



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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## MINUTES

of the **1st** regular meeting of the 98<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026**. Meeting held in the BHB Case Study Lecture Theatre 1050.

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*There was a quorum count at 6:31pm.  
The meeting was found quorate at 6:33pm.*

### A. Meeting open

The meeting opened at 6:35pm.

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Shovan be elected Deputy Chairperson.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### B. Acknowledgement of Country

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land (Sydney), the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. We stand on this land today as beneficiaries of an uncompensated and unreconciled dispossession that occurred over 200 years ago. Many of the descendants of those dispossessed live just down the road in abject poverty, and as young people it is important to recognise how this history of dislocation and disenfranchisement has contributed to the inequality we observe in modern society. We acknowledge both our privilege and our obligation to redress the situation as best we can: to remember the mistakes of the past, act on the problems of today, and build a future for everyone who now calls this place home, striving always for genuinely practical and meaningful reconciliation.

### C. Apologies, Proxies and Leaves of Absence

#### **Apologies and proxies were received from:**

Lucas He  
Lucy Sullivan  
Harry Wu  
Max Dao to Starla Bilby  
Bohao Zhang  
Jack Li  
Suryansh Tomar

Yuki Cao  
Srishti Chadda  
Connie Wong  
Jessica Heap  
Manas Srinivas  
Sargun Saluja  
Jaseena Al-Helo to Jaehyun Kim

Motion to accept the apologies.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Shovan Bhattarai

The apologies were accepted.

**D. Changes to Membership**

There were no changes to membership.

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

Yoshi Leung resigns to Eva Sutherland  
Philip Howard resigns to Raphael Carrasco  
Lauren Finlasyson resigns as Environment Officer  
Emma Searle resigns from the Executive committee  
Eko Bautista resigns as an Editor of Honi Soit  
Faye Tang resigns as an Editor of Honi Soit  
Angus Fisher resigns to Zayed Tabish  
Tara Marocchi resigns to Maxine McGrath

Motion: That the Council accept the resignations.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**F. Minutes**

Minutes of the 8th, 9th and 10th regular meetings of the 97th SRC held on 3rd of September and 5th of November 2025 were circulated.

Minutes of the Representatives-Elect Meeting of the 98th SRC held on the 30th of October 2025 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 3rd of September, 30th of October 2025 and 5th of November 2025 be accepted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Jesper Duffy

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business for this item.

Procedural motion to move agenda item H to after R. General Business

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**H. Question Time** of 15 minutes, which may be extended by resolution for a further 15 minutes.

**I. Visitor's Business**

There was no business for this item.

**J. Report of the Undergraduate Fellow of Senate**

There was no business for this item.

**K. Elections**

Julia Robins acting Secretary to Council

**K1. Election of Committee Member**

Nomination from Jasmine Al Rawi

Nominator 1: Shovan Bhattarai

Nominator 2: Eva Sutherland

There being no other nominations, Jasmine Al Rawi was elected unopposed.

**K2. Election of two Mature Age Students Officers**

There being no nominations – position was declared vacant.

**K3. Election of two First Nations' Officers**

There being no nominations – position was declared vacant.

**K4. Election of Environmental Officer**

Nomination from Lucas Pierce

Nom 1: Eva Sutherland

Nom 2: Julius Wittfoth

There being no other nominations, Lucas Pierce was elected unopposed.

**L. Report of the President and Executive**

**L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 1<sup>st</sup> of Dec 2025 and 16<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2026

Motion that the minutes of the executive meetings from 1<sup>st</sup> of Dec 2025 and 16<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2026 be accepted.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **L2. Report of the Executive**

Report of the executive from the 1st of December 2025 to the 1st of February 2026.

The report was circulated and noted.

*The President deferred the Chair to the Deputy Chairperson.*

## **L3. President's Report**

Grace Street tabled a written report:

It's been a tumultuous time to be involved in student unionism and politics, but at least full of learning curves alongside some enjoyable moments and small wins.

The most important and pressing thing, of course, has been responding to the mass shooting of a Jewish holiday event in Bondi on Sunday 14 December. I worked with other SRC Office-Bearers to develop a statement to offer our condolences to the victims and to firmly condemn this act of antisemitic hatred and violence. We shared information and resources about planned vigils and support services, including for affected students who were still yet to sit exams and submit final assignments.

