



17 December 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to you with urgent concern regarding the grave humanitarian crisis that continues to unfold in Gaza and the pressing need for the evacuation of seriously injured and sick children to receive life-saving medical treatment.

We have had disturbing reports from medical professionals and humanitarian organisation staff that hospitals and medical facilities in Gaza are massively overwhelmed, with critical shortages of medical supplies, staff, and functioning infrastructure. In this dire context, the plight of injured children is especially harrowing.

Many require urgent medical attention that is simply unavailable in Gaza due to the current blockade and the complete collapse of the healthcare system. Without immediate intervention, the lives of countless children hang in the balance.

When the Ukraine-Russia war began, a mechanism was quickly put in place for the evacuation of injured children from Ukraine to hospitals here in the UK, to ensure that they received appropriate medical treatment. There is no reason why we should not extend the same support to the children of Gaza. Many other countries, such as Italy and Norway, have accepted Gazan children in need of urgent medical attention, leaving the UK an outlier. Why is the UK not considering implementing a scheme like this?

Take the story of 4-year-old Ahmed, who lost his family and both his legs to an Israeli air strike in Gaza. He was refused entry to the UK and has now been evacuated to Italy where he is being treated and is receiving life-changing prosthetics and physiotherapy. The UK has the expertise and the resource to help children like Ahmed, all we need is the political will.

We cannot delay any longer – the UK must step up and demonstrate our commitment to international law by upholding humanitarian principles and providing aid to those most vulnerable and in need in Gaza. The injuries suffered by children in Gaza are extreme and require specialist care which is not available in neighbouring countries. Medics in this country are keen to offer their life-saving expertise to these children.

Will you meet with us to discuss the possibility of such a scheme? We must work alongside and liaise with the Palestinian Authority, COGAT and relevant NGOs to create a short-term medical evacuation programme from Gaza to the UK much like the scheme that worked effectively to support Ukrainian children.

We look forward to your response on this critical matter and await your support for any efforts to bring relief to those affected by this devastating crisis.

Yours sincerely,

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Lorraine Beavers

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