



3 Whiringa-ā-nuku 2023

3 October 2023

Newsletter No 105

Local bodies – a call to action on Palestine!



Last week PACC and PSNA wrote to all Mayors, Chair and Councillors of our local bodies around the country asking them to apply United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 in their procurement policies.

Here is the letter we sent:

Kia ora koutou,

Request for to apply UNSC2334 in its policies and practices

Background

In December 2016 the United Nations Security Council passed resolution 2334 (UNSC2334) in a 14–0 vote (with the US abstaining).

This resolution was co-sponsored by the New Zealand government – we occupied a seat on the security Council at the time – under National Party leadership with Bill English as Prime Minister and Murray McCully as Foreign Minister.

*Through this resolution the United Nations Security Council stated that, in the occupied Palestinian territories, Israeli settlements had “no legal validity” and constituted “a **flagrant violation under international law**”. It said they were a “**major obstacle to the achievement of the two-state solution and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace**” in the Middle East.*

The full text of UNSC2334 is included as an appendix to this letter.

Current Situation

There has been no progress by the Security Council enforcing UNSC2334 because some states with the power of “veto” have prevented the United Nations putting in place accountabilities for Israel’s refusal to accept UNSC2334.

The current Aotearoa New Zealand government supports UNSC2334, as does the National Party which co-sponsored the resolution.

Why does this matter now?

In December 2022 Israel elected its most extreme ethno-nationalist government ever and as well as stepping up their brutal repression of Palestinians and making clear they will not negotiate with Palestinians on a peace plan or the formation of a Palestinian state, they have said their “[top priority](#)” is to push ahead with more illegal Jewish-only settlements on Palestinian land. In the last week of June 2023 Israel’s leaders announced plans to [build more than 5,000 additional houses](#) in these illegal settlements on Palestinian land.

Meanwhile the United Nations Human Rights Council has just updated its [database of companies complicit in illegal Israeli settlements](#). The [updated database is here in a pdf](#).

Request to _____ Council

With this background we are asking _____ Council to take steps to implement UNSC2334 and in particular paragraph 5 which states:

5. Calls upon all States, bearing in mind paragraph 1 of this resolution, to distinguish, in their relevant dealings, between the territory of the State of Israel and the territories occupied since 1967;

Implementing this resolution at local authority level means developing policy and practices to distinguish between Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. **It means ensuring the council does not purchase any goods or services provided by Israeli companies or foreign companies which operate in illegal settlements on Palestinian land.**

Our proposed draft Resolution

“That the _____ Council declares it will support Aotearoa New Zealand government policy, as expressed through UNSC2334, and will develop its own policy to ensure it distinguishes between goods and services produced by Israel and goods or services produced in illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. In particular the _____ Council will refuse to purchase goods and services produced in illegal Israeli settlements.”

We are very happy to provide further information to explain the proposed resolution and assist in its implementation.

Some local body councillors may suggest the resolution should be left to the government to implement at a national level. However, leaving this to central government overlooks the dynamic role local government organisations play in developing their own purchasing policies for goods and services and does not take account of the moral and ethical questions that arise in dealing with Israel and its illegal settlements.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to hearing from you.

Ngā mihi.

Nā,

Maher Nazal
Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee
Aotearoa
maher.nzpal@gmail.com

John Minto
Palestine Solidarity Network
Chair@PSNA.nz

Something you can do now with just a few clicks...



Gisborne District Council

Find your [local body Mayor, Chair and Councillor email details here](#) and copy and paste this message to them in an email.

Kia ora Mayors, Chairs and Councillors,

I'm writing to you as a local citizen asking that you take action in support of the letter sent to you last week by the PACC (Palestinians in Aotearoa Co-ordinating Committee) and the PSNA (Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa)

It is very important the council follows through and takes action wherever we can to support the struggle for human rights. In this case it is the Palestinian struggle and we can all do something simple and meaningful by applying United Nations Security Council resolution 2334 in local body procurement policies. Remember UNSC2334 has bi-partisan support in New Zealand.