Unfortunately, what should have been a time for mourning and caring for our communities has been used as an excuse to push through anti-protest laws in NSW and to implement more recommendations from Jillian Segal's report. This already has had severe consequences for free speech and academic freedom, the right to protest, and the human responsibility to oppose Israel's genocide in Gaza. Universities like ours will suffer under the implementation of recommendations such as the adoption of the controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism, issuing "report cards," and the threatened reduction of funding found to be in breach of the new standards.

Even more cynically, the Albanese government and governor general Sam Mostyn think that inviting the genocidal Israeli President Isaac Herzog is appropriate and something that will promote 'social cohesion'. As put succinctly by APAN, "President Herzog is not a symbolic or ceremonial figure. As Israel's head of state throughout its genocidal assault on Gaza, he has made public statements widely condemned as genocidal intent, including asserting that an 'entire nation' bears responsibility and that 'there are no innocent civilians in Gaza'".

I have been involved with organising meetings to plan responses and protests to these anti-protest measures and the planned visit of Herzog. The SRC will continue to be a student union that stands for political freedoms, against racism and apartheid, and against our government being complicit in genocide. We compiled and made a thorough submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly that we encourage you to read [here](#), since this inquiry chose *not* to hold any public hearings and did not publish the majority of submissions.

Recent mass protests for Invasion Day and by PAG on the weekend have been great responses to show that hundreds, if not thousands, of people will fight for their rights and oppose oppression at every turn. We need the nation-wide protests against Herzog next Monday to follow in this same vein.

### **Invasion Day 2026:**

The SRC held a stall for the third year in a row at the Invasion Day rally in Hyde Park, with the permission of the organisers. We were successful in delivering the main priorities – shade, chairs, chilled water, juice, electrolytes and quick sugars, and back-up basic first aid supplies. This made a big difference on the hot day which had a longer march than usual, and made a point of providing extra care and accommodations for Elders and people with accessibility needs.

### **Academic, wellbeing, and safety:**

In December, I attended the first few committee meetings of my term where I spoke to:

- The importance of fixing the Special Consideration and other systems before even entertaining the idea of reducing 5-day simple extensions
- crucial points from our caseworkers about a necessary review of the Appeals Panel and how long it's taking to process complaints while leaving students in limbo, and about collaboration to increase awareness of our SRC services and to work to combat the prevalence of third-party companies helping students with appeals
- The idea of adding 'low attendance' as a risk-indicator in the Support for Students Policy, due to an increasing number of students facing Absent Fails despite completing all of the coursework due to a lack of awareness or reminders about course attendance requirements

This week, I submitted a thorough (18 page) document on behalf of the SRC in relation to the University's new Sexual Harm and Gender-Based Violence Prevention policy and procedures for students and staff. These new documents contain a lot of new and positive changes in line with the *National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence (National Code)* that came into effect on 1 January 2026, but the rushed nature of the policy meant that there are a lot of gaps and questions that we identified. Some of the key ones include:

- Clarifying terms around 'caseworkers' and the support the SRC can provide
- Ensuring that there is adequate staffing in Safer Communities, the SAU, and other student services to facilitate the processes and trainings
- Clarifying the role and responsibilities of Residential Colleges

### **SRC Induction and Semester 1 Welcomes:**

In the SRC, we had a great week of induction events and training sessions put together by our staff. There was near-perfect attendance of Office Bearers and Honi Soit to the general induction day that got us largely set up for the year in terms of Welcome Week plans, schedules for autonomous editions of Honi Soit, and rough timelines for collective weeks.

In preparation for Welcome Week, most things are already underway and we hope you're getting excited. I have been focused on a few key items, events, and connections such as:

- A fresh new batch of our famous custom gel pens, with our contact details and new logo
- Commissioning a new design for our 2026 SRC tote bags by one of our USyd students from the Gadigal Centre
- Confirming attendance for the University, Scholarship, ADP, Conservatorium of Music, and International Student, and Gadigal Centre welcomes in early February

- Confirming the SRC + Honi Soit hub and seven stalls for our SRC collectives for the USU Welcome Fest from February 18 - 20 February
- Booking in an SRC, Honi Soit, and SRC Casework & Legal stalls with SUPRA for the 'Welcome Fair' on Tuesday 3 March in the Great Hall
- Talking with the Department of Education's Gender-Based Violence regulator and the National Student Ombudsman about attending the aforementioned event
- Promoting and writing for all of our annual SRC publications (*Growing Strong*, the *Orientation Handbook*, *Countercourse*, and *Combust*) created for and by students
- Helping liaise with collectives, Julia, Laura and GenSecs for Welcome Week merch ordering and packing
- Working with our casework team to launch a feedback form and a pre-semester session on strategy and organising for collectives for 2026

### **SRC & Exec roles and responsibilities:**

The new 2026 University of Sydney Students' Representative Council staff Enterprise Bargaining Agreement was voted on unanimously in the January staff meeting, and is now being lodged with the Fair Work Commission. We completed a selection process for a Secretary to Council while Julia is on leave, we now are starting another for an additional Caseworker as per our SSAF application.

There are a number of WHS and administrative responsibilities that were ignored last year that need addressing ASAP, particularly an alcohol and events policies, a WHS policy, a confidentiality policy, the *Honi Soit* code of conduct and much more. We now have more WHS issues with the ongoing issue of mould and a new issue of the OB room roof – making it more urgent for us to get the University to move us into another space on campus.

Our 2026 SSAF has been confirmed and to be signed soon. There are a few key things that we missed out on, particularly the:

- \$27k pool for student weeks (Rad Ed, SRC Week, Reclaim and Resist), OB projects, tech for reps
- \$10k increase for student media conference
- Increase for Honi Soit editor stipends to match OB ones

We hope to be able to re-apply for these during the applications for unallocated CapEx funds or following our audit and SSAF Acquittal due at the end of March.

The General Secretaries have started doing budget meetings with collectives, so hopefully we can get budgets out to you by March council. Please stay tuned to hear about the data and reports we need for the 2025 SSAF Acquittal.

### **Other projects and campaigns:**

There are a number of other projects going on in the background to support students, such as:

- Launching an SRC newsletter/ mailing list to have another forum to communicate with students and share key information
- Requesting the University gives us permission to install two free period product dispensers from *On the House* in March
- Locking in dates with Australian Vaccination Services for our 2026 influenza vaccination scheme for 2026, for which \$35,000 in SSAF has been approved. This will feature

vaccination sessions at the Westmead campus and Conservatorium of Music in addition to the main Camperdown campus

- The Canteen Working Group and its plans for a new canteen with cheap meals on campus, in addition to spreading meal options more around campus(es), as they are currently confined to the South end of the Camperdown campus
- The USU is relocating and expanding FoodHub
- Looking to implement our new SSAF contestable of an essential document translation service for students

There are probably things I have missed out on – it's been an intense start to the job. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas for future projects, I love a good brainstorm and to-do list.

In solidarity, Grace

Motion to accept the report of the President.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*Shovan Bhattarai resigned the chair back to the President.*

Procedural motion to suspend standing order to the following order, Q1, Q2, to hear Q4 and Q8 en bloc, then move to R1, followed by Q3, R2, Q5, Q6 and then Q7 before resuming standing orders.

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Aron Khuc

Motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Procedural motion to limit speaking time to 3 minutes per speaker

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Aron Khuc

Motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **Q1. Motion to appoint Firdevs Sinik as Holi Soit Editor**

Per the resignations of David Bautista and Faye Tang, the Honi Editors ask that Firdevs Sinik be appointed as an official editor for 2026, and that Firdevs Sinik receive the editor's stipend backdated to December 1st, 2025, to account for work undertaken prior to formal appointment.

\*The Secretary to Council received with this motion the signatures of all current Editors supporting this motion, as per the regulations.

Movers waved speaking rights.

