

## Palestine Statement

As members of an institution rooted in the pursuit of knowledge and ethical responsibility, it is crucial that we address the urgent matters unfolding globally, including the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The Netherlands, as a signatory of the United Nations, is committed to upholding international law and human rights through active participation in bodies such as the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Court. The international community, including the ICJ, has condemned the actions of both Israeli and Hamas leaders for war crimes.

The United Nations has consistently denounced the disproportionate violence used by the Israeli government in Gaza. Over the past 35 years, many universities and scientific communities have taken firm stances against wars, often ceasing collaborative projects with institutions in countries condemned for such actions. These measures reflect deep concerns about human rights violations and the misuse of academic research for military purposes.

Recently, we have seen numerous protests worldwide against the violence in Gaza. Students across the globe, including those here at TU Delft, have called for action from governments and universities to halt the disproportionate killings of innocent people, particularly children and their families. On our campus, students have peacefully protested, using chalk paint to convey their messages and demonstrating around the Faculty Building of Mechanical Engineering. Unfortunately, this was met with 15 police vans and dozens of police officers. An activist, as quoted from the Delta, said "If the TU Delft has the building evacuated, it means that they would rather send the police on students than listen to them."

Our students are the blood of this university. Without them, there would be no TU Delft or scientific community. We teach them to study facts and data systematically and **ethically**. This ensures that their intellectual contributions are used for peaceful and sustainable development. Is dialogue and consensus not essential in our scientific community?

Unfortunately, the TU Delft's leadership has repeatedly failed to hold **constructive** dialogues with students on pressing issues. This includes the current student encampment calling for an end to the violence in Gaza. This behavior suggests a pattern of denial and neglect by the university's leadership on urgent matters requiring attention. This stance not only risks the long-term reputation of TU Delft but also undermines our commitment to ethical responsibility.

The recent Education Inspectorate of The Netherlands condemned TU Delft for transgressive behavior and mismanagement. The comprehensive investigation revealed significant issues in the workplace environment, including misconduct and poor handling of complaints. This further demonstrates a leadership style that is detrimental to building a strong, internationally respected academic community.

I now pose one key question for the Executive Board:  
Because apparently, once again, conversations between the delegation of the encampment and yourself did not lead to a call for reconsideration of agreements, nor were these dialogues communicated publicly.

**Could you identify publicly what the risks are for TU Delft in suspending collaborations with Israeli institutions to support those advocating for peace and condemning violence in Gaza?**

This question demands urgent and thoughtful responses as we strive to keep the discussion of peace and human rights on the table. Thank you.