

Daesh, Genocide

Many constituents have written to me about the violence committed by Daesh being classed as genocide.

It's abundantly clear that what Daesh is doing is genocide and so I was happy to support the motion, which was passed unanimously. You can read the debate [here](#) if you missed it. I have also written to the Government about this and you can read the response [here](#).

The Minister also recognised that genocide has taken place, but used the debate to set out the important legal position:

This is not the first time that I have commented on this matter; it is the third time. I repeat what I said in Foreign and Commonwealth Office questions last week. I believe that genocide has taken place, but as the Prime Minister has said, genocide is a matter of legal rather than political opinion. We as the Government are not the prosecutor, the judge or the jury. Such matters are for the UN Security Council....We have a place on the UN Security Council. That is important. Any referral to the International Criminal Court by the UN Security Council will be possible only with a united Council and ideally with the co-operation of countries in which alleged crimes have been committed. However, I remind the House that when efforts were made to refer the situation in Syria to the ICC in 2014, that was vetoed by Russia and China. We expect that any Security Council resolution seeking to refer the situation in Iraq or Syria to the ICC against those countries could very well be blocked again, but further discussions are taking place. We are now in a different place from where we were in 2014.

It is important that the UK Government uses all the avenue open to it to bring Daesh to account and I will continue to work with colleagues to ensure this is the case, including by pushing the Government to take the matter to the UN Security Council and the International Criminal Court.

Yours ever,



Fiona Mactaggart MP