

Recognition of State of Palestine: Motion

Senator Averil Power: I move:

That Seanad Éireann calls on the Government to formally recognise the State of Palestine and do everything it can at an international level to help to secure a viable two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

I thank the Leader for accepting my amendment to the Order of Business in order that we could consider this motion. I understand he is prepared to accept it on behalf of the Government side of the House. It is welcome that 31 Senators from all sides of the House signed the motion in order that we could bring it forward. This is an important and historic occasion for the Upper House of the Oireachtas to be sending this message. While I acknowledge that the motion is being taken without debate, I beg the Cathaoirleach's indulgence to allow me to explain its importance.

An Cathaoirleach: I cannot allow the Senator that facility. She discussed the motion on the Order of Business.

Senator Averil Power: It is important, in the aftermath of Israel's latest assault on Gaza, that the international community send a clear message of support for the Palestinian people.

An Cathaoirleach: The motion is being taken without debate.

Senator Averil Power: It is important that we send that message. We have done so, for which I thank Members on all sides of the House.

An Cathaoirleach: Is the motion being seconded?

Senator Darragh O'Brien:  I second the motion.

Question put and declared carried.