

Impact of the Conflict in Israel-Palestine on Lancaster Students	
Meeting and date:	Union Assembly, 05/12/2023
Purpose of paper:	To recognise the impact of the ongoing conflict on students in Lancaster, to firmly stand against discrimination in all its forms, publicly support all of our communities at this time, and to empower students engaged in debates and discussions with resources on how to discuss this topic sensitively.
Intended outcome:	For approval.
Paper submitted by:	Josh Newsham, Vice-President Welfare on behalf of the Full-Time Officer Group.
Restricted business:	No
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Persons/committees consulted to date including student engagement (where appropriate):	Lancaster University Students' Union Islamic Society Lancaster University Students' Union Jewish Society National Union of Students' Guidance
EDI considerations	Consultation with impacted student groups and national guidance to create an inclusive and accessible paper.
Date paper produced:	30/11/2023

This Assembly notes:

1. The ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine is having a severe impact on the wellbeing of different communities here in Lancaster.
2. There is an increased risk of hate crimes and violence, particularly towards our Muslim and Jewish students due to the ongoing conflict.
3. [The National Union of Students' Guidance](#), made in consultation with impacted communities and [Israel-Palestine: Avoiding Antisemitic and Islamophobic Hate Speech | SNS \(solutionsnotsides.co.uk\)](#) - guidance on how to discuss this matter appropriately and sensitively.
4. Many students have organised to publicly campaign for the Students' Union to publicly acknowledge the ongoing conflict.
5. A lack of a public recognition by the Students' Union has disillusioned some impacted Students from seeking support.
6. The Safe Space Policy and the need for the Students' Union to be proactive in its efforts to uphold this policy.

This Assembly believes:

1. Israeli and Palestinian people have the right to live in peace and prosperity; free from violence, free from fear.

2. This is a moment to support students, stand firm in tackling hate-speech and abuse, and de-escalate fear and tension on campus.
3. All parts of our Students' Union should be a welcoming and comfortable space for all students to seek support and community.
4. The freedom of speech of our organising students should continue to be respected in line with existing laws and policies.
5. All students should be acting with compassion and sensitivity for fellow students no matter their identity or their politics

This Assembly resolves:

1. To recognise:
 - a. The impact of the ongoing conflict on students in Lancaster.
 - b. The need to empower students engaged in debates and discussions with resources on how to discuss this topic sensitively and appropriately.
2. To firmly stand against islamophobia, antisemitism, and discrimination in all its forms
3. Release a public statement acknowledging the notes, beliefs, and implementing the resolutions of this paper.