

Funding the Future

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I watched a video of an exchange between Kit Malthouse, the Tory MP, and David Lammy MP, the Foreign Secretary, in the House of Commons on Monday. [Hansard recorded the exchange like this](#):

Kit Malthouse

(North West Hampshire) (Con)<

Like others in this House, I am frankly astonished at the statement of the Foreign Secretary. At a time when we have got daily lynchings and expulsions on the west bank, and dozens being murdered as they beg for aid, I am just beyond words at his inaction—and, frankly, complicity by inaction. He said himself that there is a massive prison camp being constructed in the south of Gaza and he knows that leading genocide scholars from across the world are ringing the alarm bells, yet he has the temerity to show up in this House and wave his cheque book as if that is going to salve his conscience. Can he not see that his inaction and, frankly, cowardice are making this country irrelevant? Can he also not see the personal risk to him, given our international obligations—that he may end up at The Hague because of his inaction? Finally, frankly, I make an appeal to Labour Back Benchers: we cannot get your leadership to change their minds; only you can, if you organise and insist on change.

Mr Lammy

I understand the fury that the right hon. Gentleman feels, but I have to tell him—

Kit Malthouse

Why don't you feel it?

Mr Lammy

I have to tell him that it demeans his argument when he personalises it in the way that he does. It is unbecoming, and not something the House expects, particularly of its more senior Members.

And that was it.

Giving credit where it is due, Kit Malthouse has been a strong, appropriate, and brave advocate for Palestine in the House of Commons, and his interventions are consistent with those that many here might support.

David Lammy has been anything but brave or appropriate. Even now, when he describes what he is seeing happening in Gaza, he is taking no appropriate actions to back up his words.

The RAF is still supporting Israeli intelligence. It flew over Gaza yesterday, and reconnaissance for Israel can be the only explanation for it doing so.

We are still making sales of arms to Israel, including components for fighter jets.

The sanctions that we have imposed upon a few Israeli's are token gestures and inconsequential.

No broad-based platform of sanctions on Israeli goods has been proposed, or implemented.

Frankly, I hear what Lammy says, but I do not believe a word of it. It is not what a person says in situations such as this that matters. It is their actions that count, and his actions, and those of Keir Starmer, including to the Liaison Committee, condemn them.

The warning that Malthouse gave Lammy, that he might find himself in The Hague, was, I think, entirely appropriate and timely, coming at the close of the parliamentary session.

In contrast, Lammy's response was disgusting. In summary, this is a man who thinks that Parliamentary etiquette is more important than the deaths of maybe 60,000 Palestinians in a genocide deliberately perpetrated by Israel, which is still on going, and which he could take direct action to curtail, but won't.

Pomposity is rarely more evident than that which Lammy displayed. Frankly, I sincerely hope that his pride is the precursor to a fall, because that is what he deserves.

And what Kit Malthouse predicts for Lammy would, I think, be nothing less than he deserves. All I would add is that Starmer would need to be standing in the dock alongside him, together with John Healy, our defence secretary.