

Green Party welcomes Gaza ceasefire and calls for root causes of the conflict to be addressed

Ellie Chowns, MP for North Herefordshire and Green Party Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said: "I welcome the news of a ceasefire agreement between the Israeli government and Hamas. This is a vital step to halt the devastating violence that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and caused unimaginable suffering, particularly for the people of Gaza. I also welcome reports that hostages are being released, bringing relief to many families.

"The Green Party has been calling for a ceasefire since October 2023, and while this agreement offers hope, it must mark the beginning of addressing the root causes of the conflict. The ongoing occupation, the siege of Gaza, and systemic violations of Palestinian rights cannot continue.

"The UK government must formally recognise the State of Palestine. Recognising Palestine is a vital step toward justice, equality, and a sustainable peace. It demonstrates a commitment to international law and a balanced approach to the region.

"Suspending some arms sales to Israel is not enough. The Green Party has consistently called for a full suspension of all arms exports to the Israeli military. This includes UK-supplied weapons parts, such as components of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which evidence suggests have been used in ways that violate international law and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis.

"The UK must support efforts to hold all those responsible for violations of international law accountable. We must ensure that humanitarian aid flows freely into Gaza to address the urgent needs of those who have endured this catastrophic violence.

"True peace requires justice, dignity, and equality for all people in the region. This is a moment for global leaders to act with courage and commitment, working towards a future where Palestinians and Israelis can live in peace, free from fear, violence, and oppression. Let us ensure that this ceasefire marks not just the end of the bombs, but the beginning of a pathway to lasting peace and justice."

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[Greens react to increased threats of war and climate change](#)

Responding to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report, Green Party co-leader and MP for Waveney Valley, Adrian Ramsay said:

"War and climate change are rightly recognised by global business and political leaders as the biggest risks to the world in the coming years. The major question is what they will do about them.

"The World Economic Forum meeting in Davos next week needs not just to recognise the problems but to act. For UK leaders, that means pressing for the rapid and irrevocable shift away from fossil fuels and an insistence that international laws and agreements are respected and implemented.

"No state, whoever its leader, should be allowed to tear up international agreements to tackle climate change or bully its neighbours with threats of war."

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[Greens respond to Badenoch's "shocking" comments](#)

Responding to the [comments made by the Leader of The Conservative Party, Kemi Badenoch on GBNews](#), Green Party Co-Leader, Carla Denyer MP said,

"These comments are shockingly offensive and irresponsible. Kemi Badenoch is the leader of the opposition – she should know better than to peddle this backwards Islamophobia which only leads to division and hatred in our communities, and drives support for the far right.

Any politician who is serious about tackling sexual abuse and exploitation of girls in this country must put the victims and their needs front and centre – not use the issue as an excuse to push their own agenda and try to make political capital.

I hope to see senior Conservatives distancing themselves from Badenoch's comments this morning – as politicians we all have a responsibility to our communities to stop a dangerous race to the bottom in how we speak about these issues."

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[There is a green elephant in the room with government's AI plans](#)

Responding to the news that Government plans for [AI to be “mainlined into the veins” of the nation](#), Green Party Co-Leader, Adrian Ramsay MP, said,

“The potential for AI is huge and Greens welcome the potential it holds, especially in research and innovation. However, this plan comes almost exclusively from engagement with industry and investors and does not account for the views of the public, or the people working in our public services, about where AI should or should not be used. If AI is to serve our public services, its uses must instead be driven by the voices of those most affected by this technology development and deployment. This of course has to include addressing concerns around privacy and rights over their information”

He continued, “In addition, there is a green elephant in the room with neither government nor business truly addressing the environmental impacts of AI. One estimate said AI-related infrastructure may soon consume six times more water than Denmark, a country of 6 million people. And a request made through ChatGPT consumes 10 times the electricity of a Google Search. Yet the action plan does not address these crucial questions of environmental sustainability, let alone the debate about the relative gains from AI versus these obvious harms.”

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[Greens call for council elections to be held as planned](#)

Reacting to news that 11 councils have asked the government to postpone elections this year, Green Party co-leader Adrian Ramsay MP said:

“People must be allowed to vote at the local elections in May. It would be an outrage if the first outcome of a plan the government claims will devolve power from Westminster to local areas is to see democracy cancelled. Our fragile democracy can't afford that.

“Behind the rushed and undemocratic pleas from County Council leaders to deny their electors a vote, is the fact that many of those closer to the voters – district and borough council leaders – are opposed.

“With a five-fold increase in Green councillor numbers over the last five local elections, it does look like the two big parties are running scared of facing the voters.

“Indeed, how can the government claim an electoral mandate for these major local government changes if those most impacted see their elections postponed?

“The Green Party is urging the government to save our democracy, allow these long-planned elections to take place and get around the table to discuss how to make devolution work for people in local areas across the country.

“The imposition of large unitary authorities doesn’t help people engage with decisions being made locally. We want decisions made closest to where they have the greatest impact with significant devolution of powers and funding from Westminster. Without that, people will grow ever more cynical about politics.”

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