Moved: Marc Panesa

Seconded: Madison Burland

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*Noted votes: Fionn Burke- abstention.*

## **Q2. The SRC Endorses the 2026 Mardi Gras Street Rally: Anti-Discrimination Protections Now!**

### **Preamble:**

Every year, the queer community gathers to take Mardi Gras back to its roots. The Mardi Gras Street Rally remains one of the only radical actions during the season, campaigning for queer rights even when the Mardi Gras Corporation won't.

The trans community especially has been under attack in the last six months.

Anti-discrimination law still contains religious discrimination exemptions that allow for queer students to be expelled from religious schools, that end the employment of queer staff at religious institutions, and that deny life-saving healthcare to women and queer people. This discrimination has no place in modern education, employment, or healthcare and has had a serious impact on the community.

In NSW, current or former sex workers can still be denied housing and employment and locked out of their bank accounts on the basis of their work, allowing the government to effectively discriminate against poor people and queer people, who are overrepresented in sex work due to employment discrimination.

In Queensland and the Northern Territory, the state government has banned puberty blockers for minors across the board, against all medical advice and governmental inquiries. This is a reprehensible attack on the rights of transgender people, stripping many youth of their right to choose how they present their gender.

And at the same Mardi Gras Street Rally last year, NSW Police told organisers that they would do everything in their power to stop this year's rally from going ahead, seemingly without rhyme or reason.

With recent anti-protest laws like contempt of court for rallies going ahead after a form one is denied by a Judge, and the implementation of the PARD, the police now have more opportunities than ever to harass and brutalize the queer community.

And these are the same police that the Mardi Gras Board vehemently defends—the same Mardi Gras Board that has refused to follow through on member motions for trans rights and attempted to silence dissent from their only currently sitting transgender Board member. They have no

interest in protecting trans rights, only that of the state and the Labor Party. If they will not meaningfully act for trans rights, we must take the fight to them.

The Mardi Gras Street Rally is going ahead. The only way we can stand up to police threats and show that the queer community is still fighting for equal rights is by showing up in numbers and demanding change. So on the 15th of February at 1PM, turn up to Pride Square in Newtown with your friends, your collectives, your unions, and demand no right to discriminate!

**Platform:**

1. The SRC endorses the Mardi Gras Street Rally.
2. The SRC encourages all councillors and office bearers to attend the Mardi Gras Street Rally.
3. The SRC supports calls for an end to the puberty blocker bans in Queensland and the Northern Territory.
4. The SRC condemns continued inaction on the discrimination against sex workers, queer people, and women in employment, housing, and religious institutions.
5. The SRC condemns the threats of police litigation to shut down the Mardi Gras Street Rally.

**Actions:**

1. The SRC will publish this motion on the website.
2. The SRC will publish its endorsement of the Mardi Gras Street Rally on social media, the website, and wherever else relevant.
3. The SRC will reshare campaign materials on its social media leading up to the Mardi Gras Street Rally.
4. The SRC will take a solidarity photo upon passing this motion and post it with the social media endorsement of the Mardi Gras Street Rally.

**Discussion:**

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion covering its main points and that these rallies being held and need to be as large as possible, as the government is doing nothing on true Queer equality, these reforms are vital for ending discrimination. He emphasised the vastness of students and teachers at this university impacted and urged everyone the necessity to push for our constituent rights.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion and condemned the Mardi Gras board as they have no interest in fighting for trans rights. They expressed that it is the duty of SRC to platform and help build for the street rally and encourages all to be there.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion and urged us to consider the larger marginalized communities that are truly impacted by this bill.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion and strongly endorses supporting Mardi Gras with an intersectional outlook. Speaking to present issues such as reproductive rights and gender marginalisation.

Moved: Jesper Duffy

Seconded: Dana Kafina

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

#### **Q4. Herzog is not welcome here: the SRC stands against rolling out the red carpet for people complicit in genocide and apartheid**

The tragedy of the December mass shooting of a Hanukkah event in Bondi is being cynically used by the Australian Labor government to extend a welcome to Israel's President, Isaac Herzog.

Herzog is most infamous for being photographed and filmed signing artillery shells during a visit to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) border area near Gaza in December 2023. He joined other IDF supporters in signing the bombs being used to indiscriminately slaughter Palestinians in Gaza by the thousands, and reportedly wrote "I rely on you" (Hebrew: "אכילע רמוס").

