

Mark Prisk, Conservative Party – Hertford & Stortford

I am firmly of the belief that the international community must redouble its efforts to support a comprehensive peace agreement that delivers an independent Palestine alongside a safe and secure Israel. A two-state solution brought about through negotiated agreement is the most effective way for Palestinian aspirations of statehood to be met on the ground.

I, along with my party, continue to view settlements in the OPTs are illegal and an obstacle to peace. The Israeli Government is well aware of our position on settlements, which has not changed.

The previous Conservative Government, and any future one, would continue to press for an end to restrictions and urgent measures to relieve the humanitarian suffering of those in Gaza. The Department for International Development, whilst my party was in Government, was helping to build Palestinian institutions and promote economic growth so that any future state will be prosperous and an effective partner for peace.

Whilst in Government my party, as part of its review of UK aid to the OPTs, continued to provide funding to the Palestinian Authority. If we form the next Government, key changes will be made to ensure this funding delivers the best value for money and maximum impact for Palestinians.

A Conservative Government would continue to press for a sustainable political solution which will address Israel's legitimate security concerns whilst opening up movement and access to Gaza.