The New Zealand government already has procurement rules which take into account human rights issues. Rule 44 for example says the government may exclude a service provider for

"human rights violations by the supplier or in the supplier's supply chain"

We are asking all local bodies to do the same in relation to companies which are helping build and maintain illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. Please refer to last week's letter (from PACC and PSNA) for more details.

Please get back to me as soon as you are able.

<your name>

Labour Party refuses to recognise Palestine – even after 104 years



After the Labour manifesto released on Sunday implied the next Labour government would recognise Palestine, Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson yesterday confirmed Labour has no such intention.

PSNA [put out this media release](#) in response:

2 October 2023

Labour refuses to recognise Palestine – even after 104 years

PSNA supporters are livid Labour is refusing to recognise the state of Palestine a full 104 years after the first Palestinian calls for an independent state.

“It’s a disgraceful decision, both unprincipled and cowardly” says PSNA National Chair John Minto.

Deputy Prime Minister Grant Robertson confirmed this decision today [answering questions here](#). Scroll through to 18 minutes in.

Q - ??? about the Palestinian Representative in Australia to present his credentials here.

That was announced formally

Grant Robertson - There is a formal Foreign Policy part of the manifesto. We're sticking with the long standing Bi-Partisan approach to a 2 state solution in the Middle East and what we are doing is working with the Palestinian representative on closer discussions but that doesn't make a change to a formal recognition. It just means that we open that dialogue up.

Q - So no formal recognition?

GR - Not until there is a state to recognise. But we have long stood for a 2 state solution and what we have said is that we want to have more open and regular dialogue with Palestinian Representatives.

Yesterday Labour implied in their manifesto release that they would recognise the state of Palestine although the wording was unclear and ambiguous. What is clear now is that the slippery wording was deliberately meant to mean all things to all people.

The disingenuous wording in the Labour manifesto says:

Labour is committed to an enduring and just two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on the right of Israel to live in peace within secure borders internationally recognised and agreed by the parties, and reflecting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people to also live in peace and security within their own state.

A re-elected Labour government will:

- *Invite the Head of the General Delegation of Palestine to present their credentials as an Ambassador to New Zealand.*

138 other countries have recognised Palestine as a state and haven’t had the “problem” of recognition that Grant Robertson has manufactured for Labour.

“It seems Labour has once more buckled to pressure from a tiny pro-Israel lobby group within the party. They are allowing these anti-Palestinian racists to veto any meaningful steps to support the Palestinian struggle for human rights.”

“It’s an indelible stain on Labour’s integrity”

Background to the 104 years:

After 1918 when the Ottoman Empire collapsed at the end of the First World War, each of the countries of that empire gained independence – except Palestine. The first Palestine National Congress was held in 1919 and called for independence from Britain which held the League of Nations mandate for Palestine. Britain however refused independence and in the 104 years since,

western countries, including New Zealand, have colluded with Britain, then Israel and the US, to deny a Palestinian state or even equal rights for Palestinians who are citizens of Israel. Western countries turned a blind eye to Israel's ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in 1947 – 49 and look the other way today as Palestinians continue to be driven out of their homes and off their land by Israeli settlers, backed up by the Israeli military.

Something you can do now with just a few clicks...

Copy and paste this email to Grant Robertson

g.robertson@ministers.govt.nz

Kia ora Mr Robertson,

I was disgusted to see you making pathetic excuses for Labour refusing to recognise Palestine as a state – even after 104 years.

When will Labour grow some principles and stand up to the pro-Israel lobby which promotes anti-Palestinian racism?

It's a disgraceful, unprincipled and cowardly decision which repeats Israel's pathetic lies. 138 other countries have recognised Palestine and have not needed the absurd excuses you have used.

As things stand there is no meaning whatever in the Labour manifesto regarding Palestine. Your interview yesterday was a shameful performance.

<your name>

PSNA National meeting 2023 – 25/26 November in Wellington



Our 2023 national meeting will be in Wellington on **Saturday 25th November** and the morning of **Sunday 26th November**. The venue is Thistle Hall, 293 Cuba Street, Wellington.

We would love everyone to come and we are happy to help with the cost of you getting there. (Make sure you don't let the cost of travel stop you from coming!)

We will be arranging billets for the Friday and Saturday nights for people coming from outside Wellington.