Across the country, civil society, activist and community groups have expressed their disgust at the government's invitation of Herzog to visit.

*The International Court of Justice cited Herzog's statement that "it is an entire nation out there that is responsible" as evidence of genocidal intent for Gaza. The Court ordered Israel to prevent and punish direct and public incitement to commit genocide; orders Israel has continued to brazenly defy.'* - Amnesty International, 2026

It is not only completely immoral and misguided to invite a violent politician from a foreign country to mourn victims of a domestic attack, but it will also likely go against so-called Australia's obligations under international and domestic law. The country must comply with its legal obligations and investigate Isaac Herzog for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

#### **Platform**

1. The USyd SRC condemns the Labor government for inviting Israeli President Isaac Herzog as an official guest of the Australian Government
2. The USyd SRC condemns our politicians for continually ignoring the country's obligations under international law and for continually creating social license for Israel's crimes against Palestinians and other countries
3. The USyd SRC endorses the nationwide protests planned against Herzog on or near Monday 9 February 2026
4. The USyd SRC echoes calls for the government and AFP to investigate Herzog for inciting genocide ahead of or during his visit.
5. The SRC condemns Premier Chris Minns on protests and extension of PARD and echoes the NSW Council for Civil Liberties' call to defend democratic rights to assemble and protest. 6. The SRC backs the right to free speech including the phrase "Globalise the Intifada" which has been vilified, but not yet criminalised, through a rushed and undemocratic process. The SRC will support any student who faces repression for what we maintain is a non-violent, legal phrase calling for a resistance to oppression everywhere.

## Actions

1. The SRC will publish this motion publicly on its social media before Monday February 9 and encourage attendance to the Sydney protest Herzog's visit on Monday 9 Feb at 5:30pm
2. The Council will take a solidarity photo at the end of the meeting
3. **The SRC endorses the call to rally against bans on slogans such as globalise the antifada and protest restrictions as violations of fundamental democratic rights and supports the Stop the War on Palestine on 20 February. [Amended]**

## Q8. Join the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11!

### Preamble:

Over 520 Palestinians have been murdered by Israel since the beginning of the "ceasefire" agreed to in October 2025. Nine Palestinians have died due to hypothermia in Gaza this winter, a direct result of the continued Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip and the widespread destruction of nearly all buildings in the territory, forcing displaced families into often flooded and uninsulated tents which do not provide the desperately needed shelter for their inhabitants.<sup>1</sup>

Additionally, Israeli offensives in the occupied West Bank have continued to accelerate during the ceasefire with Israeli forces continuing to raid universities, refugee camps, towns and other civilian areas to instil terror and displace an even greater number of Palestinians from their land.<sup>2</sup>

Despite the continued horrors of the Israeli genocide in Palestine, the Labor government has maintained its unwavering support for Israel's crimes, encapsulated by the invitation of war criminal President Isaac Herzog to tour Australia by the federal and state governments.

Isaac Herzog was found by a UN commission of inquiry to "have incited the commission of genocide and that Israeli authorities have failed to take action against them to punish this incitement."<sup>3</sup> Despite this finding, Anthony Albanese and the Labor government will welcome this war criminal with open arms - continuing to demonstrate their fundamental support for the Israeli exterminationist apartheid regime in occupied Palestine.

Since the Bondi Massacre of 14 December 2025, the Australian ruling class has accelerated their existing offensive against the pro-Palestine movement on the basis of a completely unfounded and cynical association made between the movement for justice in Palestine and the tragic events in Bondi.

In this context, continued mass demonstrations in support of Palestine are of even greater importance in both maintaining the momentum of Australia's largest sustained anti-war

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<sup>1</sup> <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/01/1166804>

<sup>2</sup> <https://redflag.org.au/article/the-new-phase-of-colonisation-in-the-west-bank/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/09/israel-has-committed-genocide-gaza-strip-un-commission-finds>

movement since the Vietnam War and pushing back against the ruthless attacks on freedom of speech and the right to protest in this country.

