

Motion Name: Introduction of an anti-Palestinian racism definition to Bristol

Proposer: Mia Goldberg

Seconders: Maaria Ali

Background:

1. There are students who have not received extensions on deadlines or received extenuating circumstances despite having family who are directly affected by Israel's invasions of Gaza and Lebanon.
2. There are students who have been subject to racism on campus due to their Palestinian heritage, or for showing support for a ceasefire - this motion would ensure that the University makes a conscious effort to prevent this.

Testimonies from Students about anti-Palestinian racism they experienced:

1. I'm a 2nd year Vet student I shared the poster about the first protest outside of senate where lots more showed up (compared to today) on the 1st year's group chat & got an angry long reply saying many things, amongst them was "going to such an event is supporting terrorism." Both my shared post & her message were then deleted by the admin. Other than that I've not seen anything but support & many of my vet course mates regularly joined protests with & without me.
2. Thankfully, I have not experienced that kind of racism. However, as we were at the demonstration on the 22nd of November in front of Wills Memorial, several bystanders expressed their dislike towards those present either by yelling "F**king terrorists" or by flipping us off with a middle finger. I believe the implementation of these policies by a figure such as the University of Bristol may assist in developing advocacy, support, empathy and recognition of Palestine, the Palestinian people, and our struggle. Being able to attend the University of Bristol is an honor which is much valued and appreciated. But being Palestinian and finding out that the University continues to benefit from those committing atrocious war crimes in Palestine, presents a dichotomy between one's identity and circumstances. I am a Palestinian student, paying tuitions to a university which is working for and towards the purpose of supporting and aiding those committing the genocide of the Palestinians. I hope that the University of Bristol will seek to implement these policies, even if it chooses only one of the many proposed to it. I hope that the University of Bristol will take action which will place it on the right side of history.
3. Yes, I have had people openly express genocidal intentions towards the Palestinians suggesting that the country should be "turned to tarmac"
4. As I was walking in the street in Bristol wearing the keffiyeh, a man purposely slammed into me as we walked by each other even though he was a distance from me and there was space for him to not bump into me, but he did with full force using his shoulder to hit my chest and arm and then kept walking.

5. Felt that there has been more silencing on Arabs and no acknowledgement on our suffering or traumas. I am part of a society, and a member has said that there is a pro Palestinian protest in the WhatsApp group chat so those who want to avoid the topic or noise. I am autistic and experience noise sensory issues as well as others in the society, but I felt offended especially since I am also middle eastern and replied with basically that's understandable but there is a genocide ongoing and is a protest for an important cause. My message got immediately removed and admin sent a message in the group chat that this is no place for Gaza-Israel discussion but that member's message didn't despite them mentioning "pro-Palestine" in the first place, which felt like they made it seem like it's an extremist ideology. I have not seen anyone mention anything about noise complaints for protests but for this one. This member could have simply said "there is a protest so this could make some noise if anyone wants a warning". I feel uncomfortable to attend this society's events now despite already facing difficulties with loneliness with my own disability. My intention was never to spark a debate or cause conflict, but to address that this is a serious matter to protest about
6. Yes, I have been present in active, PHYSICAL violence outside senate. The people manning the stall were physically harassed and had to close the stall.
7. I once wrote an email about my disability support for my exams, and I mentioned that I have been affected by the genocide being committed in Gaza. The reply email did not mention anything about Palestine as if not acknowledging it and not a single apology or any kind of support was offered that is related to this matter.
8. Yes, I have experienced multiple forms of anti-Palestinian racism. One of these examples include being verbally assaulted by passerby in front of Wills, who screamed "you f*cking terrorists" to my friend and I who were wearing kufiyyehs. Also, another example would be a driver who raised his middle finger to my friends and I in front of the law building as we were peacefully protesting.

Purpose:

1. The implementation of an anti-Palestinian racism definition into the University would promote the safety and inclusion of Palestinian students from racism on campus
2. The definition, as well as the acknowledgement of the Palestinian state and the current invasion and focus groups would increase the likelihood of approval of applications for extenuating circumstances from Palestinian students

What is our definition of Anti-Palestinian Racism? It is based on the ACLA report *Anti-Palestinian Racism: Naming, Framing and Manifestations*.

Anti-Palestinian racism is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians. This can include:

- Denying and the Nakba of 1947 and 1948 and ongoing violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza.

- Failing to acknowledge Palestinians' cultural identity as an Indigenous people with a collective identity, belonging to occupied and historic Palestine.
- Failing to acknowledge the human rights and equal dignity of the Palestinian people.
- Denying the existence of a Palestinian people, their human rights, their right to self-determination, or their historical connection to the land
- Excluding or pressuring others to exclude Palestinians perspective or Palestinians
- Defaming Palestinians or their allies such as being inherently antisemitic, a terrorist or terrorist sympathizer, or opposed to democratic values.
- Not allowing the Palestinian narrative or silencing Palestinians or their allies.
- Dehumanising Palestinians by reducing them to a monolithic group as Palestinians come from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Actions:

1. Bristol SU to lobby the University to adopt the following anti-Palestinian racism definition:
Anti-Palestinian racism is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians. This can include:
 - Denying the Nakba of 1947 and 1948 and the ongoing violence against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.
 - Failing to acknowledge Palestinians' cultural identity as an Indigenous people with a collective identity, belonging to occupied and historic Palestine.
 - Failing to acknowledge the human rights and equal dignity of the Palestinian people.
 - Denying the existence of a Palestinian people, their human rights, their right to self-determination, or their historical connection to the land
 - Excluding or pressuring others to exclude Palestinians perspective or Palestinians
 - Defaming Palestinians or their allies such as being inherently antisemitic, a terrorist or terrorist sympathizer, or opposed to democratic values.
 - Not allowing the Palestinian narrative or silencing Palestinians or their allies.
 - Dehumanising Palestinians by reducing them to a monolithic group as Palestinians come from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds.
2. Bristol SU to work with the university to ensure they are considering the extenuating circumstances of Palestinian students
3. Bristol SU to lobby the university to recognise the ongoing genocide of Palestinians, and to support and ensure the welfare of students.
4. Bristol SU to work with the university to create focus groups in order to better understand and help/protect Arab students due to the current invasions of Gaza and Lebanon