

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: OA4P RESPONDS TO OXFORD ADMIN'S STATEMENT,  
REFUSAL TO MEET**

**14 May 2024; OXFORD, UK** -- On Tuesday afternoon, the University of Oxford Vice Chancellor's Office issued a university-wide response to the demands of the Oxford Action for Palestine coalition. The response was not sent directly to the OA4P coalition, despite repeated demands to meet.

**The Oxford Action for Palestine coalition has issued the following statement in response:**

"Our coalition has read the university-wide statement issued by the Vice Chancellor's Office, and we are severely disappointed by the response. It neither substantially addresses a single one of our demands, nor does it indicate any willingness to pursue further discussion. More importantly, the statement – issued to the entirety of the university community – does not address our direct requests to negotiate, which were issued last week with the mandate of response for 5pm yesterday.

We are also alarmed by the University's language that implies our protest has only been "largely" peaceful, and that our protest has prompted fear or has even stoked concerns about a threatening presence on campus. There is a difference between *feeling uncomfortable* and *being unsafe*. As was proven by the hostile attacks on our encampment on Saturday evening – which the University has refused to speak on – the University's silence on the issue of Gaza *makes us actively unsafe*. It allows the Prime Minister's blatant lies to fuel hatred and violence towards our community, including the Jewish members of our community. The longer the Administration goes without addressing this publicly and directly, the more it places us in harm's way.

Lastly, we remind the Administration that the OA4P coalition has quadrupled in size over the past week alone, has garnered over 500 signatures of support from faculty and staff, and received the unequivocal endorsement of the UCU and other campus unions. We have assembled a negotiations team and are prepared to meet. In the meantime, the university community is prepared to escalate immediately.

In the week since our encampment has gone up, the devastation in Gaza has increased exponentially. Israel has intensified its genocidal assault with ground invasions, forced displacement, blockage of aid and evacuations, and unrelenting carpet bombing. A seventh mass grave has been discovered at a Gaza hospital. The Rafah ground invasion — once considered a "red line" — has commenced. The circumstances could not be more urgent, and Gaza cannot wait.

The movement for Palestine across the United Kingdom and across the world has reached a boiling point. We urge the Administration to understand this moment in history and the risks the University is taking by refusing to act. We request a meeting immediately."

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

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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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