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## UCDVO statement on Palestine

### 18 September 2024

As a charity that is based in University College Dublin, UCDVO welcomes the statement by UCD<sup>1</sup> (8 June 2024): "UCD is a university with a strong commitment to human rights and the rule of law. Accordingly, we are outraged by the ongoing mass killing of civilians, the withholding of humanitarian aid, and the destruction in Palestine by Israel. As a member of the global university community with an enduring commitment to academic freedom, expression and safety, UCD is particularly appalled by the destruction of all universities in Gaza and attacks on their students, faculty and staff."

UCDVO particularly welcomes UCD's recognition of "the powerful tradition of student and staff activism in our university, as in others, in bringing about positive change". Given UCDVO's vision is of a vibrant, global community working together for a fair and sustainable world, we salute the students who participated in the (largely peaceful) UCD encampment, for their expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people, and commitment to human rights and justice.

UCDVO condemns all killing of civilians and breaches of international law, including the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 that killed over 1,200 Israelis (including foreign nationals)<sup>2</sup>.

UCDVO is horrified at the ongoing catastrophe in Gaza. The humanitarian impact of Israel's bombardment and siege of Gaza is staggering. According to the latest UNOCHA reports<sup>3</sup>, over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed; over 94,000 reported injured, 1.9 million Palestinians are displaced.

The World Food Programme (Situation Report 26)<sup>4</sup>, reports that almost the entire population of Gaza is food insecure. In the words of Philippe Lazarini, UNRWA Commissioner General on 12 July<sup>5</sup>, "Gaza is decimated. More than two million people are trapped in a living hell."

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.ucd.ie/newsandopinion/news/2024/june/08/belfieldcampusupdateagreementreachedtoendencampment/>

<sup>2</sup> [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory | Home Page \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory | Home Page \(ochaopt.org\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/wfp-palestine-emergency-response-external-situation-report-26-11-july-2024>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/statement-unrwa-commissioner-general-philippe-lazarini-unrwa-pledging-Conference>



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They have been displaced repeatedly across a ravaged and increasingly lawless territory. Children and women are bearing the brunt of this brutal war. Acute food insecurity is claiming the lives of children and severely affecting women who often eat last and least”.

#### **UCDVO commitment**

1. UCDVO stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine.
2. UCDVO echoes Irish Government, United Nations, and civil society demands for an immediate, permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages in Gaza and Israel, and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Ends.