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Thank you for contacting me about my views on Palestine. I'm very sorry for the delay in responding.

I have long been a supporter of rights for the Palestinian people and I am very concerned about the Israeli government's policies towards them.

Clearly there is no parity of power between Palestinians and Israelis. Israel is failing to respect human rights, abusing the use of border and travel restrictions, and using occupation and bombardment in an attempt to intimidate Palestinians into submission.

Palestinians have made huge sacrifices in terms of loss of land, poor employment rights, and restrictions on supplies to their territories. Israel needs to be willing to honour obligations such as respecting the 1967 peace settlement (which still represents a loss of land to Palestinians), fully recognising Palestine as a state and undoing the framework of discrimination that exists within its own borders.

I would like to see more pressure on the Israeli Government from the whole international community. Their abuses of Palestinians' human rights and dignity have gone on for far too long, and the situation continues to worsen as Israel's politics skews to the nationalist right. A future Labour government would change this picture and immediately recognise the state of Palestine.

I can assure you that if re-elected I will continue to press the Government on these issues and speak out for Palestinian self-determination throughout my time in Parliament. As an MP I joined the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Palestine, and Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East.

You can see below my answers to your questionnaire.

Thank you once again for contacting me and for sharing your views.