




Speech By
Hon. Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

MOTION

Middle East

 **Hon. C MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.36 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be omitted and the following inserted:

1. condemns Hamas for its terror attacks on Israel on 7 October;
2. expresses our profound sorrow for the continued loss of civilian life;
3. joins with the federal government in calling for:
 - (a) an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the release of all hostages;
 - (b) the provision of rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian relief to civilians;
 - (c) Israel to ensure the delivery of basic services and essential humanitarian assistance and protection of civilians;
 - (d) a negotiated political solution to achieve lasting peace and security; and
 - (e) a two-state solution, including the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel, where Palestinians and Israelis live side by side in peace, security and dignity within internationally recognised borders.'

We know that Queenslanders feel deeply for those affected by the situation in the Middle East. On becoming the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, I prioritised meetings with senior leaders from both our Queensland Jewish and Muslim communities on behalf of the Queensland government, and I will continue to do so because it is vitally important that we keep the lines of support and dialogue open. Our government joins with the Australian government in condemning Hamas for its terror attacks on Israel on 7 October. We share a profound sorrow for the continued loss of civilian life in the region.

As all members would recognise, foreign affairs matters fall directly within the responsibility of the federal government. Our government expresses our support and thanks for the important work and advocacy of Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. We strongly support the federal government's ongoing calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the release of all hostages. We also join calls for the provision of rapid, safe and unimpeded humanitarian relief—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Jordan, I was just wondering if we can possibly have a copy of the amendment circulated. We have not seen it.

Mrs MULLEN: Yes. We acknowledge the urgent need for a negotiated political solution to achieve peace and security in the region. I want to acknowledge the impact this conflict is having in our community. I know there are Queenslanders from both the Muslim and Jewish communities who are deeply hurting right now. Having met with representatives from both communities, I can assure the House there are no sound bite resolutions or political mileage in this. This is complex. For many of us it is incomprehensible, and we stand with those communities.

Our focus is on acceptance of our diverse views and respectful engagement under the democratic rules of law. We are stronger when we stand together, and we must condemn all forms of hate speech and violent extremist activities. Let us continue to offer assistance and support to each other because that is what Queenslanders do.