

## Palestine-Israel POLICY

<b><u>Title:</u></b>	Palestine-Israel policy		
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### Union Notes:

List the facts related to the areas your policy is focussed on. For example 'The Union has a responsibility to protect the welfare and security of all of its members.'

It's important at this point you include any research you've conducted, or links to research, that will help make a case for your policy.

Israel's military occupation in the Palestinian territories, construction of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land, and string of human rights abuses against the Palestinian people contravenes fundamental rules of international humanitarian law. Examples include, but are not limited to: destruction of homes, theft of land and water resources, imprisonment without trial, torture of prisoners, indiscriminate killings, etc. The most recent Palestine-Israel crisis has also seen Israel violate the rules of war and indiscriminately bomb thousands of individuals to include women and children, destroy infrastructure such as hospitals, forcibly starve a population, and prevent the access of emergency aid into Gaza, among other violations. Israel's actions, therefore, could be deemed a 'plausible case for genocide' as per the International Court of Justice.

All of the above is in violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights & the Charter of the United Nations. The settlements have also been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice and the UK government.

Recent atrocities in Palestine have weighed heavily on the minds of many students at ARU, with students and societies releasing statements on this crisis, with varying success owing to a lack of clarity and guidance surrounding the crisis and what can be said without worries of being unfairly branded as 'antisemitic' or facing unfair repercussions. We therefore call on the Union to stand up against this and both recognise and vocalise Israel's occupation and human rights abuses against Palestine. Any indiscriminate or reactionary censorship of such speech is harmful to student wellbeing and representation. By amplifying student voice on such a poignant issue, this aligns with the SUs core values

of being inclusive; 'conversations with you'; and 'belonging'. Therefore, all efforts should be made to facilitate such speech as ultimately deemed suitable by the trustee board.

#### Union Believes:

List what you think the Union should believe as a result of your policy. For example: 'That freedom of speech is an important right and should be respected.'

1. That referring to Palestine and Israel in the same manner in an attempt to be 'neutral' is not only ignorant, but downplays the plight of the Palestinian people and fails to acknowledge the glaring discrepancies between the two.
2. That the current state of events between Palestine and Israel should not be termed as 'war' or 'conflict', but rather a humanitarian crisis.
3. That Israel has **violated international law** by way of its ongoing military occupation and human rights abuses against Palestine and its people.
4. That Israel has violated the rules of war by way of its 'war' against Palestine.
5. That Israel is, and continues to be responsible for, the unlawful and indiscriminate killings of individuals and destruction of infrastructure in Palestine.
6. That, as found plausible by the International Court of Justice, Israel's acts could amount to genocide.
7. That Israel should end its decades-long occupation of the Palestinian territories, end its human rights abuses, and allow the return of Palestinian refugees in accordance with international law.
8. That Palestinians have a right to self-determination and statehood.
9. That student wellbeing is an important value of the SU.
10. That freedom of speech is an important right and should be respected.
11. That the Union has a responsibility to protect the interests and welfare of all its members.

#### Union Resolves:

List the actions the Union should carry out to deliver the policy. For example: 'To create a list of organisations that will be campaigned against and not allowed to take part in Union events.'

1. To officially recognise and affirm the above beliefs, and be able to reference these in ARU SU's communications without censorship and as deemed suitable by the trustee board.
2. To create a student-driven committee which decides on, and continuously monitors and reviews adherence to the above.
3. To divest from, and terminate any contracts with, companies that are complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories.

**Policy Summary:**

In one or two sentences, what is the aim of your policy?

Our policy aims to both recognise and vocalise Israel's occupation and human rights abuses against Palestine without indiscriminate, reactionary or baseless censorship and as deemed suitable by the trustee board. This is to ultimately amplify the student voice and therefore improve student wellbeing at ARU.