The Palestine movement must remain a key priority of the SRC's work in 2026 - it is essential to defend the rights of students and workers to freedom of speech and to oppose the oppression of the Palestinians which is supported by our own government. We must also resist the ties our universities have to weapons companies complicit in the genocide. Our universities have been intransigent to pressure to cut ties with such companies, which is every more reason to maintain our movement on campus.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC supports the National Student strike for Palestine on March 11 organised by Students for Palestine.
2. The SRC condemns the federal and state Labor governments for their continued complicity in the genocide in Palestine.
3. The SRC demands sanctions on Israel and an end to the two way arms trade.
4. The SRC demands that all universities cut ties with weapons companies which have directly or indirectly profited from continued mass murder of Palestinians in Gaza.
5. The SRC condemns Donald Trump's plans for an imperialist takeover of Gaza under the "Board of Peace" and demands Australia cut ties with Trump's America.

**Actions:**

1. The SRC commits to mobilising for the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11 and calls on students to attend.
2. The SRC will provide all necessary financial and practical resources required to build the National Day of Action on March 11.
3. The SRC will take a solidarity photo endorsing the National Student Strike for Palestine.
4. The SRC and its Office Bearers will advertise and build the National Student Strike for Palestine on March 11 on social media and in person

**Discussion:** The motions Q4 and Q8 were discussed en bloc.

Vince Tafea spoke to the motion and the genocide in Gaza. He urged attendance at the protest in Town Hall for Palestine.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion and that Israel is an apartheid state, emphasised the importance of opposing Hertzog's dangerous rhetoric.

Zavier Skazlic spoke to the motion, highlighting the countless deaths in Palestine even after the ceasefire. Spoke against the government rolling out the red carpet for Israel's prime minister-Hertzog. Spoke about the university's dangerous ties in with weapons companies. He emphasised the importance of the student strike for Palestine and that we need increased pressure on the university. More power= more success, as the university is repressing Palestine activist movements.

William Ursu spoke to the motion and that there is not enough aid going to Palestine, as we need to continue to build Palestine movement. Student strike is very important for action against the state and liberal government. SRC needs to mobilise the movement, to show solidarity with Palestine.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motion and the current mass movement towards the right is the biggest since the Vietnam war. Condemns Australia's strong alliance with the US and the desire to reverse the progress that has been made. Speaks to the importance of the boycotts of Adelaide's writers' fest. Palestine is the moral movement of the time and we need mass movements. The National Day of Action: March 11.

Aron Khuc spoke to the motion and urged everyone to get involved in the rally.

Angus Dermondy spoke to the motion, suggested amendment to add action- endorsement for rally.

Add action point 3: The SRC endorses the call to rally against bans on slogans such as globalise the antifada and protest restrictions as violations of fundamental democratic rights and supports the Stop the War on Palestine on 20 February.

Amendment was amenable to movers.

Angus Dermondy spoke to the motion, we need mass defiance to get rid of anti-protest laws, so they can continue to protest.

Jasmine Al Rawi spoke to the motion and the necessity for attendance at the Hertzog rally, action is needed to push back on Labor Government and Chris Minns, as the protest is strongly backed. Rally is important for defiance on anti-protest laws, urged organisations and people to attend.

Motion to accept Q4 and Q8 en bloc

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Motion Q4

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Maxine McGrath

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

Motion Q8

Moved: Zavier Skazlic

Seconded: William Ursu

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R1. We will keep fighting for Palestine: Oppose the right-wing backlash against opposition to genocide**

Israel's genocidal onslaught against the people of Gaza is far from over. Since the so-called ceasefire came into effect last year, at least 488 Palestinians have been murdered by Israel, and the full scope of the genocide is being uncovered in horrifying detail, with Israel just admitting that at least 70,000 people have been killed since October 7, 2023. Given the unimaginable horror of this, it's particularly despicable that federal and state governments across Australia are now advancing a right-wing backlash against the anti-genocide movement through the expansion of so-called "hate speech" laws and state inquiries aimed at suppressing dissent. Under the pretext of protecting social cohesion, both Labor and Liberal governments are leading an offensive against the Palestine solidarity movement, through legislation which would broaden police powers, restrict the right to protest, and criminalize political expression.

