**Motion to Express Solidarity with Palestinians and those Affected by the War on Gaza**

**This GCR notes**

* That Israel’s ongoing attacks on Palestinians in Gaza since October have resulted in the killing of more than 31,000 Palestinians - including more than 12,000 children;[[1]](#footnote-1)
* That South Africa has brought a case against the Israeli state in the ICJ alleging that these killings violate the Geneva Convention and constitute genocide, that the ICJ's initial ruling was that such a case was 'plausible',[[2]](#footnote-2) and that UN experts have called on the international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people;[[3]](#footnote-3),[[4]](#footnote-4)
* That the October 7th attack committed by Hamas resulted in the killing of approximately 1,200 Israelis,[[5]](#footnote-5) as well as the taking of hostages of whom 134 are still in Gaza;[[6]](#footnote-6)
* That Israel holds at least 2,800 Palestinians in administrative detention without charge or trial in the West Bank, in contravention of international law;[[7]](#footnote-7)
* That Palestinians have experienced a long and violent history of occupation by Israel;[[8]](#footnote-8)
* That Israel’s indiscriminate and planned destruction of civilian infrastructure in Gaza, (including roads, hospitals, sewage systems, agriculture and telecommunications) will lead to many more civilian deaths in the future, even if a ceasefire is eventually agreed;
* That 1.5 million Palestinian civilians are currently displaced in Rafah, southern Gaza, with no chance to leave, lacking basic living necessities amidst a “catastrophic” ground invasion by Israel;[[9]](#footnote-9),[[10]](#footnote-10)
* That the scale of destruction and death has prompted international concern for the upholding of human rights and international law and a global urge to call for a ceasefire;[[11]](#footnote-11)
* That the UN has stated that widespread famine is “almost inevitable” in Gaza without immediate intervention;[[12]](#footnote-12) that many people – including vast numbers of children – are already suffering acute malnutrition;[[13]](#footnote-13) and that hunger and famine should not be understood solely as ‘humanitarian emergencies’ or ‘natural disasters’ but rather as manifestations of political decision-making, in this case by the Israeli government;
* That appointed experts to the UN’s Human Rights Council have stated that journalists in Gaza appear to have been deliberately targeted by Israeli military action,[[14]](#footnote-14) and that a similar phenomenon has been noted with respect to UNRWA,[[15]](#footnote-15) and by Médecins Sans Frontières (among other actors) regarding medical-humanitarian assistance operations, infrastructure, and personnel.[[16]](#footnote-16)

**This GCR further notes**

* That St Antony’s prides itself in being an “open-minded and courageous”,[[17]](#footnote-17) international, diverse and inclusive community of students from across the world;[[18]](#footnote-18)
* That the killing of Israelis on October 7th and the ongoing genocide and historical persecution of Palestinians have been traumatising for those directly and indirectly affected, including those Palestinians, Israelis, Muslims, Jews, Arabs, and others within our college community.

**This GCR therefore believes**

* That our members have a moral responsibility in line with our values and convictions and as students with institutional privilege to publicly speak up and stand in solidarity with oppressed peoples seeking justice and liberation across the world, including the Palestinian people who are currently experiencing genocide.

**This GCR resolves**

* To act upon its convictions of the right of people to self-determination and freedom from oppression and genocide, and join Somerville College’s MCR in their call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza, the release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian administrative detainees,[[19]](#footnote-19) an end to the targeting of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, and inside Israeli territory,[[20]](#footnote-20) as well as for the unhindered restoration of humanitarian aid in Gaza to prevent further loss of life and for the restoration of power, water, food and telecommunications;
* To underscore the alarming escalation in the situation in Gaza since the writing of Somerville College’s MCR statement by highlighting that the number of people killed there has doubled since;
* To condemn the ongoing bombardment, displacement, and genocide of Palestinian people by the Israeli state;
* To condemn the building of illegal settlements in the West Bank;
* To condemn and mourn the killing of civilians, both Israeli and Palestinian;
* To urge St Antony’s College to release a statement calling for a permanent ceasefire and condemning the actions of the Israeli government as genocide;
* To emphasise that there is no place for Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism or any form of discrimination, in our college or in our university;
* To urge the University of Oxford, all colleges, and all other GCRs, MCRs, and JCRs to join these calls.
1. [Reuters | Dozens killed gaza aid queue overall death toll passes 30000](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/dozens-killed-gaza-aid-queue-overall-death-toll-passes-30000-2024-02-29/)

[More than 12,300 Palestinian children have now been killed (thelondoneconomic.com)](https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/news/more-than-12300-palestinian-children-have-now-been-killed-in-israels-war-on-hamas-in-gaza-368548/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.npr.org/2024/01/26/1227078791/icj-israel-genocide-gaza-palestinians-south-africa> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Gaza: UN experts call on international community to prevent genocide against the Palestinian people | OHCHR](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/02/israel-defying-icj-ruling-to-prevent-genocide-by-failing-to-allow-adequate-humanitarian-aid-to-reach-gaza/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [Hamas’s October 7 Attack: Visualizing the Data (csis.org)](https://www.csis.org/analysis/hamass-october-7-attack-visualizing-data#:~:text=Hamas's%20October%207%20terrorist%20attack,years%20of%20the%20Second%20Intifada.) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-67053011> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [World Report 2024: Israel and Palestine | Human Rights Watch (hrw.org)](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2024/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine)

[Israel jails hundreds of Palestinians without charge in administrative detention - The Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/11/27/israel-palestine-detention-adminstrative-prisoners-jail/) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [1. Background: The Israeli Occupation - Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2019/01/chapter-1-background/)

[Israel: 50 Years of Occupation Abuses | Human Rights Watch (hrw.org)](https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/04/israel-50-years-occupation-abuses)

[Interactive timeline/history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since 1799 - Palestine Remix (aljazeera.com)](https://remix.aljazeera.com/aje/PalestineRemix/timeline_main.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2024/2/18/palestinians-live-in-scarcity-in-rafah-as-israeli-ground-assault-looms> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/2/15/world-leaders-warn-israel-against-catastrophic-rafah-ground-offensive> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. [Labour calls for immediate ceasefire in Gaza (msn.com)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/labour-calls-for-immediate-ceasefire-in-gaza/ar-BB1izZ1N)

[Underscoring Urgency for Ceasefire in Gaza, General Assembly Highlights Need to Protect Civilians, Grant Humanitarian Access, Free Hostages, Condemn Hamas | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases](https://press.un.org/en/2023/ga12573.doc.htm)

[Demand an urgent ceasefire in Gaza and Israel - now (amnesty.org.uk)](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/ceasefirenow)

[US increasingly alone in Israel support as 153 countries vote for ceasefire at UN | Israel-Gaza war | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/dec/12/united-nations-general-assembly-vote-ceasefire-israel-gaza-war) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/famine-looms-gaza-how-will-world-know-it-has-arrived-2024-03-05/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/mar/06/colleagues-starvation-gaza-no-precedent-famine> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/02/1146132> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/the-bottom-line/2024/2/18/why-are-israel-and-its-western-allies-targeting-unrwa> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.msf.org/msf-briefing-gaza-un-security-council> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. [Our purpose and values - St Antony's (ox.ac.uk)](https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/our-purpose-and-values/) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/graduate-studies/> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://www.btselem.org/topic/administrative_detention> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. [Somerville MCR’s Statement in solidarity with the Palestianian people – Somerville College (ox.ac.uk)](https://blogs.some.ox.ac.uk/mcr/somerville-mcrs-statement-in-solidarity-with-the-palestianian-people/) [↑](#footnote-ref-20)