



Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association

80 Fairacres Road,

Oxford, OX4 1TG

19th March 2025

Re: Oxford City Council Motion: Strengthening Ethical Procurement and Investment Policies to Reaffirm Oxford City Council's Commitment to Human Rights and International Law (proposed by Cllr Barbara Coyne, Seconded by Cllr Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini).

Dear Oxford City Councillors,

We are writing to you as the Oxford Ramallah Friendship Association, the leading local organisation supporting Oxford's historic linking with the city of Ramallah. We have developed close relationships over the last 22 years with local people and civil society and human rights organisations not only in Ramallah but across Palestine (West Bank and Gaza) and in Israel. We are supported in Oxford by local citizens and institutions. Many of our members in Oxford are from the Palestinian and Jewish heritage.

We urge you on behalf of our supporters and our friends in Palestine to vote in favour of this motion.

We agree with the motion that Oxford has an ethical duty and legal obligation to avoid trade and investment relations and cooperation with entities that recognise, aid or assist violations of international law and that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund—to which Council employees and city residents contribute—should adhere to similarly robust ethical standards, in line with its fiduciary duty towards scheme members and employers.

As a local association we are proud the City has been awarded Local Authority of Sanctuary accreditation to help those fleeing global conflicts and persecution. We believe that a vote on this motion on the Monday 24th March will help in Oxford City's work in support of communities denied their basic human rights.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony Richardson

Anthony Richardson, Chairperson. ORFA