

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29th May 2018

Jew *Constitution*

RE: THE BALFOUR DECLARATION.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of Israel's 70th Anniversary of independence.

I am very proud of the UK's role in the birth of the State of Israel. I was very pleased that the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu was in London, as a guest of the Government, on the centenary of the Balfour Declaration in November last year. Israel is a thriving democracy and an example to the rest of the world for overcoming adversity. I am encouraged that the Prime Minister regularly underlines Britain's friendship with Israel and reiterates our support for Jewish communities in the UK.

I firmly believe that the international community must redouble its efforts to support a comprehensive peace agreement that delivers a safe and secure Israel, alongside an independent Palestine. A two-state solution brought about through agreement is the most effective way for Palestinian aspirations of statehood to be met.

I welcome the fact that the UK Government is deeply committed to promoting our trade and business ties with Israel and accordingly is strongly opposed to the Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions Movement. I do not believe that imposing sanctions on Israel would be a constructive step. The UK enjoys a productive relationship with Israel which enables us to express our views at senior levels very frankly.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

Tom

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE