



## 1. WELCOME AND OPENING

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on Whadjuk Noongar land and paid respects to elders past and present.

The Chair outlined that the meeting was called following a petition with the objectives of expressing solidarity with Palestine, urging UWA to cut ties with Israel and companies involved in weapons production linked to the conflict in Gaza, and seeking the removal of Dianne Smith-Gander as Chancellor. The petition had garnered enough signatures to proceed, leading the Guild Executive to accept it. Two motions for consideration, submitted by the petitioners, were presented on the Guild website and displayed during the meeting. The Chair emphasized adherence to Guild standards, with speaking time limited to two minutes per speaker, a one-minute warning, and strict enforcement against discriminatory discourse. Debate would alternate between speakers for and against each motion, and once no new substantial points were raised, motions would proceed to a vote.

## 2. DECLARATION OF POTENTIAL OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

### 3. MOTIONS ON NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)

- 3.1.1 The UWA Student Guild calls for an immediate and just end to Israel's genocide in Gaza. This means an immediate halt of the bombing, a permanent withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza, an end to the 18-year long blockade, and reparations to be paid for the reconstruction of Gaza.
- 3.1.2 The UWA Student Guild supports the call for a Free Palestine. This means equal rights for all people from the Jordanian River to the Mediterranean Sea, as well as reparations and the right to return for all Palestinians expelled from their historic land since 1948.

Proposed by: Danica Scott (DS)  
Seconded by: Alevine Magila (AM)

DS moved a motion for the Guild to stand in solidarity with Palestine, citing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. She stated that over 41,000 people had been killed by Israel in the past year, with doctors estimating at least 186,000 deaths from bombs, disease, or starvation as of June. DS described dire conditions under Israel's blockade, with 96% of Gaza's population facing starvation and widespread malnutrition and inadequate medical care. She called the situation a genocide and urged support for Palestine.

AM supported the motion, condemning both the genocide in Gaza and Israel's broader actions as an occupying apartheid state. AM highlighted Israel's systemic exclusion of Palestinians, invasions, and economic blockade, restricting access to aid, food, and electricity. The motion represents opposition to both the atrocities in Gaza and Israel's apartheid regime.

*Questions:*

A speaker questioned the timing of the motion on a Jewish holiday, suggesting it excluded Jewish students and asked why the date wasn't changed despite requests.



AM responded, highlighting that many anti-Zionist Jewish people in Australia and the U.S. oppose Zionism and apartheid, emphasizing the movement's anti-racist stance and condemnation of all racism, including against Palestinians. They noted that the Australian Union of Jewish Students doesn't represent the entire Jewish community and pointed out anti-Zionist Jewish students supporting the motion. AM concluded that any day is appropriate to stand against apartheid and for a free Palestine.

*Debate:*

**FOR:**

A speaker highlighted the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, citing over 40,000 confirmed deaths and estimates of up to 300,000 by year-end. They described famine, aid restrictions, and global inaction, sharing a tragic account of an Israeli strike on a children's playground where medical staff lacked supplies. They urged opposition to these atrocities on humanitarian grounds.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker opposed the motion, warning against local division and harm. They emphasized the need for hostages' safe return and argued that labeling the situation as "genocide" is factually incorrect and harmful, urging rejection of the motion.

The Chair reminded the audience to listen in silence.

The speaker urged rejection of the motion, arguing it undermines self-defense and does little to aid Gaza, calling instead for actions that promote genuine peace.

**FOR:**

A speaker argued Gaza's situation is genocide, citing 15 deaths per hour, destroyed universities, and restricted essentials like food, water, and healthcare. They highlighted statements from Israeli officials advocating for Gaza's destruction and called the motion a stand against genocide, racism, and for Palestinian liberation.

