



## **Statement by Barnet Multi Faith Forum (BMFF) and Middlesex University Inter Faith Network, on the current crisis in Palestine and Israel**

BMFF is deeply concerned about the escalation of violence in Palestine and Israel. No one should suffer the unacceptable and horrendous trauma and loss of life we are currently witnessing.

We mourn the tragic loss of innocent lives, which has caused heartbreak and pain to those living in the region, and its impact on families in Barnet and beyond; we are thinking and praying for all those personally affected.

We call for the immediate release of all the hostages and an end to the killing of innocent civilians, especially the children. We of all faiths are united in pursuing a lasting peace in the Holy Land.

Barnet has a strong and vibrant multi faith community. Our values, which bring together people of all faiths and none, cannot be underestimated. We celebrate and commemorate a diverse array of festivals and cultural events that educate and inform each other of the diversity and wealth this brings to the Borough.

We learn to respect the dignity of difference by building these resilient relationships. We must pass on this core work and purpose to our children.

We will continue to challenge antisemitism, islamophobia, and all forms of racial hatred inflicted upon all faiths and beliefs that generate division, hate and violence and which should not be allowed to infect our lives.

In Barnet, there must be a collaborative and coordinated strategy to resist all who seek to divide us by spreading blame and hatred in our communities.

BMFF will continue to work with all partners to create opportunities for debate, discussion, understanding, compassion, and justice.

BMFF Executive November 16th 2023