



**Surrey Heath Borough
Council**
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Cllr Shaun Macdonald
Leader of the Council

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The Rt Hon David Lammy MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

[By email: david.lammy.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.lammy.mp@parliament.uk)

24 July 2025

Dear Mr Lammy,

Call for the Upholding International Law

I write to you in my capacity as Leader of Surrey Heath Borough Council, compelled by the deeply troubling reports of escalating violence and humanitarian crises across parts of the Middle East, as well as Europe and Africa.

The loss of civilian life, displacement of communities and destruction of towns and cities demands urgent and coordinated action from nations such as ours which are committed to peace, human rights, and the rule of law.

It is with grave concern that every day we witness continued breaches of international humanitarian law and complete disregard for the United Nations Charter and the Geneva Conventions which are intended to protect innocent civilians from the atrocities of war. These are not simply legal frameworks but moral compacts that sustain justice, accountability, and human decency. The indiscriminate targeting of civilians, attacks on medical and aid workers, and the obstruction of humanitarian assistance constitute serious violations that must not go unchallenged.

I urge His Majesty's Government to take a clear and courageous stance, using its diplomatic influence to push for immediate ceasefires, unimpeded humanitarian access, and a credible pathway to accountability for those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We must also continue to support and reinforce the role of international institutions, including the United Nations and the International Criminal Court, in ensuring that all that breach these protections are held to account under international law.

I appreciate the challenges and sensitivities involved in foreign affairs, though they be well outside my own local remit. However, it is vital that we do not compromise on the core

principles that define us as a democratic society, governed by law and respect for human rights. We know from our history, that what makes Britain great is when we put our values first. We also know what happens when we don't.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I, along with many residents of Surrey Heath, hope to see the United Kingdom stand resolute in its commitment to international law and humanitarian values and lobby other nations to take a coordinated stance against such violations of basic human rights.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Macdonald', written in a cursive style.

Cllr Shaun Macdonald
Leader of the Council