

Ray Towey, Christian People Alliance – Camberwell and Peckham

Israel is a small country in the heart of the Middle East surrounded by some very aggressive neighbours. Over the years these neighbours have 3 times tried to wipe them out in 1948, 1967 and 1973. There have been many attempts at peace most notably with Egypt and Jordan which have led to Israel returning land it has gained during wars in return for peace. They have also unilaterally withdrawn from the Gaza strip in an effort to make peace with the Palestinians. Despite all these efforts they have enemies committed to wiping them off the map.

- 1 We assert the right of the nation of Israel to exist in peace, recognised by the PLA and Hamas.
- 2 We assert the right of Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, to live in peace
- 3 We assert the duty of all people within Israel and without to engage in a democratic process to help bring peace in the region.
- 4 We assert the duty of the international community to support Israel in promoting these rights and duties.

Concerning arms exports I think the Campaign against the Arms trade is a worthy cause and I am against all export of arms to all countries. We have seen that in Northern Ireland and in South Africa there are historical precedents for non-violent conflict resolutions which offer us hope in the Middle East. In these violent conflicts there are atrocities on both sides all to be condemned but the best hope for peace is to recognise that life is sacred and to search for the non-violent solution. I attach my campaign leaflet.