



The Development Studies Association of Australia (DSAA) joins the global chorus for an immediate ceasefire.

The DSAA stands in solidarity with the demands of the people of Palestine for political self-determination and sovereignty and their longstanding demand for just and equal relations with its neighbours.

As academics, we abhor and denounce the destruction of Palestinian institutes of learning by the Israeli forces, noting that *all* universities in Gaza have been physically destroyed. Education is a human right and the pathway to self-determined prosperity. In ours, and the eyes of much of the world, this is evidence of the Israeli government's commitment to utilize disproportionate force and a strategy of undermining the livelihoods of non-combatant civilians.

We mourn the lives of thousands of innocent women and men killed in a military offensive for which they bear no responsibility. We particularly mourn the deaths of the more than 14,500 children who never knew peace, sovereignty nor democracy – we grieve the lost opportunities for each of these individual young people, whose innocence and potential we see in the faces of our own students.

We stand in support of student protests globally and particularly here in Australia. We take inspiration from the brave students who are using their voices to educate, to dialogue and to stand for political and social justice. We urge Australian universities to recognise and honour our students' right to protest and to not to interfere with their encampments and other forms of demonstration. We support the efforts of student protestors in calling on universities to divest from companies working with Israel and with ties to arms manufacturers. We strongly encourage management from Australian universities to meet with student protestors to discuss their concerns.

The current military invasion of Gaza and ongoing occupation of Palestine affords the Palestinian people no dignity, and without dignity there can be no peace. We support global recognition of Palestine and efforts to establishing sustainable democratic representation within Palestine. We recognise the Australian government's support of a Palestinian state. We further call on the Australian government to immediately discontinue all actions and partnerships that support the Israeli war effort.