



Statement on the Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Palestine and Israel has deeply affected our community at Dudley Students' Union, with the reports of tragic loss of life in the region leaving us all horrified. While we acknowledge the limitations of our statement in directly influencing the situation, we join the collective call for an immediate cease of bloodshed, adherence to international law, and a concerted effort by those in power to facilitate peace.

Given the complex nature of the conflict, diverse perspectives exist on its causes and implications. However, it is crucial for us all to recognise that real people, including members of our college community, are directly impacted by these events. In these trying times, we emphasise the importance of treating each other with kindness and mutual respect within our campuses, which must remain a safe space for all.

Regrettably, we are aware of the national rise in hate crimes, including antisemitism and Islamophobia. Dudley Students' Union unequivocally condemns bullying, harassment, discrimination, and violence in any form, whether in-person or online. We stand firm in our commitment to supporting any student affected by such behaviours.

We express our deep sadness regarding the violence in Israel and Gaza, extending our heartfelt condolences to all members of our community affected by this distressing situation. Our thoughts are particularly with those who have loved ones in the region or are grieving for those lost in the conflict. No one should endure the violence and devastation witnessed in recent weeks.

Recognising the diversity of opinions within our community, we affirm our members' rights to express their views within the boundaries of the law. We are mindful of the increased incidents of antisemitism and Islamophobia during periods of heightened tension in Israel and Palestine. It is crucial to emphasise that individuals, regardless of nationality or faith, should not be held responsible for the actions of authorities in the region. Targeting, intimidating, or blaming any member of our community for events in Israel or Gaza constitutes harassment and may be unlawful.

Racism, including antisemitism and Islamophobia, has no place in our diverse and inclusive community. Dudley Students' Union remains a steadfast source of support for all students, and we encourage anyone in need to reach out to us for assistance.

In Solidarity and Peace,

Dudley Students' Union Leadership Team