



WOMEN OF COLOUR AUSTRALIA

Championing Australia's Women of Colour

13 November 2023

STATEMENT ABOUT THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

Women of Colour Australia ('WoCA') is deeply concerned by the continuous conflict in Israel and Palestine. WoCA strongly condemns violence and killings against innocent civilians, particularly women and children, wherever it occurs.

The ongoing illegal occupation and expansion of settlements have resulted in systematic human rights violations against Palestinians. Since this time, over 20,000 Palestinians have been killed, with thousands being injured.

As of 3 November 2023, the Ministry of Health data state that 2,326 women and 3,760 children have been killed in the Gaza Strip; this represents 67% of all casualties, while thousands more have been injured. The data shows that 420 children and babies are killed or injured daily.

Women, children and newborns are disproportionately bearing the burden of the conflict. The World Health Organization has estimated that there are 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza, with more than 180 women giving birth each day. Due to the constant bombardments conducted by the Israeli Military, access to essential obstetric services is limited, and women are forced to have caesareans and give birth without any form of anaesthesia or pain relief. Sanitation levels have critically decreased, thus increasing the risk of infections and medical complications.

WoCA urges the end of the continuing oppressive and discriminatory governance of Palestinians and Palestinian territories, which, as described by Amnesty International, constitutes a system of apartheid.

The reports on the collapsing health system of Palestine are devastating as it is fundamental in delivering lifesaving healthcare.

WoCA urges the Australian Government to mobilise all diplomatic channels to help bring an end to this violence.

