

Rt Hon. Dominic Raab MP
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

21 June 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing to you today regarding the Georg Eckert Institute's recently published review into the Palestinian school curriculum.

After a long delay, the review has found that the Palestinian Authority systematically and purposefully inserts antisemitism, hatred towards Israel, and incitement to violence in textbooks for Palestinian children. Such findings will come as no surprise to anyone who has followed the longstanding work of IMPACT-se on incitement within the Palestinian school curriculum.

The PA curriculum clearly does nothing to further the cause of peaceful coexistence and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, which is a vital prerequisite for lasting peace. Any meaningful solution will require cultural change away from rivalry and violence, and towards coexistence and cooperation. By contrast, the Palestinian school curriculum only perpetuates and deepens divisions between ordinary Palestinians and Israelis.

All of this is made more troubling by the fact that funding from the UK – some £20 million of which goes to the PA annually – is used to implement the Palestinian curriculum, including the salaries of around 30,000 teachers and officials. It is totally unacceptable for the UK to be bankrolling the indoctrination of Palestinian children in this way.

In this concerning context, I wanted to ask you the following questions:

1. Will you make a statement in Parliament on the review's findings?
2. Will you outline any ministerial discussions you have had with the PA in light of the review's publication, and what assurances the UK has received as a result?
3. Will the UK immediately suspend aid to the PA that directly or indirectly finances the implementation of the curriculum pending a commitment for substantive and meaningful changes to the curriculum; and during any suspension will the UK redirect aid to Palestinian education NGOs with a proven track record of promoting peace and the values of coexistence?
4. Will you commit to prohibit UK international development assistance to schools operated by the PA that do not promote values endorsed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and will you commit to publish an annual report on the extent to which such development assistance for schools operated by the PA support the promotion of those values?
5. In light of the review's admission in footnotes (see p. 138, 149, 150) that it drew conclusions based on some textbooks that may never have been given to Palestinian students, can you provide any assurance that all textbooks on which the findings are based were on the PA's Ministry of Education portal when the report was written, and that print versions were in circulation?

BM LFI London WC1N 3XX

Website lfi.org.uk

Telephone +44 (0) 020 7222 4323

Email mail@lfi.org.uk

I am sure that you, alongside many of our colleagues from across the House of Commons, share my concerns over the review's delayed publication and its very troubling findings. I hope that you will act quickly to respond to its findings in full.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve McCabe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'M'.

Steve McCabe MP, LFI chair