

OBESSU BOARD STATEMENT REGARDING THE ONGOING GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE

WHY WE EXPRESS OURSELVES

The Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU) represents school students in Europe since 1975 and has ever since been advocating for participatory, inclusive and quality education for all, as well as for a society based on justice, human rights and self-determination of people.

One of the main objectives of any school system should always be giving us students the tools to transform the society around us and make it a better place for everyone. This is why, as students, we feel the responsibility of not remaining silent in front of clear breaches of the principles listed upwards.

WHAT IS HAPPENING

We recognise that the actions that Israel is currently carrying out in Palestine constitute a genocide (as confirmed by *Report A/80/337* of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory¹) that is causing thousands of victims through bombing, famine and illness, as well as millions of displaced people.

We also acknowledge that this is happening after decades of illegal occupation of Palestinian land, as stated by the International Court of Justice's *Advisory Opinion of July 19 - 2024*², and UN General Assembly *resolution ES-10/24*³.

Furthermore, we want to emphasize that one of the many consequences of the destruction unleashed among the Gaza Strip, is the almost complete obliteration of the local school system, preventing thousands of young people from accessing their fundamental right to education.

As a school student organisation, we are deeply concerned by this, because we believe a right can be considered such only when it is granted to everyone.

OUR POSITION AND DEMANDS

While strongly condemning any kind of breach of human rights and international law by anyone in any part of the world, as well as any form of Islamophobia and Antisemitism, regarding the situation in Palestine - we demand:

- Immediate end to the ongoing genocide and occupation of Palestinian territory.
- Immediate access to the Gaza Strip of all necessary humanitarian aid, managed by independent organisations.
- Concrete and structural actions to rebuild the school system in the Gaza Strip, in order to ensure complete availability of the right to education for the Palestinian people.

We reiterate our support to the Palestinian people, and for all student and civil society organisations that are activating and mobilising on this matter.

¹ Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry (A/80/337), <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/report-of-coi-14aug25/>

² ICJ Advisory Opinion, 186-20240719-ADV-01-00-EN, <https://www.icj-cij.org/index.php/node/204160>

³ Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 September 2024, <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/ES-10/24>