

The Labour Party is committed to comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution: a secure Israel alongside a secure and viable state of Palestine.

This is because we recognise that there are enough progressive people on all sides to shift the debate away from extreme and entrenched positions and towards a lasting peace. This means that all sides must avoid taking action that would make peace harder to achieve, such as an end to blockade and occupation, **and the rocket and terror attacks**.

The Labour Party is clear that the expansion of Israeli settlements on the Palestinian West Bank is not only wrong and illegal, but represents a threat to the very viability of the hopes of securing a two-state solution and to a successful outcome of the peace process. Further settlement building will only ever be interpreted as demonstrating a lack of commitment from the Israeli government towards that peace process.

I also firmly believe that no one should question Israel's right to exist and consider that the threat of boycotts of Israel is the wrong response as it would not help advance the peace process. The Labour Party resolutely opposes the isolation of Israel.

The international community must take concrete steps to strengthen moderate Palestinian opinion. The Labour Party is clear that Palestinian recognition at the UN would be such a step.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Onn