

Queens' JCR Motion to Express Public Solidarity with Palestine

Queens' JCR Notes:

1. After 7 months of intense bombardment by Israeli forces, over 35,303 civilians in Gaza have been killed in addition to 382 in the West Bank, including over 9,500 women and 14,500 children ([UN OCHA](#)) - this is more than the number of children killed in armed conflict globally in the last four years combined ([UN](#)). At least 79,261 are injured, and thousands remain missing or stuck under rubble. 125 hostages are being held in Gaza, and over 9,000 Palestinians are being held in detention by Israeli forces ([UN OCHA](#)).
2. Weapons restricted under international law have been used in Gaza, for instance, usage of white phosphorus in densely populated areas ([Amnesty International](#)). [Hospitals](#), [refugee camps](#), [places of worship](#), [heritage sites](#) and [cemeteries](#) have all been targeted, and over 70,000 housing units have been destroyed, leaving over 1.7 million people displaced ([UN OCHA](#)).
3. At least 346 schools and all universities have been damaged or destroyed ([Al-Jazeera](#)), and more than 5,479 students, 261 teachers and 95 university professors have been killed in Gaza, with [UN experts](#) warning about a 'scholasticide'.
4. According to [Healthcare Workers Watch](#) – Palestine, 458 healthcare workers and students have been killed by the IDF between October 7 and March 11. The entire health system in Gaza has been decimated and is out of service ([Doctors without Borders](#)).
5. In March, the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#) (IPC) warned that famine in Gaza was "imminent" with 1.1 million people, over half of the population, suffering from catastrophic hunger and starvation - the highest number of people ever recorded as facing catastrophic hunger by the IPC. In May, Cindy McCain, Executive Director of the WFP [announced that](#) "There is famine — full-blown famine — in the north, and it's moving its way south". The EU has said that starvation is being used as a [weapon of war](#) in Gaza.
6. On 22 May, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) reported that some displaced people in central Gaza are surviving on just three per cent of the internationally recognized minimum requirements ([UN OCHA](#)).
7. According to the [UN](#), as of 30 April, 254 aid workers have been killed in Gaza by Israeli forces. At least 130 UN workers have been killed, the largest loss of life of UN workers in the history of the UN according to the [Secretary General](#).
8. According to [UN](#) reports, over 122 journalists and media workers have been killed in Gaza, more than in any other conflict in over 30 years ([IFJ](#)).
9. In an interim ruling, the [ICJ](#) ruled that there is a credible risk to Palestinians under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and that Israel must take all possible measures to prevent acts of genocide prohibited by the convention. [UNICEF](#) has described Gaza as a "graveyard for children", and a report by [UN HRC](#) experts found "reasonable grounds" that genocide is being committed in Gaza.

10. The [ICJ](#) ruled that Israel is obligated by the Genocide Convention to “immediately halt its military offensive and any other action in the Rafah governorate which may inflict upon the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that would bring about its physical destruction in whole and in part”.
11. ICC prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan KC [filed arrest warrants](#) for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel and Yoav Gallant, the Minister of Defense of Israel for war crimes and crimes against humanity including starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and intentionally directing attacks against a civilian population.
12. The occupation of the West Bank and the Israeli settlements, which have seen the highest levels of violence by Israeli security forces and settlers, are illegal under both international and UK law, and respected human rights organisations including [Human Rights Watch](#), [Amnesty International](#) and [B'Tselem](#) have concluded that Israel is practising the crime of apartheid.
13. Queens' College currently holds indirect [investments](#) in companies that are complicit in and profiting off the ongoing war, including the world's five largest arms manufacturers, and [Caterpillar](#), which supplies the bulldozers to Israeli forces used in the destruction of Palestinian homes and villages in Gaza and the West Bank.

JCR Believes:

1. All students at Queens' should feel supported by the JCR.
2. We must take an uncompromising position against all forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination including against the increases within the University of islamophobia and antisemitism in line with the JCR's constitutional commitment.
3. We support the protection of freedom of speech in academia in discussing the actions of the Israeli government in a constructive, respectable and peaceful way. Academic freedom of speech must be protected from targeted repression.
4. We support calls for College to divest from all companies complicit in and profiting off the war in Gaza that has created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.
5. There should be no place for arms investments in academic institutions.

JCR Resolves:

1. To express public solidarity with Palestine, and call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire and the release of all people being held in contravention of international law.
2. To publicly denounce the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, ongoing genocidal acts and war crimes in line with numerous human rights organisations and international law.
3. To issue a public statement expressing the need for Queens' and the wider university to divest from companies complicit in the occupation of Palestinian territories.
4. To express support for a relief fund to be established for all students facing suffering, bereavement, and hardship as a result of this crisis.
5. To advocate support for affected Palestinian students and academics through funding dedicated placements and studentships at the College and wider University.
6. To endorse the initiation of a meeting with the Bursar to examine and disclose College investments, ensuring their alignment with ethical guidelines concerning

human rights and international law through advocating for the divestment from companies complicit in the war.

7. To endorse the establishment of an oversight committee consisting of students, fellows and staff to ensure Queens' investments are always in line with the ethics of College members.
8. To make efforts to widely share open letters calling for Queens' to divest.
9. To express solidarity with the Cambridge Encampment for Palestine and shared support of its demands for disclosure, divestment, reinvestment and protection.