

UMUCU – 18th Jan 2024

Thanks for your reply to our email about ethical investments and Israeli war crimes. As you suggested we would like to have a meeting ASAP with Nalin to discuss this further.

Whilst we are discussing our ethical investments and links with Israeli universities, the occupying Israeli army blew up Al – Isra University in Gaza City yesterday.

Our university's silence on the literal destruction of an entire education system in Gaza, alongside textbook ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people is unacceptable. If we are a socially responsible university, as the university claims, we must respond ethically to these events immediately.

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Please find below the University's position as it relates to Israel and the current situation.

The violence and loss of life that has affected innocent people in Israel and Gaza since 7 October 2023 is truly heart-breaking. We are aware of the deep distress and concern that this terrible situation is causing, and our hope is that peace will soon be restored to the region.

In relation to the issues raised regarding alleged alliances and investments, the University does not have any involvement with the Israeli defence sector and we issued a [communication](#) to our community on 2 November 2023 to provide clarity on this matter.

More generally on the issues raised, the University's approach to investments is guided by our [Policy for Responsible Investment](#) which, importantly, includes consideration of Environment, Social and Governance issues as explained further in the Policy.

In relation to alliances and research collaborations, we comply with applicable national and international statutory and regulatory requirements (for example, export controls requirements) and agreed frameworks for ethical standards. Importantly, we also conduct [due diligence](#) on external partners to ensure proposed relationships are appropriate.

Of relevance to the issues raised, and as you may already be aware, the UK Government has proposed the introduction of new legislation (the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill) which, if enacted, will prevent public bodies (including universities) from imposing their own boycotts, divestment, or sanctions campaigns against foreign countries and territories (including of specific note in the draft Bill, Israel).

We are committed to ensuring that our investment and research strategies are appropriate, responsible and compliant with our legally and regulatory obligations and applicable ethical frameworks.

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Despite UoM's claims not to be directly invested in Israel's war on Gaza, the University maintains substantial investments in and partnerships with companies which are clearly complicit in the war, including BAE Systems, GM, Siemens and HSBC. It also maintains partnerships with Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, both of which are supporting the current war in a variety of ways and are thus complicit in Israel's human rights violations. Given these numerous human rights violations, we believe the above investments and partnerships violate UoM's own Policy for Socially Responsible Investment. Will UoM reconsider these investments and partnerships?