**Motion *re* Genocide in Gaza**

Dáil Éireann notes:

* Nearly 100,000 Palestinians have been killed, reported missing or wounded in Gaza since Israel began its military operation three months ago.
* Among this number are nearly 25,000 people who have been confirmed dead, two thirds of whom are women and children.
* 85% of the population have been displaced, most to areas that have faced repeated bombardment from Israel by land, air and sea.
* Israeli missiles have targeted schools, universities, hospitals, UN facilities, refugee camps, places of worship, and critical civilian infrastructure like sanitation and communication facilities.
* Israel has dropped hundreds of 2,000-pound bombs which have a lethal blast radius of 365 metres – equivalent to 58 soccer fields in area – in densely populated residential areas in Gaza.
* As far back as November 10, 2023, WHO Director General Tedros warned: “In Gaza, nowhere and no one is safe”.
* According to Save the Children, every day since October 7, 2023, more than 10 children have lost one, or both, legs in Gaza.
* The healthcare system has collapsed and operations - like amputations and caesarean sections – are being performed without anaesthetic.
* According to Human Rights Watch, the Israeli government is using starvation as a weapon of war and deliberately depriving civilians of the “resources necessary for daily existence” – food, water and medical supplies.
* According to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, 80% of the hungriest people in the world are now in Gaza and more than one million people are starving.
* Lack of clean water, inadequate sanitation, malnutrition and the collapse of the healthcare system is causing a public health disaster of unfettered epidemic and contagious disease among displaced Palestinians.
* On January 5, 2024, UN Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, said: “Gaza has simply become uninhabitable”,

Further notes:

* Senior Israeli government officials – including the Prime Minister, President and Minister of Defence – have repeatedly made statements of genocidal intent.
* As far back as November 16, 2023, UN experts highlighted “evidence of increasing genocidal incitement” against Palestinians and expressed profound concern about the “failure of the international system to mobilise to prevent genocide."
* South Africa has initiated proceedings against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (‘the Genocide Convention’)

Agrees that:

* Ireland ratified the Genocide Convention in 1976.
* Under Article 1 of the Convention, State parties to the Genocide Convention have an obligation to take measures to prevent genocide.
* No armed attack on a State’s territory – even a heinous attack involving an atrocity crime like the attack by Hamas on Israel, and the taking of hostages, on October 7, 2023 – can ever justify, or provide a defence to, breaches of the Genocide Convention.
* Ireland has recently previously acted on its obligation under Article 1, filing an intervention in support of a case taken by Ukraine against Russia under the Genocide Convention in 2022.
* Writing in the Irish Independent on 19 January, 2024, Tánaiste Micheál Martin, outlined the circumstances in which Ireland would intervene in the South African case against Israel at the ICJ:

*“Once the court has issued its decision in relation to provisional measures, we will analyse this carefully and consult with other like-minded partners, as well as with South Africa.*

*This analysis and consultation will take place alongside a rigorous analysis of the multiple legal aspects of this case by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in consultation with the Attorney General. Once this is completed, the Government will take a decision whether to intervene in this case.*

* While the Irish State waits for the ICJ’s decision on preliminary measures to begin this consultation and legal analysis, an average of 250 Palestinians are being killed in Gaza every day by Israel.

Calls on the Government to:

* Take its obligations under the Genocide Convention seriously and support South Africa in its efforts to stop a genocide in Gaza by intervening in the case at the ICJ as a matter of urgency at the earliest possible opportunity.