

UOE ISOC

THE STUDENT & GLOBAL AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

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*Statement on Upcoming October 7th:
Our Duty to Stand for Palestine*

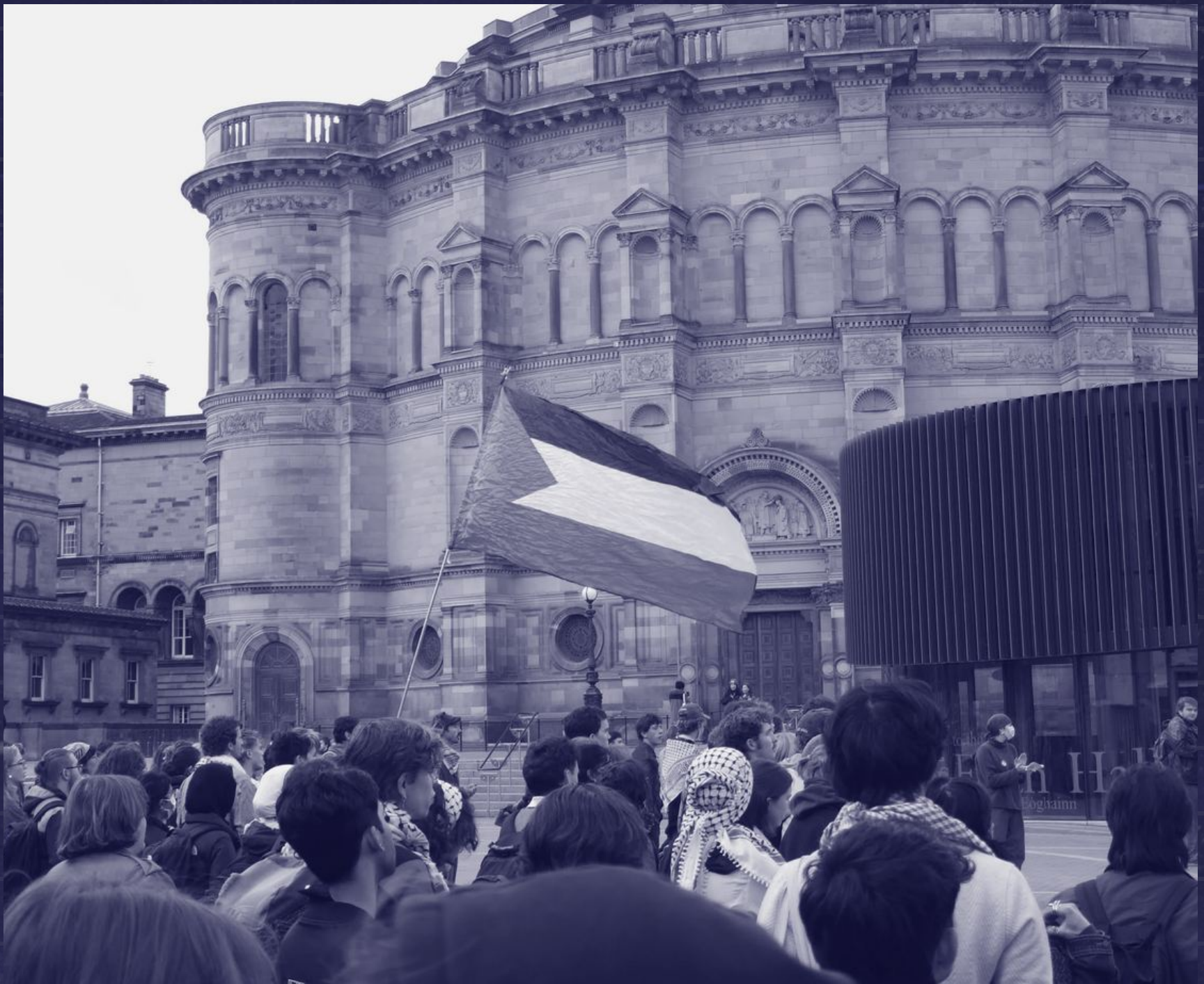


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*3 years of genocide.
3 years of forced starvation.
3 years of complete and utter destruction.*

But the nightmare did not begin 3 years ago; it began with the Chancellor of this very university handing over land that wasn't his to give: the Balfour declaration. The 750,000+ forced displacement and decades of violence that followed for generations has all led to the catastrophic decimation we are witnessing today.



It is difficult to begin to understand, let alone capture in a single newsletter, the level of oppression Palestinians have endured at the hands of the Zionist entity. By October 7th 2023, Gaza had been a suffocating open-air prison for 16 years with a horrific blockade restricting water, movement (entry or exit), food and essentials. In 2023 alone, prior to October 7th and outside of Gaza, Israeli forces had already killed 205 Palestinians in the West Bank, whilst settlers were responsible for nine more killings. On June 19th 2023, Israeli forces began conducting air strikes in the West Bank- something that had not occurred since the Second Intifada in the early 2000s. The Zionist settlers had rampaged and set ablaze everything Palestinians held dear; whether it be their cities, homes, land, crops, mosques, churches, water, food. This does not even touch on the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners -including children- held without charge or trial in Israeli prisons.

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Since October 7th, the devastation has reached an unimaginable scale. Hundreds of Palestinians had been killed before the day had even ended. As of September 24th 2026, Gaza's health ministry recorded the number of martyrs to be 73,928 with the numbers ever rising and we must remember this is likely an incomplete list of an incomplete list; many of the martyrs remain trapped below rubble, remain with the Zionist entity who refuse to return their bodies to their families, or simply have no relatives left who are able to document their martyrdom. Israel has kept Gaza trapped in a complete siege (with a ban on aid, medications, food, electricity), destroyed essential infrastructure and every hospital in Gaza, carpet-bombed evacuation routes and refugee camps, violated several false ceasefires, repeatedly displaced families.



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As Muslims, we cannot be silent, or complicit. Allah commands us:

“O believers! Stand firm for justice as witnesses for Allah, even if it is against yourselves...”

— Quran 4:135

“And what is it with you that you do not fight in the cause of Allah and for the oppressed among men, women and children...”

— Quran 4:75

Our responsibility, therefore, is not simply to witness.

The biggest student movement in history has erupted; Palestine societies have been mobilised around the world on almost every campus. The University of Edinburgh shamefully remains “among the most financially entangled institutions” (UN report) and has refused to divest from funding this genocide and occupation itself. Over 100 societies across this university have joined the fight for Palestinian liberation, end to the financial complicity of the university (through *our* tuition), and an end to the legacy of Arthur Balfour.



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The Prophet ﷺ taught us that standing against wrongdoing is part of faith: “**Whoever among you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; if he is unable, then with his tongue; and if he is unable, then with his heart...**” (*Sahih Muslim 49a*). Where we have the ability, we must speak, organise, advocate and refuse complicity.

We, as ISOC, urge you to join us on

October 7th 2026

at Edinburgh University’s Justice for Palestine Protest outside Main Library. It is a part of our duty as Muslims to stand for justice and fight for the collective liberation and end to the oppression of our ummah.



The Prophet ﷺ also described believers as a single body, saying: “**A believer to another believer is like a building whose different parts enforce each other.**” (*Sahih al-Bukhari* 2446).

~ *ISOC Student and Global Affairs Team*



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