

From: [michael bloomfield](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Proposed life-affirming, community-building, and compassionate Resolution
Date: February-21-25 8:14:21 AM

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Mayor & Council
Township of Esquimalt
Date February 21, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council:

There are times when we must rise above political differences and express our shared humanity. The tragic news of February 20th, confirming the brutal murders of the infant children Ariel and Kfir Bibas, is a heart-wrenching reminder of the devastating consequences of hatred. These innocent victims were not combatants but babies whose lives were senselessly destroyed in acts of obscene violence." And where is their mother Shiri? Instead of returning her body as agreed, Hamas sent the body of an unknown woman, revealing unbelievable cruelty in mockery of the most basic humanity. This heartbreaking news is not only distressing for the Jewish community, but for all those who believe in compassion and peace. The disturbing rise in antisemitism over the past 16 months has fueled violence against individuals, synagogues, and businesses. This harms not only Jewish community members but the very fabric of our society as a whole.

The United Nations recognizes, the abduction of children during conflict as one of the six grave violations condemned by the UN Security Council. The least we can do is come together to demonstrate our care for one another and to stand firmly against all forms of hate.

I respectfully request that one or more of you bring forward the following resolution, ideally as a unanimous statement, for adoption by council. This resolution is life-affirming, community-building, and compassionate, reflecting the values the people of Esquimalt hold dear. Thank you

Michael Bloomfield

Board of Directors Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights

www.raoulwallenbergcentre.org/the-centre-en

Founder and Executive Director

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Proposed Resolution:

Be it resolved that (this Council):

Expresses profound sadness at the murder of Shiri Bibas and her two infant children, Ariel and Kfir, while held hostage in Gaza, and offers condolences to the Bibas family. We urge all community members to reflect on peace-making and reconciliation in response to this violence

Be it further resolved that (this Council):

Recognizes and affirms that antisemitism must be addressed with greater urgency by all levels of government. The Jewish community is a vital part of our society, and hatred against any group must be confronted and condemned.

Calls upon all municipalities in the Capital Regional District, as well as the BC and Federal governments, to unite in honoring the Bibas family by promoting peace, raising awareness about the alarming rise of antisemitism and acting to combat this hate wherever it is found.

We are at a pivotal moment and urge all members of our community to come together, uplift one another, and show that hate has no place in (insert name of city).

Dated in the Mayor's Office on this day of (insert date).

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Thank you