

## **Declaration of solidarity with the people of Gaza**

AIDA is an international academic association founded in 1993. The Association is inclusive and does not discriminate on the basis of nationality or ethnicity. The Association is committed to the values of justice, equality and human dignity.

It is for this reason that we, the members of the association, feel we can no longer remain silent in the face of the terrible events currently unfolding in Palestine. The indiscriminate armed attacks by Israel against the civilian population in Gaza, the mass displacement of the majority of the population in the Gaza Strip, the destruction of virtually all hospitals, schools and universities, and the intentional starvation of the population are morally reprehensible, and we condemn them unequivocally. They are indicative of a genocidal intent and practices by the State of Israel against the Palestinian population. This is evident in Israel's seven-month-long aggression in Gaza, its 18-year-long siege on the Gaza Strip, its brutal occupation of the West Bank, Gaza and the Syrian Golan Heights since 1967, and its policy and practice of apartheid since the commencement of the Nakba in 1948. We share the conclusions reached by the International Court of Justice that Israel has been plausibly (to say the least) involved in genocidal actions, which must cease immediately.

Following the actions of many other scientific associations, we also wish to express our concern for the restrictions imposed on freedom of expression and criticism concerning the ongoing crisis, in particular within academic settings and institutions, both in Israel and various Western countries, most prominently in the United States, Germany, and France. We welcome the resolution accepted by the Conference of University Rectors in Spain, representing 76 universities in that country, to hold Israel and its complicit institutions accountable for Israel's genocide in Gaza and its underlying regime of settler-colonial apartheid and their subsequent decision to "suspend collaboration agreements with Israeli universities and research centres that have not expressed a firm commitment to peace and compliance with international humanitarian law."

We wish to reiterate our support for the struggle of the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination and independence, and hereby resolve to adhere to the guidelines promoted by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) and refrain from associating with any institute of higher education funded by or supported by the Israeli state, until such time as its brutal occupation of Palestine, its systematic practice of apartheid, and its genocidal acts against the Palestinian people come to a halt.

The General Assembly of AIDA,

May 23, 2024.