

## **ICYMI: 450+ RALLY FOR GAZA IN OXFORD WITH DRS. GHASSAN ABU-SITTAH AND OMER ABDUL MANNAN**

*Hundreds of Oxford students, faculty, staff, and community members rallied to demand the Oxford Administration meet OA4P's demands*

16 May 2024; OXFORD, UK -- On Thursday evening, the Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) coalition hosted a rally and press conference in city centre with Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah. The emergency rally was announced in direct response to Tuesday's disappointing statement from the Vice Chancellor, which – after a week of silence – was issued to the university community with a complete refusal to engage with OA4P's demands or meet to discuss them further. The Vice Chancellor's statement has provoked fury throughout the Oxford community – and today, nearly 500 students, faculty, staff, and community members rallied to channel their anger into action.

OA4P's Gaza Solidarity Encampment has garnered widespread support and nearly quadrupled in size since its founding. Endorsements for OA4P and its demands have been issued by over 500 members of University faculty and staff, Oxford University healthcare workers, and fourteen Oxford trade union affiliates, including Oxford UCU and the Oxford and District Trade Unions Council.

For photos and videos from the rally, as well as OA4P's public response to the University's statement, see the **OA4P Press Kit at [linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal](https://linktr.ee/OxAct4Pal)**.

### **QUOTES:**

"The student movement has given hope for our future and continues to give us hope for our future." - **Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah**, Rector of the University of Glasgow and prominent British-Palestinian surgeon.

"There is a political vacuum in the UK. We are watching our leaders be unable or unwilling to do anything. The one beacon of hope in the last few weeks has been the student movement, and the least that the University can do is sit down and negotiate the response from the VC is frankly shameful." - **Dr. Omer Abdul Mannan**, co-founder of Healthcare Workers for Palestine.

"I am one of *hundreds* of students who have been part of OA4P, and it's not just us. Our coalition of students, faculty, staff, trade unions, and community members is growing by the day. The Vice Chancellor knows this, and that's exactly why she's doing everything in her power to avoid engaging with our demands. We have a coalition whose size and breadth is irrefutable, our negotiating team is ready, and we will do everything in our power to ensure Admin arrives at the table." - **Amytess Girgis** is a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford and member of the OA4P coalition.

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*Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) is a broad coalition of students, faculty, staff, and other members of the University of Oxford community who are dedicated to the liberation of Palestine. On 6 May, OA4P established a Liberated Zone encampment in solidarity with Gaza, calling on the University to cut financial, institutional, and rhetorical support of 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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