

## **BREAKING: OVER 500 OXFORD FACULTY AND STAFF ENDORSE GAZA SOLIDARITY ENCAMPMENT**

*The statement wholeheartedly backs the OA4P solidarity encampment and all six of the group's demands*

14 May, 2024

**OXFORD, UK** -- As of Tuesday morning, just over a week since the establishment of Oxford's "Liberated Zone" for Gaza, over 500 members of faculty and staff at the University of Oxford have now pledged their support for the Gaza solidarity encampment and its demands. More signatures are added daily.

The overwhelming support from faculty and staff highlights the widespread feeling across the University that the Administration should engage with the encampment and meet its demands. These demands call on the University to cut its existing financial and institutional ties to Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid.

Among the signatories are Professors from almost every department in the University, from Biology, History, Politics, Economics and Computer Science, to Law, Music, Anthropology, Geography, Philosophy, Physics and Chemistry; they are joined by librarians and archivists, by staff in computing, development, access and administration, and by keepers of the university's collections.

In a joint statement, the signatories made clear their firm support for the encampment and its demands. **The petition reads:**

"As members of faculty and staff of the University of Oxford, we stand firmly in support of the members of the university community who have begun an encampment outside the Pitt Rivers Museum to demand that the university divest from Israel's genocide in Gaza, as well as from Israel's ongoing apartheid regime against Palestinians and its settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem."

**The faculty and staff have called the camp** "a public-facing global education project," and have urged University leadership to recognize this political expression as an opportunity for dialogue and engagement. Thus far, the University has refused to acknowledge OA4P's demands or reply to requests for meetings.

As Prime Minister Sunak pressures University Administrators to suppress campus dissent, the endorsement also underscores the growing role of academics across the UK in calling for an end to British support of the israel's genocide, which has killed over 34,000 Palestinians and systematically destroyed essential infrastructure.

### **QUOTES:**

"The International Centre of Justice for Palestinians has notified the university of Oxford - among over 80 British institutions - of possible complicity through its investments, in Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people. With this in mind, I proudly join over 500 of my colleagues at Oxford to demand that the university disclose its investment, and divest from Israel's genocide and occupation in Palestine."

*-Sneha Krishnan, Associate Professor in Human Geography, University of Oxford*

"As the UN declares a famine in Northern Gaza, and the IDF continue their assaults on families they have already displaced to the South, I stand alongside over 500 colleagues from almost every department of the University to call on the Vice Chancellor to disclose the University's investments, to divest from any corporation enabling Israel's genocidal war and its illegal occupation, and to support Palestinians in Gaza as they rebuild their educational institutions, including their universities, each of which has been destroyed by Israeli bombs."

*-Sophie Smith, Associate Professor of Political Theory, University of Oxford*

**TO READ THE FULL STATEMENT as well as an up-to-date list of signatories, visit [oxfordgazastaffsolidarity.wordpress.com](https://oxfordgazastaffsolidarity.wordpress.com).**

***For interviews and other enquiries, contact:*** m:

07341377729; e: [oxpalpress@proton.me](mailto:oxpalpress@proton.me); @OxAct4Pal on X, Instagram, and TikTok. For a Press Kit and other resources, visit [linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal](https://linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal).

*Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a coalition of students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University of Oxford community who are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. On May 6, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University to cut financial and institutional ties with Israeli genocide, occupation, and apartheid. For updates, visit the OA4P linktree at [linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal](https://linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal) and find us on Instagram, X, and TikTok on @OxAct4Pal.*

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