



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Terms of Reference

**UMT Working Group for Reviewing links with
Israeli and Palestinian Institutions and Industry**

1. Background

The working group to review links with Israeli and Palestinian institutions and industry is established under the auspices of the University Management Team in the context of the current armed conflict in Gaza. The establishment of the working group is premised on a commitment to undertake this review as communicated by Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh in his email to university staff on this conflict on 6th February 2024.

The working group is underpinned by objective criteria pertaining to conflict measurement, human security, and international humanitarian legal instruments. This includes the established criteria which differentiate armed conflict from other types of conflict and the legal humanitarian basis which imposes duties on states for the provision of rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief. It is mindful of the character of universities as non-state actors committed to autonomy for institutions and the protection of academic freedom for their members.

The University of Galway is exploring appropriate actions in the context of this conflict due to disproportionate impact and death of civilians, the majority of whom comprise of women and children, forced starvation, lack of access to relief, gender-based violence, systematic destruction of infrastructure and services such as health care, education, cultural and heritage institutions. Additionally, in the context of this conflict, in proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Republic of South Africa alleged that Israel is responsible for violations of the Genocide Convention in respect of its actions taken in Gaza (filed in 2023). While the ICJ case is ongoing, the provisional measures ordered that Israel must, in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention and in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, ‘take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of the Convention, in particular: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group ([ICJ Summary Indication of Provisional Measures 26.01.2024](#)). Additionally, the provisional measures indicate obligations to implement and report on immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of humanitarian relief.

2. Review Aim and Objectives

The purpose of the working group is to identify and propose a phased approach to determining and implementing appropriate actions for our university, as a higher education institution and in

the context of our relationships, mission, and purpose. The aim of the review is to establish a mechanism for analysing the links between the University of Galway and Israeli and Palestinian higher education institutions and industry and take appropriate actions in response to the review findings.

The specific objectives are to:

- 2.1: Engage with external stakeholders to establish a body of evidence to inform decisions.
- 2.2: Engage with internal staff and student representative groups.
- 2.3: Review links with Israeli institutions and industry.
- 2.4: Strengthen links with Palestinian institutions, civil society and industry.
- 2.5: Present the review findings and recommendations to the University Management Team for consideration and approval as appropriate.

3. Review Process

The review process will include analysis of:

- Recommendations and information gathered by the organised staff and student groups within the University.
- Research collaborations in a broad context.
- Consultation with appropriate external stakeholders.
- Actions undertaken by higher education institutions in the EU to date.
- International law as articulated by the findings of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.
- Our values as a university which stands for peace, justice and accountability.

Review Group Composition

The working group appointed by the President is as follows: Dr John Caulfield, Director of Strategy Implementation; Professor Becky Whay, Vice President: International; Professor Jim Livesey, Vice President for Research and Innovation; Dr Helen Maher, Vice President for Equality Diversity and Inclusion (Chair) and Professor Ciara Meehan, Dean of Students.

4. Timeline

The timeline for the review is two months, commencing in May 2024 with the recommendations brought back to the University Management Team in June 2024.