

Twinning with the Islamic University of Gaza

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: Activities Officer

CONTACT: activities.officer@sheffield.ac.uk

Since 2007 Israel has imposed an illegal blockade on Gaza, restricting people, goods, and aid from entering or leaving the territory. Many basic necessities, including food, medicine and fuel, are becoming increasingly scarce. Higher education has also been severely impacted. The economic devastation caused by the siege means many students can no longer afford tuition fees, whilst those that can often lack books, desks, and paper. With the crossing into Egypt regularly shut for extended periods, many are unable to take up university places abroad. Our students should do their utmost to support the education of Palestinian students, whose responsibility it will be to rebuild Palestine.

The Students' Union notes, with concern, the allegations of anti-Semitism at the IUG and deplores all anti-Semitism.

This Students' Union resolves to:

1. Formally twin with the IUG and provide a physical recognition of and dedicated webpage to the partnership.
2. Lobby the university to foster links with the IUG.
3. Continue to support the University's annual scholarship programme, provided for a student from Gaza.
4. Inform and educate our students of the issues facing Palestinian students, and lobby other SU's to take similar action.
5. Work with students at the IUG to campaign against the blockade of Gaza.

POLICY HISTORY:

Original 'Solidarity with Gaza' policy passed by referendum in March 2011 (1,754 votes for; 959 against; 1,146 abstentions). Revised policy passed by referendum in March 2014 (3,905 votes for; 1,763 against; 1,384 abstentions). Revised policy passed by referendum in March 2017 (1,778 votes for; 1,385 against, 825 abstentions).

This policy is next due for review in November 2019.