

# The Enduring Message of Pesach

**ON SEDER NIGHTS** we sit down to tell the story again of redemption from slavery, of breaking out from oppression. A profound narrative with resonance for all ages and all places.

As we tell this story of our liberation, the people of Gaza remain locked in an open-air prison, enduring severe deprivation of food, electricity, medical treatment and supplies. This collective punishment is illegal under international law and intensifies week by week.

We condemn all violence against civilians, whether Israeli or Palestinian. We also insist that the rocket attacks on Sderot and Ashkelon cannot justify the scale of death and suffering wrought by Israel's actions against Gaza.

The blockade of Gaza will simply perpetuate the vicious cycle of terror rooted in the long Israeli occupation and settlement of Palestinian land. It can only serve to distort values in Israeli society and breed yet more hatred.

To begin to end the fear under which Israelis and Palestinians live, we call on Jews in Britain to say **"Enough!"** to the Israeli government. **"Respond to the Hamas offer of a ceasefire. Lift the siege of Gaza and declare your willingness to negotiate a Palestinian state based on the 1967 borders."**

*Maror, matzot and charoset* remind us of the bitterness of slavery and the joy of freedom. Can we, in all conscience, enjoy our Seder meals while both peoples suffer, and the promise of a just peace recedes with terrifying speed?

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