

Motion on Institutional Obligations relating to Violations of International Legal Standards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Whereas on 29 August, 2018, the Board of Directors of the APUO approved a [Reserves Fund Policy](#) (including Investment Guidelines) which provides, in clause 7(iv), that preference be shown “for Canadian and socially and environmentally responsible investments;”

And whereas on 31 May, 2023, the Finance and Treasury Committee of the University of Ottawa exhibited leadership on their commitment to divestment from fossil fuels, and corporate social responsibility by approving [Responsible Investment Guidelines](#) intended to be “a public commitment to make investment decisions that consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues”, aligned with the United Nations supported Principles of Responsible Investment and which, in turn, are aligned with the [United Nations Principles on Business and Human Rights](#);

And whereas the APUO, along with the University of Ottawa, have obligations and responsibilities not to enter into or maintain investments and other relationships with institutions and other entities that enable violations of international legal standards;

And whereas in January and July, 2024, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found [a plausible risk of genocide](#) in Gaza by Israel, and that Israel’s policies and practices relating to the Occupied Palestinian Territory [are in breach of international law](#), and these findings give rise to corresponding [obligations of third-party States](#), such as Canada, and, by extension, of [educational institutions such as universities, which include to](#): ensure that their current actions, programs, and investments are not complicit in violations of the Genocide Convention; ensure that they take all reasonable measures within their institutional power to prevent violations of the Genocide Convention; take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and, not render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

And whereas on 18 March, 2024, the [Canadian Parliament passed a motion](#) that included supporting the cessation of future arms exports to Israel, recognizing the provisional measures of the ICJ relating to plausible risk of genocide, reaffirming Israeli settlements as illegal, and advocating for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territory and active pursuit of the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace;

And whereas on and since 7 October 2023, innocent Israeli, Palestinian and other civilians have been killed, taken hostage, detained or harmed. And noting that the Israeli military has since inflicted a disproportionate and inhumane assault on the Gaza Strip, directly [killing at least 50,000 Palestinians](#), the majority of them women and children, [injuring at least 100,000 others](#), denying the entry of food, fuel, and medical supplies into the Gaza Strip, and having bombed

homes, farmland, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure, as well as destroying [396 educational facilities](#), including [all 12 of Gaza's universities](#), as well as libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural sites, thus depriving the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip of their right to food, housing, healthcare, security, and education;

And whereas numerous Canadian unions, including the Canadian Labour Congress, the University of Montréal General Faculty Union, the University of Windsor Faculty Association, the Wilfred Laurier Faculty Association, the Toronto Metropolitan University Faculty Association, the Dalhousie Faculty Association, the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers, the Trent University Faculty Association, Simon Fraser University Faculty Union, and Carleton University Academic Staff Association, called for divestment from and boycott of all institutions and corporations complicit in Israeli war crimes, breaches of international law, and human rights violations in occupied Palestine;

And whereas we seek prompt immediate action on the part of the APUO and the University of Ottawa to uphold our respective obligations and responsibilities relating to these circumstances.

Be it resolved that the APUO reviews and reports on the APUO Strike Fund's holdings bi-annually, and immediately and permanently divests from institutions, corporations and other entities enabling human rights violations, war crimes, and any other breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Be it further resolved that the APUO directs APUO's representatives who serve on the University of Ottawa Pension Fund Investment Committee and the Pension Plan Committee to develop and implement a plan of action to divest from institutions and corporations enabling human rights violations, war crimes, and any other breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Be it further resolved that the APUO establishes a committee to conduct a comprehensive audit of the University of Ottawa's cooperation with financial, academic, and cultural institutions complicit in enabling human rights violations, war crimes, and any other breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Be it further resolved that the APUO calls on the University of Ottawa to fully disclose recipients of its financial investments through endowed and non-endowed funds and the University of Ottawa pension funds.

Be it further resolved that the APUO calls on the University to disclose and review institutional exchange programs, research collaborations, partnerships, fellowships and other institutional involvement with Israeli academic, and other institutions that directly enable human rights violations, war crimes, and any other breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Be it further resolved that the APUO calls on the University to strengthen academic links with Palestinian academics and educational workers, including through virtual instruction, exchanges, library sharing, infrastructural support and setting up placements, fellowships, and scholarships for new students from Palestine.

Be it further resolved that the APUO unequivocally supports and defends the academic freedom of its members to teach and pursue inquiry about Palestine that is free from institutional and political censorship, and supports students', professors', librarians' and staff members' rights to assemble and protest peacefully on campus without disruption, surveillance, reprisal or violence from police, security, or other quarters.

Be it further resolved that the APUO establishes a committee to monitor and document violations of academic freedom and the right to peacefully protest and publish an annual report for its members.