

This message was sent via email from Goldsmiths SMT to Goldsmiths for Palestine on Thursday 14 March. It followed a near two-hour meeting between SMT and the group in the Professor Stuart Hall Building attended by the Warden, Chief Financial Officer, Dr Naomi Thompson as a member of Academic Board who is not on SMT, Director of Legal and Governance Matt Brooks and Deputy Director of Communications, Marketing and Recruitment Tom Morgan.

Dear Goldsmiths for Palestine,

Thank you for your time this morning, we found it a very helpful meeting and view it as an important point in discussions.

To recap, SMT is fully committed to ongoing negotiations over the issues you have raised and which were discussed this morning.

We would in particular like to share in writing the commitments SMT is making response to the meeting.

- Work with Goldsmiths for Palestine and the Students' Union to explore how we can use the College's voice in calling for Israel to comply with international law, with particular focus on the ICJ ruling. To be clear, SMT does not feel it is appropriate to provide an institutional statement formally recognising Israel's action as genocidal until such a time that the ICJ makes its judgement but we are committed to developing a shared statement between Goldsmiths for Palestine, the SU and SMT
- Review College guidance over demonstrating safely and with respect, in relation to whether the guidance targets specific groups or has the effect of targeting specific groups
- A review of our CCTV policies and data handling procedures in relation to CCTV footage. There will be a focus on the use of bodycams in relation to contextual use and consent, as per other universities' approach to this issue
- Raise with CCLA its approach to the ethical fund
- Review the College's donations policy and honorary fellowships related to donors

We would like the focus of our shared work to be on how we can put in place meaningful support for the people of Palestine, and those impacted locally. We propose that this can fall into three categories:

Supporting education and scholarship in Palestine

- An additional Humanitarian Scholarship, raising this support from two to three at a value equivalent to £120,000. We believe this is the largest number of scholarships specifically for Palestinian students offered by an individual institution, with our offer recognised by [UCU in 2017](#). The overall value of three scholarships is equivalent to £120,000 a year – £60,000 in living costs grants and

£60,000 in fee-waivers. We can explore renaming these as Palestinian Scholarships

- Applying for Said Foundation scholarships which are available to 20 students at UK universities
- Establishing a Humanitarian Steering Group, with GfP, SU, GUCU and Goldsmiths UNISON invited. Core duty to guide College's work on this matter including financial support to rebuild universities and scholarship in the region. To include developing and delivering College-wide strategy for engaging with Palestinian universities, including exploring existing relationships within Goldsmiths

Supporting our students and staff

- Establishing the Critical Friends Project, a programme intended to help our community debate and disagree better with humanity and empathy at the centre of all our discussions
- This would include experts drawn from our community and from outside Goldsmiths
- Creating on-campus and online spaces for peace and reflection, where people from across our community can come together for dialogue, performances, activities etc which are rooted in our relationships, of care and mutuality

Supporting our local community

- Commitment to the University of Sanctuary principles, and to applying to become a University of Sanctuary
- Using Civic University Agreement to reach out to partners in Lewisham to contribute to local support networks
- Promoting our campus to host community events

Concluding the occupation

We consider the above to represent extensive commitments from SMT – and in return ask for a commitment from you that the occupation will cease without delay. We ask that you leave the building by 10am on Monday 18 March 2024.

At the end of the meeting the Warden asked that Goldsmiths for Palestine withdraws its occupation from across the building to allow 130 final-year students access to specialist equipment and their projects held on MCCS servers. With deadlines approaching, these students are currently unable to work on their projects and this situation is clearly unacceptable.

In addition to this, the Warden also set out that the College has received complaints from students, their supporters, and members of staff over the occupation and the impact it is having on campus life for some students and staff and the wellbeing of some members of our community.

We believe this situation has now reached a place where it is possible to separate progressing the points set out above from the direct action of occupation – by which we mean your current action and any future action in relation to this matter.

For the avoidance of doubt, this commitment from you will not bring to an end our dialogue and we are committed to working in partnership with you to identify actions that can make a contribution to the people of Gaza. To that end, we propose that a further meeting takes place on Tuesday 19 March, with attendees, time and place to be agreed.

With best wishes,

Goldsmiths SMT