

#### **F44 The Arab Awakening**

Conference welcomes:

- i) The popular movements for change across the Middle East and North Africa.
- ii) The resulting progress in some countries towards democracy and constitutional reform.
- iii) UN Security Council Resolution 1973, the valuable humanitarian assistance to the people of Libya and the Libyan National Transitional Council's commitment to a free, secular and democratic Libya.
- iv) The UK Government and the European Union's commitment to the region, particularly through the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Deauville Partnership.

Conference condemns violent repression and denial of human rights in Libya, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain and wherever it may occur.

Conference believes that:

- A. Democracy, justice, free expression, free association and self-determination are universal human rights.
- B. Such human rights can discourage conflict, enhance prosperity and economic development, and build real long-term stability in the region.
- C. Countries which embrace freedom and pluralism should feel its full economic, social and political benefits.
- D. That religious freedoms and human rights for all are best protected by a liberal and secular democratic system, where the state is neutral on matters of religion.

Conference calls for:

1. Governments across the region to respond peacefully to popular opposition, respect human rights, and move decisively towards constitutional and security sector reform coupled with free and fair elections.
2. The UK Government, together with the European Union and the G8, to support peaceful transition wherever possible by:
  - a) Providing better incentives for the region, for instance by strengthening the European Endowment for Democracy, improving trade access in key economic sectors and positively considering visa facilitation and visa liberalisation, all conditional on respect for human rights, progress in reform and transition to open and transparent government.
  - b) Ensuring that sufficient funds are allocated within the EU budget from 2014-20 to ensure the long-term success of the European Neighbourhood Policy and that the \$20 billion promised to Egypt and Tunisia is delivered under the Deauville Partnership.

3. The UK, EU and international community to continue their support for the fundamental human rights of both the Israeli and the Palestinian people, and to step up efforts to promote peaceful negotiation between Israel and the freely elected representatives of the Palestinian people which will lead to a comprehensive and final peace treaty between the two sides based on the legitimate entitlements of each in international law, including their right to live in peace and security.
4. Learning from mistakes in Iraq, the international community to prepare a comprehensive and well-resourced post-conflict stabilisation strategy for Libya, and for the UK Government urgently to improve civil-military coordination between the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence and Department for International Development.
5. The Liberal Democrat federal Party to work with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, European Liberal Democrats, Liberal International and sister parties in the region and with Liberal Youth and young people to encourage a peaceful transition to democracy in the region.

Applicability: Federal.