about the centre has been destroyed.'*

Firefly International as a humanitarian organisation is not normally concerned with campaigning. However, in this instance, we feel extremely deeply about the threat of catastrophe being compounded by even greater catastrophe, if the Israeli Government continues to bomb Gaza relentlessly and indiscriminately, withhold supplies essential to life and order its ground forces to continue their military actions, irrespective of anyone's affiliation or otherwise with Hamas. While we wholeheartedly condemn the savage attacks perpetrated by Hamas in southern Israel on 7 October we cannot condone the massive killing of children, women and men in Gaza, as a legitimate and lawful response. Please will you now amplify your call for a permanent, bilateral ceasefire, to save lives and allow for peacebuilding to begin?

Yours sincerely,



Sebastian Chambers

**TRUSTEES:**

Sebastian Chambers (Chair)  
Benedict Constable Maxwell  
Fenella Dawnay  
Saška Haramina  
Diana McMicking  
Henrietta McMicking  
Dr Malaka Shwaikh

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