The Chair made a point of order, regarding an unauthorized Instagram livestream of the meeting. It was noted recordings are prohibited without the express consent from every person in the room and that the official livestream was being conducted via Microsoft Teams. Attendees were reminded to adhere to University rules, which only allow authorized recordings on University grounds.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker opposed the motion, highlighting the omission of Israeli casualties, including 12 children killed in an attack on a soccer field. They questioned the lack of calls for human rights when Jewish and Israeli children are targeted and criticized the motion for ignoring suffering on the Israeli side.

**FOR:**

A speaker supported the motion, arguing the situation is not equivalent. Sharing the story of Amin, a Palestinian facing generational displacement since 1948, they emphasized the ongoing oppression of Palestinians through Israel's policies, including the denial of rights, occupation, and the Gaza siege. They highlighted the imbalance of power, citing 40,000 deaths, destroyed hospitals, and blocked aid, framing the motion as addressing systemic oppression, not equal violence.



Chair advised speakers come to the front due to difficulties in hearing online. However speakers raised that it was difficult to get to the front so instead were advised to speak more clearly.

**AGAINST:**

A Jewish student highlighted the absence of discussion about over 100 hostages still held in Gaza after the October 7 attacks, which included violence against civilians. They emphasized the importance of prioritizing the safe return of hostages and argued that imprisonment should occur through lawful means, not hostage-taking. They called for peace and urged rejection of the motion.

**FOR:**

A speaker argued Israel has killed more hostages in Gaza than it has rescued, noting that over 9,000 Palestinians are imprisoned, many unfairly under an apartheid judicial system. They highlighted systemic oppression since 1948, including mass displacement and military actions, and called for dismantling this oppressive system to achieve justice.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker emphasized the need for peace and warned that the motion lacks balance, risking division within the university. They urged rejection of the motion, advocating for the release of hostages, the disbandment of Hamas, and a focus on genuine peace efforts.

Chair reminded attendees that speakers will be heard in silence and no discriminatory language is tolerated.

**FOR:**

RD advocated for a unified state, condemning Israel as a genocidal apartheid regime responsible for 76 years of Palestinian suffering. They called for resistance, full rights, reparations, and the right of return for Palestinians.

**AGAINST:**

The speaker addressed the previous speaker's comments regarding the expulsion of Jews from the Jordan and acknowledged the concerns of Jewish students at UWA who may feel threatened, validating their feelings. While recognizing that some aspects of the motion could reflect universal solidarity and contribute to peace, the speaker expressed reservations. They suggested that the motion could be more comprehensive if it included a broader perspective, implying that it might benefit from a more inclusive approach.

**FOR:**

The speaker addressed prior comments about casualties, clarifying that the 12 individuals killed on the soccer field were not Israelis but Jewish Syrians in the Golan Heights, an area occupied by Israel since 1967, which remains unrecognized by the international community except for the U.S. under Trump's administration. They questioned the morality of the Israeli prison guards who have been filmed abusing Palestinian prisoners, implying a double standard in the discussions surrounding violence.



The Chair reminded attendees to maintain respect during the debate and to respect differing opinions.

**AGAINST:**

The speaker stated that all Jewish individuals present condemn the treatment of any people as less than human and oppose inhumane actions. They emphasized a collective desire for peace and a shared agreement against the death of civilians. The speaker called for unity in working towards these common goals.

**FOR:**

The speaker, identifying as a descendant of Holocaust survivors, expressed strong opposition to the current situation, likening it to genocide. They emphasized the importance of acknowledging and preventing history from repeating itself, asserting that witnessing such atrocities is unacceptable.

**AGAINST:**

The speaker highlighted that the debate coincided with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, which resulted in the absence of many Jewish representatives. They expressed concern over the lack of consideration for this important holiday, emphasizing that academic discussions should include both sides of any debate. The speaker stated that while they do not aim to change anyone's mind, it is crucial to acknowledge the absence of Jewish voices in this discussion and that future debates should strive for inclusivity and respect for all perspectives.

