

Ireland knows what genocide feels like - and how long t...

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The National newspaper in Scotland, for whom I am a columnist, [has reported today](#) that the Irish Taoiseach (prime minister), Simon Harris has said today that:

I had a good conversation with the president of Israel. We had a firm and respectful conversation.

It is my job as the Taoiseach of this country to speak up for the Irish position, to speak out on behalf of the people of Ireland.

The Irish position in relation to the Middle East, in relation to Gaza, in relation to Israel is very straightforward and very consistent.

We need to see an immediate cessation of violence, we need to see unimpeded and unhindered access to humanitarian aid because there is a humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in front of our eyes.

We need to see a two state solution. In order to see a two state solution and to help bring one about you have to recognise the very existence of two states.

In the coming days Ireland intends to do just that."

I warmly welcome this news because I am quite sure he is right.

He was most especially right to say this when attending an event to mark what many still call the Irish famine of 1845 to 1852.

This was not, however, a famine. They are natural and unavoidable disasters. This was an avoidable crisis that London could have prevented by simply allowing Irish grown wheat to be used by those suffering as a result of the Irish potato harvests.

But London did not allow that. It imposed a genocide that cost maybe a million lives and led to maybe another million emigrating in the short term and a great many more in the long term. The population of Ireland has still not recovered. And the history has not

been forgotten.

Ireland knows what it is like to be on the receiving end of a genocide. That is why it should be and is taking a leading role on Gaza now.

I am proud to be an Irish citizen, as I have been for many decades.