

MAYOR OF LONDON

Andrew Boff AM

Chair of the London Assembly
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Our ref: MGLA140223-0107

Date: 23 June 2023

Dear Andrew,

London Assembly (Plenary) Meeting 9 February 2023 – Motions

Thank you for the motions agreed at the London Assembly (Plenary) meeting on 9 February. I apologise for the delay in responding. My reply to each motion is set out below.

Motion 1 – Iran

As a passionate advocate for the prevention of violence against women and girls, both at home and abroad, like you, I was utterly shocked and appalled by the horrific killing of Masha Amini and other innocent Iranians at the hands of this brutal regime. I applaud the courage of the many thousands of peaceful protestors who put their lives in danger to stand up against their oppressive rulers – many of whom have tragically been killed for doing so.

I welcome the efforts of the government and the wider international community in their full condemnation of the regime and for imposing further sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities. The regime has no regard for human rights and my thoughts are with London's Iranian community and those who have families and friends living in Iran.

Motion 2 – Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill 2022-23

I am firmly opposed to the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill and am calling for the government to drop this unnecessary and inflammatory Bill. The Bill is an attack on key workers – the heroic nurses, ambulance workers, doctors, teachers, firefighters and transport workers who kept us going and kept us safe during the pandemic and who continue to do so now. The Bill also undermines the fundamental right to withdraw labour and strike and will do nothing to resolve the current industrial disputes. The way to resolve the industrial disputes is through negotiation, not legislation. The government should see the unions as their partners, not their adversaries. I regularly sit down with unions because they represent Londoners and are striving to get a good deal for ordinary working people across the city.

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Motion 3 – International Day to Combat Islamophobia

I thank the Assembly for agreeing this motion and drawing attention to this important issue. I know only too well the kind of attacks and abuse London's Muslim communities face. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with all those communities in London who are targeted by those who wish to divide us.

The Assembly will be aware that I endorsed the definition of Islamophobia drafted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on British Muslims in 2019 and have urged the government and other public bodies to do the same.

On 15 March, I restated my view that Islamophobia has no place in our society. On the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, we must recommit to condemning Islamophobia and hate crimes of all kinds. It is abhorrent that almost half of the religious hate crimes reported are directed at Muslims in England and Wales. I also restated my commitment to work with the Metropolitan Police Service to deliver a zero-tolerance approach to all hate crimes and to support communities to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. I urge anyone who has experienced a hate crime to report it.

Islamophobia and hate crimes have absolutely no place in London. I was an early adopter of the APPG on British Muslims definition of Islamophobia, and I continue to call on the government and other public bodies to do the same.

In addition to condemning all that is dark and abhorrent, we must never forget to turn towards hope and light. This year I switched on the city's first-ever celebratory Ramadan lights to mark the start of Islam's holiest month in March. This installation of 30,000 sustainable lights was the first of its scale in Europe and the lights illuminated Piccadilly Circus for the month of Ramadan.

Motion 4 – Trade Unions and the Cost of Living

I wholeheartedly agree with the Assembly's recognition of the importance of the work of trade unions in London. From securing annual leave entitlements to protecting parental leave and the right to paid holiday – trade unions have represented the interests of millions of working people, to ensure Londoners are treated fairly at work.

Trade unions will continue to have a vital role to play – not just in helping to protect their members for as long as this crisis lasts, but in building the better, more equal future we all want to see.

Launched in 2019, my Employment Rights Hub signposts Londoners to trusted information and advice about their rights at work. The hub encourages Londoners to join a trade union, and to date, more than 270,000 people have accessed it.

In close collaboration with the unions, I rolled out the Good Work Standard – championing the best employment practices such as recognising a trade union and working with a union on a variety of topics such as health and safety, skills and workplace wellbeing. Over 250,000 people across our city work for a Good Work Standard employer.

I use my Responsible Procurement Policy to drive good work standards through our supply chain. Through this, we encourage suppliers to have trade union recognition agreements.

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Motion 5 – Overcrowding in London’s Night-Time Venues

Thank you for the details and concerns raised in this motion. I passed on the details to my Night Czar, Amy Lamé, who I understand has now responded to you directly on this.

Urgent Motion – Turkey Earthquake Disaster

I join the Assembly in mourning the catastrophic earthquakes that hit Turkey and Syria. As we mourn the thousands of lives lost and begin to grasp the extent of destruction and humanitarian crisis across the region, I am proud that Londoners were quick to rally to support rescue efforts.

London has thriving Turkish, Kurdish and Syrian communities that have been severely affected by these events. I joined them, along with all Londoners, in expressing my deepest sorrow.


In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, I wrote to the Turkish Ambassador to offer my support and condolences. My team contacted Turkish, Kurdish, and Syrian community organisations to understand their needs and help coordinate support. I visited the Turkish Cypriot Association and the Alevi Cultural Centre to meet community leaders and Londoners with family and friends in the earthquake zone.

Furthermore, I assisted the Syrian community to create ‘Syria House’ in Trafalgar Square, a space where community members could pay their respects to the victims. This space was launched by His Majesty King Charles III on 14 February 2023. My team has also been in touch with local authorities across London to understand the impact of the earthquake on Syrian refugees and to offer City Hall’s support.

I am particularly concerned about the immediate mental health impact of these events on Turkish, Kurdish, and Syrian Londoners, particularly new arrivals and those who have friends and family that have been directly impacted. I have discussed the urgent need for robust support options, signposting, and trauma-informed care with my colleagues in the NHS and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

Thank you again for raising these motions with me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sadiq Khan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London