



# WOMEN OF COLOUR AUSTRALIA

## Championing Australia's Women of Colour

9 July 2024

### STATEMENT ABOUT THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

On 11 November 2023, Women of Colour Australia ('WoCA') released a statement about the ongoing violence in Palestine and Israel. Today, WoCA makes a further statement regarding the continued violence and collective punishment exerted upon the Palestinian people for already eight months.

Since 7 October 2023, Israel has continued attacks not only on the Gaza Strip but also in the Palestinian communities of the West Bank. As of 8 July 2024, according to the UN, over 38,100+ Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including more than 15,000 children killed. More than 87,000 people are injured, and more than 10,000 are missing. In the occupied West Bank, at least 547 people have been killed, including more than 134 children, and more than 5,000 have been injured, where illegal settler violence and displacement of the Palestinian population have increased since 7 October. The Palestinian Health Ministry says more than 70% of the dead are women and children under 18. For most of the conflict, its figures showed children as representing slightly over 40% of all those killed.

As of March 2024, over 17,000 Palestinian children have been orphaned as a result of Israel's genocidal attacks, according to UNICEF data, after either both or one of their parents were killed in Israeli bombings and ground offensives since 7 October. As of 14 June 2024, Israel's indiscriminate targeting has also resulted in the killing of 254 humanitarian aid workers, including medical staff and those providing life-saving services, such as food and essential needs. However, it is said that this is an estimate and that there are many more humanitarian deaths.

On 1 April, the killing of seven World Central Kitchen workers in Deir el-Balah by various Israeli airstrikes, which killed aid workers from Australia, Poland, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States of America, and Palestine, shocked the world. Nonetheless, these are not isolated incidents, as more than 200 aid workers have been killed, with more than 175 of them belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Disturbingly, journalists have also been targeted, with more than 100 killed since the start of the siege in Gaza on 7 October. The works of journalists have been instrumental in recording and displaying the ongoing atrocities perpetrated by the Israeli Defence Force, like that of the Al-Shifa Hospital.

Acts such as these have steered various humanitarian organisations to state their hesitancy to maintain operating inside the Gaza Strip for fear of repeated actions against them. This has driven fears among Palestinians that food shortages, which already have the Palestinian population on the brink of starvation, will worsen.



WoCA condemns violence and killings against innocent civilians, particularly women and children, wherever it occurs.

WoCA strongly 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.

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