To register to come please email our National Secretary Neil Scott at secretary@PSNA.nz to let him know you are coming and if you need help with travel costs or billets for the Friday/Saturday nights.

A huge amount has happened this year – mostly good news! We will consider all this and help plan for the coming year. Bring your ideas and your energy!

Hope to see you all in Wellington next month!

Can you help complete this compelling documentary – a message from the Palestinian Human Rights Campaign - \$20,000 target!

Join us in completing a compelling documentary showcasing the extraordinary power of people uniting across age, nationality, background, religion, and culture to provide unwavering support to a nation on its quest for hope and independence amidst enduring hardships.



Dr. Alan Kerr at Shifa Hospital in Gaza, operating on sick babies during the 2nd Intifada.

THE STORY

Since 2001 Kiwi cardiac surgeon Dr Alan Kerr with his wife Hazel have made many voluntary missions to Palestine to help set up paediatric cardiac services for Palestinian children. This work has been supported by the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, "a secular, non- profit, non-political organisation dedicated to healing the wounds of war, occupation and poverty in the Middle East, regardless of their nationality, religion, race or gender." Alan was often joined by a strong team of medical professionals from Aotearoa New Zealand. Their mission was to support locals to create their own cardiac unit for their children, including training local staff. A fully independent department is now functioning at the Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, treating 2-300 children annually from West Bank and Gaza, and a further unit is currently being developed in Ramallah, the administrative centre of the West Bank.

Renowned film director Paula Whetu Jones and team began a **self-funded documentary** to follow their work first in 2007, later in 2016, so the world can share in this powerful story of people helping each other and some who have gone on to survive numerous conflicts in the area.

In 2023 Dr Alan planned to make a final trip to see his friends, reconnect with former patients, get an update on the Palestine Children's Relief Fund's work and to receive an award of gratitude from Palestinian Government. A serious accident in Auckland prevented Dr Alan from making the trip but his daughter went instead. In the documentary we'll see her discover firsthand the impact her parents made during their many trips to the Middle East.

THE PROJECT TO DATE:

The post-production editing is almost complete, but progress has been slow while the voluntary team have had to take on paid work.

Paula and team use an observational, candid look at subjects through personal interviews, on-the-go footage, as well as 3D-look inspired graphics to illustrate the geography and the archival stills. There is partially edited footage, drone footage and still photography that capture the beauty, as well as the juxtapositions and the unpredictability of the environment. The colours, the textures, the sounds and the scenery are captured, and material that draws attention to the shortcomings and challenges of the medical facilities, logistics and treatment available for Palestinian children in the region.

Importantly, the documentary shows the spirit of Palestinians and their collective goal to not be seen as victims, but rather as makers of their own path. Dr Kerr's efforts inspire younger doctors to follow his example and save and heal many children, educate local staff, and leave a permanent,

positive mark on the whole community. Hazel's contributions in empowering young Palestinians through performing arts is another example that age is no barrier to helping those in need.



The focus on 'ordinary' Palestinians humanise the faces and the voices of those who live in this currently volatile region. The portrayal of the complexity and the politics of this region, by the mainstream media, often does not pay enough attention to the human beings living under these challenging



circumstances.

The theme of this documentary is about people reaching out to help and support one another regardless of age, country of origin, background, religion and culture and the impact it makes. Renowned film director Paula Whetu Jones has been writing and directing for film and television and produced a range of works over the last 20 years. See <https://www.paulawhetujones.nz/> For more on Dr Alan Kerr's work see <https://www.pcrf.net/news/dr-alan-kerr-the-father-of-pediatric-cardiac-surgery-in-palestine.html> For more on Palestine Children's Relief Fund please see <https://www.pcrf.net/>

THE ASK:

The documentary needs final editing and with your financial help, can be completed by the end of 2023.

