

Dear ,

I am writing to you as a matter of extreme urgency in the light of the UK government's decision to follow the USA in suspending funding to UNRWA. On the very day that this was announced, Gaza was being lashed by wind and rain, causing tents to collapse or be flooded with sewage- infested water. Children are waking up wet, cold and hungry and highly vulnerable to disease. You and your fellow MP's must be aware of the drastic conditions that Gaza's families are being forced to endure.

We urge you to table an urgent question regarding the UK government's decision to pause funding to UNRWA without even waiting for the UN's own investigation into the alleged involvement of their employees in the massacre of 7 October, in stark contrast to the lack of meaningful response by our government to Israel's war crimes. The timing of this decision could hardly be more catastrophic for the innocent children of Gaza and the parents who are struggling to protect and provide for them.

I would like to make four points.

First, this action in suspending funding amounts to collective punishment, both of UNRWA, nearly one hundred and fifty of whose staff have already been killed by Israeli bombardment, and of all the people of Gaza.

Second, since the Israeli government has long wished to close down UNRWA and has openly declared its hostility to the United Nations, one does not need to be a conspiracy theorist to make a connection to Friday's ruling by the International Court of Justice on the plausibility of South Africa's case that Israel is committing genocide. The USA announced its decision to pause funding within an hour of the ICJ ruling.

Third, Provisional Measure Four ordered by the ICJ stipulates that "*The State of Israel shall take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip*" As well as escalating its bombardment in the south of Gaza, in direct violation of Provisional Measures One and Two, Israel clearly continues to violate Provisional Measure Four and demonstrates that it has every intention of ignoring all these measures. Its stated aim of closing down UNRWA shows its determination to undermine and neutralize Gaza's main source of humanitarian assistance.

Fourth, by deciding to follow the USA, Canada and Australia in pausing funding to UNRWA, as well as in its continuing refusal to call for a ceasefire and its determination to carry on supplying arms to Israel, the

UK yet again demonstrates its complicity in acts of genocide as specified by the International Court of Justice.

I hope you will have an opportunity to raise these matters at the earliest opportunity

With all good wishes

Your name and address