

County Secretary

MD/ZP

24th January, 2024

Memo to All Local Authorities

To Whom It May Concern

At the January Meeting of Wexford County Council the Members passed the following motion:

"This council notes that both the Taoiseach and the Tánaiste have suggested that Israel is committing war crimes in Gaza. Over 10,000 children have been killed in what Minister Simon Harris, has described as "a war on children."

Leo Varadkar has stated that the failure of Israel to observe humanitarian law 'can't be inconsequential'

War crimes also continue in the Occupied West Bank associated with settlements that are illegal under International Law. We note that hundreds of civilians have also been killed there (where Hamas doesn't exist), and a school funded by Irish money was demolished recently.

As an Irish local authority we acknowledge that we can no longer stand by as complacent witnesses to ongoing war crimes and constant breaches of International law.

There must be consequences and Ireland is best placed to lead the way, just as we did with Apartheid South Africa.

This council is requesting that Ireland should also exercise our right as a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to refer the actions in Palestine and Israel to the Prosecutor of the court for the purpose of requesting an investigation into any acts of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide that have occurred in Gaza over recent months.

We further support the growing call to invoke the Genocide Convention.

That Wexford County Council re-echoes the call of Dublin Local Authorities in formally supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS) against apartheid Israel, as a peaceful campaign for change.

We therefore call for the enactment of the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018 and the Illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill 2023 as a matter of urgency.

We request that this motion be circulated to all local authorities."



I would appreciate if you could note the view of the Members and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



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