

[TEMPLATE SU MOTION]: Apartheid Off Campus

This SU Notes:

- Over the last months, Israel has launched a brutal military assault on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Thousands of Palestinians have been killed.¹
- Israel sealed the already besieged Gaza Strip completely and cut off all electricity, food, and fuel from the population, of which almost half are children. Al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza was bombed on the 17th October, killing at least 800 people, including children receiving medical care.²
- Human Rights Watch has confirmed that Israel used white phosphorus in its bombardment of the besieged Gaza Strip during the week of the 9th October.³ Over a million people have been forcibly displaced, mass graves are already full, and the UN has reported that there are not enough body-bags in Gaza for the dead.⁴
- In the meantime, Palestinians across their country continue to be brutally attacked by Israeli military, police, and settlers.⁵
- All of Gaza's universities have been bombed.⁶
- Acts of collective punishment and indiscriminate killing are prohibited under international law. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that the "imposition of sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under international humanitarian law" and urged the world to find "solutions guided by the full respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law."⁷
- On 26th January 2024, the International Court of Justice found that there is plausible evidence that Israel's attacks on the Palestinian people of the Gaza Strip constitute genocide.⁸
- This continuing militarised violence against Palestinians is part of the system of institutionalised racial discrimination against Palestinians that amounts to the crime against humanity of apartheid under international law, as identified by Palestinian civil society and reported by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and B'Tselem⁹.

¹ https://www.dci-palestine.org/one_palestinian_child_in_gaza_killed_every_15_minutes_by_israeli_forces

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/17/no-painkillers-water-food-shortages-what-to-know-about-gaza-situation>

³ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/12/israel-white-phosphorus-used-gaza-lebanon>

⁴ <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/situation-report-6-gaza-strip-west-bank>

⁵ <https://news.sky.com/video/israel-hamas-war-israel-defence-forces-clip-shows-islamic-university-hit-by-an-airstrike-in-gaza-city-12982358>

⁶ <https://x.com/BirzeitU/status/1720768989834490218?s=20>

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-human-rights-chief-urges-states-defuse-powder-keg-situation-israel-and>

⁸ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-ord-01-00-en.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

- In response, hundreds of thousands of people have marched in London and in cities across the UK, demanding the British government push for a ceasefire.¹⁰
- Research that has identified that British Universities invest approximately £430 million in companies and financial institutions which are complicit in the repression of Palestinian human rights by the Israeli government¹¹.
- This includes Barclays Bank, which invests over £1billion in and provides loans and financial services to arms companies which supply weapons and military technology to Israel that are used in its attacks on Palestinians.
- The 'Barclays: Don't Bank on Apartheid' campaign¹² is calling on the bank to end all financial ties with companies supplying weapons and military technology to Israel used in the violation of Palestinian rights.

This SU Believes:

- That students have a key role in pushing for positive social change.
- That we should express solidarity with Palestinian human rights and the campaign for their freedom, justice, and self-determination.
- That universities, businesses, the UK government, and financial institutions like Barclays bank have a responsibility to end their complicity in Israel's ongoing crimes against Palestinians.

This SU Resolves:

1. To support students who wish to attend the 'Ceasefire' marches, by:
 - Sharing information about the Ceasefire demonstrations in London
 - Sharing information about local actions in support of a ceasefire
 - Organising transport for students to the national and local Ceasefire demonstrations
2. To end its own complicity:
 - To commit that the SU will not use Barclays services while the bank continues to be complicit in Israel's violations of Palestinian rights, and to move any services we currently use Barclays for.
 - To write to Barclays expressing this commitment, and encouraging them to end their investments, loans and financial ties with Israeli apartheid.
 - To support the 'Barclays: Don't Bank on Apartheid' campaign (<https://www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/stop-arming-israel-3/>)
 - To publicise information to students about the 'Barclays: Don't Bank on Apartheid' campaign, including through social media and in an email to all members of the Union.

¹⁰ <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-war-tens-thousands-protest-london-demand-gaza-ceasefire>

¹¹ <https://palestinecampaign.org/university-complicity-database/>

¹² <https://www.palestinecampaign.org/campaigns/stop-arming-israel-3/>

3. To lobby the university to end its complicity:
 - To lobby the university to adopt an ethical investment policy which commits them to not investing in companies that are complicit in human rights abuses.
 - To lobby the university to divest from companies, or funds which indirectly invest in those companies, which are complicit in human rights abuses in Palestine.