In New South Wales, Premier Chris Minns has cynically seized the Bondi Terror Attack to justify sweeping anti-democratic measures, including the hate speech bill and a royal commission into protest activity linked to the Palestine solidarity movement. These initiatives are explicitly aimed at intimidating activists and legitimising police surveillance of political organising. At the same time, conservative politicians who routinely traffic in Islamophobia and racism have cynically postured as defenders against "hate". This hypocrisy is laid bare by the Australian government's decision to welcome Israeli President and war criminal Isaac Herzog to Australia. Herzog is a central political figure in a state carrying out genocide in Gaza, having openly endorsed collective punishment and the dehumanisation of Palestinians. While the government criminalises protest, polices speech, and threatens activists with state repression, it extends diplomatic legitimacy to a leader complicit in mass civilian slaughter.

These attacks form part of a broader offensive against movements resisting injustice, particularly opposition to Israel's genocide in Gaza. The royal commission and hate speech legislation seek to shield Australia's political and economic ties to imperialist violence by deterring mass mobilisation and protest. Universities have echoed this approach by disciplining students and restricting political activity to protect their own institutional interests.

However, the horrors of the genocide, the moral bankruptcy of our politicians and the outrageous attacks unleashed against our democratic rights have enraged young people, and this presents a real opportunity to keep up the fight against genocide and oppression. Building the national protest against Herzog called by the Palestine Action Group and Students for Palestine for February 9 should be the immediate priority of the Student Representative Council. The Student Representative Council rejects the right-wing backlash and reaffirms its commitment to opposing genocide and defending free speech, the right to protest, and the ability of students to organise collectively against racism, war, and state repression.

### **Platform**

1. The SRC opposes the NSW hate speech bill and royal commission, and recognises them as anti-democratic measures that expand police powers and threaten the right to political expression, assembly, and dissent.
2. The SRC endorses the upcoming rally against Isaac Herzog on February 9.

### **Action**

1. The SRC will issue a statement endorsing the rally against Isaac Herzog on February 9 on its social media.
2. SRC to commit to materially supporting student activists in campaigning for Palestine and against the right-wing offensive.
3. **The SRC will spend \$500 to assist students with transport to attend the Herzog and Bisalloy protest. [Amended]**

### **Discussion:**

Eva Sutherland spoke to their motion, and the coordinated attack from right against the left. The March for humanity was blamed for Bondi attack, and that it was outrageous that there was no comment of continued genocide in Gaza. There has been a shift in Australian politics with the anti-protest legislations. Call to action- coordinated action needs to be taken, need to involve more students against the attack on the right to protest and free speech. Build for rally and strike, with numbers and actions.

Emma Searle spoke to the motion and the importance of putting forward the motion. The current anti-protest laws being passed are Draconian, that they are a wake-up call for the left. There is ongoing destruction in Gaza, and we need to remind the student body that they are not wrong for standing with Palestine. The SRC needs to mobilise their resources to support Palestine.

Jasmine Al-Rawi moved an amendment

Change action point 3:

“The SRC will spend \$500 to assist students with transport to attend the Herzog and Bisalloy protest.”

It was amenable to the movers.

Moved: Eva Sutherland

Seconded: Emma Searle

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

### **Q3. NSW records the highest Bla(c)k deaths in custody in four decades**

35 First Nations people have died in custody last year, making 2025 the deadliest year ever recorded in the last four decades. It has also been reported that NSW has had the highest number of Aboriginal deaths in custody in record with 12 deaths, totalling a 19% increase over the past five years.

In 2024, NSW Premier Chris Minns introduced a law that enabled NSW police to strip-search for weapons without reasonable suspicion, designed to crack down on ‘youth crime’.

Moreover, an Ombudsman report in 2025 noted that 43% of prisoners who are severely disciplined are First Nations people who are often not convicted of any charges.

According to a UN report, 860 children were detained nationally, with over 62% identifying as Aboriginal, which was later followed by a condemnation of Australia's record custody deaths and incredibly low age of criminal responsibility. NSW has had the most Aboriginal children incarcerated, second only to the Northern Territory, with an alarming increase by 86% since 2020- 21.

