

12 January 2026

Ms Helen McEntee TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Dáil Éireann, Kildare Street
Dublin 2

Re: Maternity Ambulances Entering Gaza

Dear Minister McEntee,

We are writing to you in connection with support Ireland can give to aid charities trying to provide mobile maternity care in Gaza.

According to the United Nations, around 130 babies are born each day across Gaza. More than a quarter are delivered by caesarean section. One in five is born too early or underweight, often with complications that would normally require specialised care.

Unicef said that in October alone, 8,300 pregnant and breastfeeding women were admitted for treatment for acute malnutrition, "in a place where there was no discernible malnutrition among this group before October 2023".

An Irish man, John Hurson, has been involved in creating mobile ambulatory maternity vehicles for expectant mothers in Gaza. Because of Israel's strict restrictions on Gaza's borders, this care is not available to women in Gaza.

The sole purpose of these maternity units is to provide the most fundamental care to women and infants in Gaza. It is inexplicable that they would be denied entry at the border.

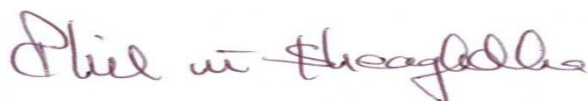
As Minister for Foreign Affairs, we feel it would be appropriate for you to make representations directly to the Israeli Government, as well as through the UN and European Union, to allow this medical aid through the border.

We are available to discuss this initiative in more detail if required.

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Owen Reidy
General Secretary



Phil Ní Sheaghdha
President