

To: Council

Date: 6 February 2017

Title of Report: **Motion submitted by Councillor Rowley in response to petition on the situation in Kashmir (Item 12)**

Councillor Rowley will be asked to propose his motion submitted in response to this petition

Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motion proposed here and/ or the requested actions in the petition.

Motion relating to petition submitted on situation in Kashmir

Labour member motion

(1) Council thanks those concerned members of the public who have addressed and petitioned us on the subject of Kashmir. We share their grave concern for the safety and welfare of the people of Kashmir; we condemn the violence and lament the loss of life. We also share the petitioners' hope for a just peace.

(2) Council believes that a permanent resolution to the Kashmir dispute would bring considerable benefits to the people of Kashmir, enhance the overall peace and security of the region, and bring comfort to many Oxford's British Kashmiris with their family connections there.

(3) To those ends, Council calls on both elected Members of Parliament of Oxford to urge the Government to engage with international partners to:

(a) Press all sides in the dispute to condemn all political violence and any abuse of human rights, in particular the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, and observe all international standards of human rights;

(b) Insist that all sides permit unimpeded access for international human rights monitors throughout Kashmir;

(c) Involve the people of Kashmir themselves in any dialogue as well as the state parties to the dispute;

(d) Protect civilians, promote peace, and work toward a negotiated and democratic solution that will allow the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to decide their own future free from coercion and intimidation.

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