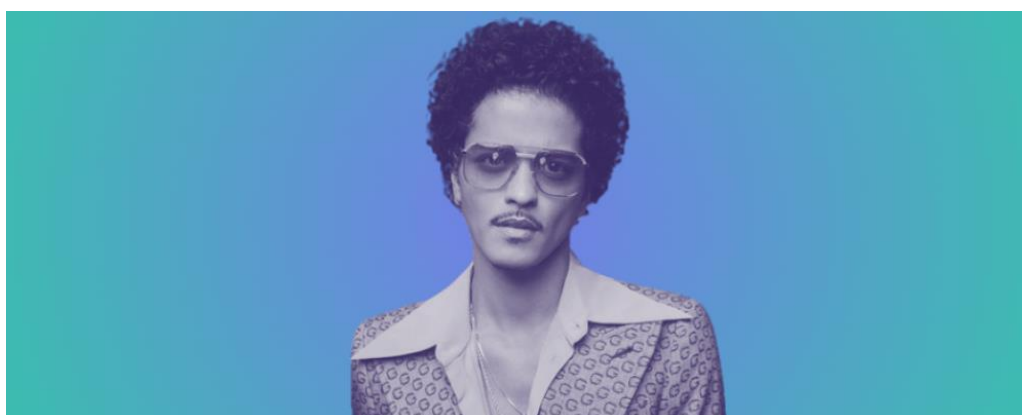
Please help raise the \$20,000 needed.

- Donations can be made by sending to the account of PHRC (Palestine Human Rights Campaign) 06 0145 0045138 00 Please provide surname as a reference and send advice to phrcfundraiser@gmail.com
- Donations will be receipted fully but do not qualify for rebate as PHRC does not have charitable status.
- \$2,000 has been pledged already but we need a super charged effort to raise the remaining \$18,000 by November 30th 2023.

Any help you can give to spread the word and encourage contributions from your friends and networks is much appreciated! Together we can bring this inspiring untold story of hope, compassion and healing to the world.

Janfrie Wakim and Marjory Lewis PHRC Auckland

Tell Bruno Mars – Don't play in apartheid Israel



[Add your name today to the international petition](#) for Bruno Mars to withdraw from his concert engagements in apartheid Israel.

South Africa Announces Visa-Free Travel for Palestinians: Why not Aotearoa New Zealand?

The Aotearoa New Zealand government provides visa-free travel to young Israelis wanting to come to New Zealand but it refuses point blank to provide visa-free travel to young Palestinians despite its declared support for the now-impossible “two-state solution”

This discrimination is par for the course for successive government here but in South Africa the government has just announced visa-free entry to Palestinians visiting South Africa.



South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs Dr Aaron Motsoaledi meeting with Africa4Palestine, Chief Mandla Mandela (MP), and Palestinian Ambassador Jarrar on the issue in 2020

You can read the full release [here](#)

One for the night owls...

This webinar will be on at 3am Monday 8 October (New Zealand time) It will be well worth the time for the night owls amongst us...

THE CONVIVENCIA DECLARATION

Justice, Peace and Reconciliation in Palestine - Muslim Perspectives

Sunday 8 October 2023

15:00 UK
10:00 USA
16:00 South Africa
17:00 Palestine

Place: P21 Gallery, 21 Chalton Street, London NW1 1JD

To register for the webinar, please go to:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/80W74w>

SPEAKERS:

- Imam Dawud Walid (USA)
- Imam Rashied Omar (SA)
- Mohd. Azmi Abdul Hamid (Malaysia)
- Massoud Shadjareh (UK)
- Norma Hashim (Malaysia)

Organised by the Convivencia Alliance

Register at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/80W74w>

Watch out for this man promoting racism and apartheid

Here he is – the Israeli ambassador – watch out for him around Aotearoa New Zealand – if you hear of any planned appearances or speaking engagements please contact us urgently: Email apartheid-Israel@PSNA.nz or text 027 4 APARTHEID or 027427278.