*Motion was moved to a vote and passed by majority.*

- 3.2.1 The UWA Student Guild demands that UWA cut ties all ties with weapons companies, including but not limited to L3Harris.
- 3.2.2 The UWA Student Guild demands that UWA cut all ties with institutions of apartheid Israel, including but not limited to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- 3.2.3 The UWA Student Guild expresses no confidence in our incoming Chancellor, Diane Smith-Gander, for her personal links to apartheid Israel and her opposition to the anti-genocide Palestine solidarity movement.

Proposed by: Rojin Didari (RD)

Seconded by: Charlie Wilshusen (CW)

RD criticized UWA's ties to weapons manufacturers like L3 Harris, its nuclear submarine research, and its exchange program with the Hebrew University, linking these to genocide and apartheid. They highlighted the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on education and urged the university to sever unethical partnerships.

CW condemned UWA Chancellor Diane Smith-Gander for supporting Israel's apartheid and leading initiatives against the pro-Palestine movement, questioning her ethical suitability. Both called for accountability and ethical responsibility at UWA.



*Questions:*

An audience member expressed neutrality but questioned the impact on students if programs linked to companies like L3Harris were removed. RD argued that addressing genocide takes precedence over job opportunities, stating they would rather be jobless than support such companies. Another speaker emphasized education's role in securing employment, but RD countered, stressing the moral imperative to prioritize lives over jobs, particularly in Gaza, where violence denies many the chance for education or work.

The Chair intervened to request quieter discussions, noting accessibility concerns for other students in the room.

A speaker clarified that the motion aims to sever ties with companies supporting genocide, emphasizing ethics in education. In response to concerns about replacing affected programs, AM stated no replacements were planned, noting the partnerships mainly involve staff and research students. Another question was raised from the audience, questioning the issue with the Vice-Chancellor criticizing antisemitism. AM argued it undermines pro-Palestine activism by framing it as dangerous while supporting Zionism. They accused Chancellor Diane Smith-Gander of prioritizing financial interests over genuine opposition to anti-Semitism.

Chair moved to a 5-minute welfare break.

Procedural motion to overturn welfare break. Motion passes with 2/3 majority.

*Debate:*

**FOR:**

A speaker reflected on their deep connection to the conflict, appreciating the increased attention compared to 20 years ago. They highlighted the high incarceration rates in the West Bank and clarified that Hamas operates mainly in Gaza. Drawing on historical examples of Middle Eastern support for Jews fleeing European persecution, they emphasized the need for visibility in the struggle. The speaker proposed granting Palestinians equal rights or their own state, affirming their right to recognition and existence.

The Chair reminded everyone that university bylaws prohibit filming at events without obtaining permission from every individual present in the room. They pointed out that filming was taking place without the necessary consent, emphasizing that it violates university regulations.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker opposing the motion argued that severing ties with L3 Harris would harm about 500 postgraduate engineers relying on its technology for thesis projects. They emphasized the need to prioritize students' education, noting that the technology supports dual-purpose research unrelated to controversial operations. They advocated preserving educational opportunities over cutting ties.

**FOR:**

A speaker in favour of the motion, identifying as an electrical and electronic engineering student, expressed outrage at the partnership with L3 Harris, equating it to complicity in genocide. They argued that education should focus on creating a



better future rather than serving profit-driven companies, asserting their desire to disengage from such affiliations.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker against the motion argued that electronic warfare, particularly L3 Harris's ADS-B technology preventing plane collisions, can have public benefits and preserve life. They questioned the wisdom of halting technological development at UWA, citing the global importance of technology, including chip manufacturing in Israel, and expressed concern about the negative impact on global advancement.

**FOR:**

A speaker in favor of the motion rejected the idea of education supporting genocide, drawing parallels to past student activism against the Vietnam War. They called for today's students to build a movement against harmful companies on campus, advocate for better funding, and shift engineering research towards socially beneficial goals, like addressing climate change. The speaker expressed support for the motion as part of a broader fight against injustice.

