



University statement on conflict in the Middle East

9 October 2023

Dear students,

Like many of you, I have been shocked and dismayed to see the escalation of hostilities in the Middle East in recent days, and on behalf of the University I extend our deepest sympathies to all those affected by the conflict. Our thoughts are with you and your families.

Now more than ever it is important for us to be guided by our values of diversity, inclusion, and the principle of disagreeing well. Our campuses must continue to be a welcoming and safe space for all students and we do not tolerate anti-Semitic or anti-Muslim language or behaviour. I know many in our community hold strong views on this conflict, and I encourage you to express those views in a way that considers the impact on other members of our community.

Our [Student Charter \(pdf, 221KB\)](#) lays out our expectations for students, including the need to avoid engaging in any bullying or discriminatory behaviour. It also affirms our commitment to [free speech and academic freedom \(pdf, 191KB\)](#), including robust, informed debate and lawful protest that is free from discrimination, intimidation and harassment.

The University has already reached out directly to students of Israeli and Palestinian citizenship or country of residence, to offer additional support including special consideration, peer support and counselling. We are also consulting with relevant clubs and societies about how we can best connect with and support the wider Israeli and Palestinian student communities with academic, psychological and other practical support.

If you need support, I encourage you to [speak with one of our University counsellors](#).

Kind regards,
Mark

Professor Mark Scott
Vice-Chancellor and President

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