Israeli ambassador Ran Yaakoby

Important stories from the Web

General

- At UN Netanyahu says Israel is at the cusp of a Saudi deal while brandishing a map that erases Palestine [here](#)



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds up a map showing the occupied West Bank and Gaza as part of Israel during his speech at the UN General Assembly, 22 September 2023 (Reuters)

- Netanyahu promotes normalisation with new map erasing Palestine [here](#)
- Saudi Arabia Palestine statehood unclear: Crown Prince interview [here](#)
- The shifting geopolitics of the Middle East [here](#)
- Oslo after thirty years – a paradigm beyond partition [here](#)
- When will Israel seek forgiveness for its crimes against Palestinians? [here](#)
- Normalisation and co-resistance [here](#)
- Saudis step up love-fest with Palestine but will it last? [here](#)
- The crime of apartheid beyond Southern Africa: a call to revive the apartheid conventions group of three [here](#)
- It was one of Morrison's most contentious foreign policy moves: Michael Pezzullo wanted to help [here](#)
- Palestinian negotiators sceptical over potential Israel-Saudi deal [here](#)
- Saudi envoy seeks to reassure Palestinians amid Israeli talks [here](#)
- PSC resolution declaring Israel an apartheid state [here](#)
- Bad faith, duplicity and cynicism: Britain's Palestine mandate 100 years ago [here](#)
- How Britain broke international law to stop Palestinian independence 100 years ago [here](#)

Palestine

- The pogroms are working – the transfer is already happening [here](#)
- West Bank raid: Israeli forces kill two [here](#)
- Israel kills six Palestinians in 24 hours including a teenager [here](#)
- An Israeli pilot refusenik reflects on the state of Israeli fascism and apartheid [here](#)
- The Palestinian Authority's Revolving Door with Alaa Tartir [here](#) (a podcast from Al-Shabaka)
- Jewish settlers stole my house – it's not my fault they are Jewish [here](#)



An armed settler orders a Palestinian to leave the country after settlers attacked the Palestinian village of Burin in the occupied West Bank and burned dozens of homes, shops, and cars on 25 February, 2023 (AFP)

- Palestinians continue to be haunted by the ghosts of Oslo [here](#)
- Palestinian officials say one killed in Gaza and three in West Bank [here](#)
- Israel closes main border crossing with Gaza after protestor fatally shot [here](#)
- The revolutionary youth fighting on Gaza's border fence [here](#)
- Revolutionary youth suspends Gaza border protests amid regional mediation [here](#)

Israel

- Palestinians must not have veto over Arab-Israeli deals Netanyahu tells UN [here](#)
- Immigrant pop star and supreme court judge who will decide fate of Israel's justice system [here](#)
- What Israel's new Kahanist government really wants [here](#)

US

- Kahanism and American politics – the Democratic Party's decades-long courtship of racist fanatics [here](#) (pdf file)
AIPAC tries to distort and damage US foreign policy beyond the Middle East [here](#) Civil rights group sues US government as Biden accepts Israel into visa-waiver programme [here](#)
- Biden's Israel policy is scripted by Saban [here](#)
- I was harassed by Zionists and fired for it twice – inside the culture of fear that runs Jewish institutional life [here](#)

Reminder: Dates for Palestine Solidarity activity in 2023

28 Mar – 4 Apr	<i>Israel Apartheid Week</i>
30 Mar	<i>Land Day Palestine</i>
5 Apr	<i>Palestinian Childs Day</i>
9 Apr	<i>Deir Yassin massacre - Irgun Terrorism - 107-120 Palestinian men, women and children massacred</i>
17 Apr	<i>Palestinian Prisoners Day</i>
11 May	<i>World Kufiya Day</i>
15 May	<i>Nakba Day – marking the mass ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from Palestine in 1948</i>
5 Jun	<i>Nakba Day - Start of 1967 War - Land Grab – Invasion of Jerusalem, West Bank, Gaza, Egypt and Syria - 5 June 1967 – 10 June 1967</i>
20 Jun	<i>Attack on Gaza - 6–21 May 2021 (2 weeks and 1 day)</i>
16-18 Sep	<i>40th anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres</i>
28 Sep	<i>Second Intifada - 28 Sept 2000 – 8 Feb 2005</i>
2 Nov	<i>Balfour Declaration</i>
29 Nov	<i>United Nations - International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</i>
8 Dec	<i>"First Intifada - 8 Dec 1987 – 13 Sept 1993</i>

Are you able to donate a cup of coffee a month to the campaign?

We will need some serious money to make our campaign as effective as possible. For example, we will need somewhere in the vicinity of \$25,000 to bring speakers to New Zealand over the next year and organise large public meetings to help spread the message.