Procedural motion to move to vote was requested but chair allowed one more speaker for the sake of fairness.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker against the motion acknowledged its moral intentions but warned it oversimplified a complex issue. They argued that cutting ties with Israel could harm Jewish students and lead to racial segregation, drawing comparisons to South Africa. Highlighting positive collaborations like those at Hebrew University, they stressed the importance of dialogue and understanding for peace. They argued the motion would undermine academic freedom and cooperation, negatively impacting Jewish students' opportunities for cultural connection and language development. The speaker emphasized the need to encourage academic exchange and build bridges, not divisions.

This motion was moved to a vote and passed by majority.

#### **4. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE (REPRESENTATION)**

##### **4.1 The UWA Student Guild**

- 4.1.1 condemns Israel for its drive to war in the Middle East. This includes but is not limited to the recent expansion of Israel's war to Lebanon. Hundreds of Lebanese civilians have been murdered by Israel's bombs and terror attacks. The lives of thousands more may be violently ended if Israel's attacks provoke a war.
- 4.1.2. Israel is the clear aggressor in the region and we need an anti-racist and anti-zionist movement against it.
- 4.1.3 The Guild also supports the protest organised by Friends of Palestine at 4pm on the 5th of October.

Moved: Alevine Magila (AM)

Seconded: Claudia Mulvey (CM)

Motion to hear the motion without notice passes with 2/3 majority

AM introduced the motion by condemning Israel's actions as a genocidal war and imperialist violence against civilians across the Middle East. They called for students



to denounce the genocide and challenge Israel's alliances with the U.S., advocating for sanctions. CM, representing Students for Palestine, expressed horror over Israel's recent actions, particularly the invasion of southern Lebanon and the displacement of one million people. They condemned Israel's actions as state-sponsored terrorism and urged students to support the motion in response to the ongoing atrocities.

**Question:**

A speaker raised a concern about property developers in Israel renaming towns in southern Lebanon with Hebrew names and offering them for sale to settlers. AM responded succinctly, expressed strong disapproval for the actions being taken.

A speaker asked how they would like the Guild or the wider WA to respond to the motion, specifically regarding statements or actions. CM responded that the Guild should focus its resources on mobilizing students to combat the genocide and the potential for a broader regional war caused by Israel. CM emphasized the importance of student participation and encouraged the Guild to actively support demonstrations.

A speaker raised a question about the distinction between being anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic, suggesting the need for a clarifying statement to emphasize that the motion is against Zionism, not Jewish people. They proposed adding a sentence to the motion to clearly state this position. AM agreed responding by asserting that Israel is a clear aggressor in the region and emphasized the necessity of fostering an anti-racist, anti-Zionist movement.

A speaker proposed an amendment to endorse the Friends of Palestine protest scheduled for October 5th at 4 PM. They sought confirmation on whether the amendment was ready to be put forward.

**Debate:**

**FOR:**

A speaker condemned Israel's aggressive actions in the Middle East, which they viewed as part of a broader imperialist agenda. They highlighted the impact on civilians in Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, stressing the humanitarian crisis and mass displacement in Lebanon. The speaker criticized the capitalist system enabling Israel's actions and argued that the motion is essential for resisting imperialism and the structures supporting Israel's military aggression.

The Chair reiterated for the third time that filming is prohibited during the meeting unless express permission has been obtained from everyone present.

**AGAINST:**

A speaker defended Israel, arguing that it is acting in self-defense in response to attacks, including a recent incident in Yemen. They rejected the label of Israel as a colonialist state, claiming Israel seeks peace. The speaker highlighted the displacement of 90,000 Israelis and the threat from Hezbollah and Iranian missile attacks, framing these actions as evidence of efforts to destroy Israel rather than pursue peace. They criticized the view that certain groups reject Israel's existence.

An attendee move a procedural motion to move straight to vote. This was passed by 2/3 majority

The motion without notice passes.



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**Special General Meeting Minutes**  
111th Guild Council  
Wednesday, 3rd, October 2024  
Wilsmore LT @ 4pm

## 5. CLOSE