You can help. Are you able to donate a cup of coffee a month to the campaign? In other words, **can you afford to make an automatic payment of \$5 per month to support the Palestinian struggle?** (If you can afford more that would be great!)

Our account details are:

Account name: Palestine Solidarity Network

Account number: 38-9015-0849542-00

Or Pay Pal account: admin@palestinesolidaritynz.net

We are happy to provide a receipt upon request (*however, we are not a registered charity so this is not tax-deductible*)

Merchandise for sale

We have Merchandise you can buy including T-shirts from our website.



Go here - <https://www.psna.nz/shop>

In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter – an invitation to subscribe from Leslie Bravery

Because of mainstream news media complicity, daily headlines and commentary only occasionally ever mention the relentless Israeli violence in Palestine, not even the frequent air strikes!

However, daily news and statistics regarding the violence Palestinians are forced to live under are regularly reported on in the “In Occupied Palestine daily newsletter”, sourced and compiled for easy reading and correlation chiefly from the Palestinian Monitoring Group's daily situation reports.

The “In Occupied Palestine” daily newsletter continues to be circulated, by email, worldwide to subscribers only, as it has been over the last two decades.

Contact: [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](mailto:Secretary@PSNA.nz)

(Please note we have changed the link).

More ways you can get involved

- Forward this Newsletter – If you know people who may be interested in this movement, please forward this Newsletter to them.
- Join in local activities in your area monthly Rallies - In Auckland at 2.00 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Please consider doing the same in your community. Contact Secretary@PSNA.nz if you would like to know where and how to get Flags and Banners
- Help set up a Students for Justice in Palestine groups on your campus
- Tell Your MP your opinions on Divestment and Sanctions of Israel.
- Write Letters to Newspapers – Call Talkback Radio
- Keep in touch with the campaign on social media
 - ❖ Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa (PSNA) website: www.PSNA.nz
 - ❖ PSNA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/671376706283605/
 - ❖ PSNA email: Secretary@PSNA.nz
- The Palestine Human Rights Campaign produces the *In Occupied Palestine* newsletter. It is a regular daily newsletter on the daily situation in Palestine, compiled by Leslie Bravery and emailed to subscribers. If you would also like to become a subscriber, please contact Leslie at “sumud1 @ outlook.com” (remove the spaces to use as an email address) for further information.
- Keep Updated on our Facebook pages and websites (listed below)

PSNA Groups

National Committee

Website	www.PSNA.nz	
Chair – John Minto	Chair@PSNA.nz	
Secretary – Neil Scott	Secretary@PSNA.nz	

Regional Groups

Bay of Islands	PSN Bay of Islands	email
Whangarei	PSN Whangarei	Facebook
Auckland	PSN Auckland – Tamaki Makaurau	Website
Hamilton	Palestine Human Rights Campaign Waikato	Facebook
Tauranga	Tauranga Moana 4 Palestine	Facebook
Napier/Hastings	Aotearoa Standing with Palestine	Facebook
Hawkes Bay	PSNA-Hawkes Bay – Page PSNA-Hawkes Bay - Group	Facebook Facebook
Palmerston North	PSN Palmerston North	email
New Plymouth	PSN Taranaki	Facebook
Whanganui	Whanganui@PSNA.nz	email
Wellington	PSN Wellington	email
Nelson	Te Tau Ihu (Nelson) Palestine	Facebook
Christchurch	PSN Christchurch	Facebook
Dunedin	Dunedin for Justice in Palestine	Facebook
Invercargill	PSN Invercargill	email

Other groups supporting Palestinian Rights

- [Palestinian Community of New Zealand](#)
- [Palestinian Youth Aotearoa](#)
- [Preserved Identity \(Palestinian products\)](#)
- [Boycott Divestment and Sanctions NZ](#)
- [Kia Ora Gaza](#)
- [Letters for Palestine](#)
- [Auckland Peace Action](#)
- [Global Peace and Justice Auckland](#)
- [Auckland Uni– Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Massey Uni- Students for Justice in Palestine](#)
- [Tamaki Loves Palestine](#)
- [Justice for Palestine](#)
- [Palestine Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [Pax Christi Aotearoa](#)