As of now, there have been over 620 Bla(c)k deaths in custody since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in custody, with the most recent death in police custody in Kalgoorlie, WA, after being tasered and pepper-sprayed. The greater powers and funding provided by state governments, but especially from the NSW government has enabled police institutions to continue their racist policing and surveillance in greater capacities without impunity or accountability.

**Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC condemns the NSW government and NSW police for their ongoing complicity in Aboriginal deaths in custody.
2. The USyd SRC calls on the NSW and Federal Government to finally implement the 339 recommendations from the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
3. The USyd SRC reaffirms its commitment to First Nations justice and supporting future campaigns and protests against Bla(c)k deaths in custody.

**Actions:**

1. The SRC will share posts of the Stop the Deaths in Custody on February 7th at 12pm in Hyde Park on its social media accounts.
2. The USyd SRC, with its councillors and Office Bearers, will promote, support, and attend the February 7th rally to stand in solidarity against the record number of First Nations deaths in custody.
3. The USyd SRC will continue to support First Nations-led campaigns for self-determination, justice, truth-telling, and treaty both on- and off-campus.

**Discussion:**

Aron Khuc spoke to motion, condemned increase of Blak deaths in custody.

Dana Kafina spoke to motion and the bomb thrown in Boorloo protest during the invasion day rally. This colony does not care for the fight for land back and first nations people. First nations solidarity with the action for Palestine.

Marco Sgarazzi spoke to the motion and speaks of his own Syrian mother, displaced and dispossessed, which mirrors the displacement of First Nation peoples. Urged the government to do more.

Jaehyun Kim spoke to the motion and that reforming current system will not fix the issue long term, pushes for de-incarceration of people convicted of non-violent crimes.

Julius Wittforth supports this motion, speaking of the rise in racism in Australia. The government is not trying to do anything in support of Blak identities in protest. Labor party is silent and shifting to the right, there being a rise in anti-indigenous discrimination.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion and speaks to Boorloo bomb attack. The police is an institution to control indigenous peoples.

Moved: Aron Khuc

Seconded: Dana Kafina

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **R2. One Nation: A real and growing threat to workers and the oppressed**

The Student Representative Council (SRC) recognises that the rise of the far right poses a serious threat to working class and oppressed communities in Australia.

There have been deeply concerning developments demonstrating a radicalisation of right-wing politics in Australia. Recent Redbridge polling published by the [Australian Financial Review](#) shows the racist One Nation Party surging to 26 per cent support, ahead of the Coalition's 19 per cent, and more than four times its result at the last federal election. Additionally, the far right dominates the inside of the Liberal Party, and Nationals are shifting to the right, alongside multiple Nationals MP's defecting to One Nation. Pauline Hanson is also polling ahead of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese as the most favourable leader.

This represents a watershed moment in Australian politics. Far right ideas are no longer marginal but are exerting real pressure on the political agenda, contributing to the normalisation of racism, nationalism, and authoritarian Trumpian politics.

One Nation, similar far-right organisations, and the March for Australia protests all seek to scapegoat migrants, refugees, and other oppressed groups for social and economic issues, such as housing unaffordability and the cost-of-living crisis, that are the result of government policy and systemic inequality, not immigration.

No solution to the growth of the right is offered up by the Labor Party, who in government do nothing to respond to the cost-of-living crisis, constantly concede to their politics, and themselves share a commitment to racist immigration policies, anti-protest laws, and the strengthening of nationalism and imperialism. All of this legitimises and reinforces the politics of the far right.

To challenge the right we need to fight them, and to lead fights which alter the political landscape

producing their growth. Only a serious struggle that orients to working class politics and action is capable of doing this. For that, huge numbers of left wing people must be organised into a political force that can start to play that role. The immediate task for anti-fascists is to begin to organise those forces.

Student unions have a responsibility to lead these efforts amongst students. We must oppose the far right by challenging them in whatever political arena we can; through posterage, forums, and street protests where possible. And we must lead activist campaigns around issues that students care about, like the movement for Palestine; as part of a project of growing and strengthening our side and its capacity to pose a left-wing political alternative in society.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC unequivocally condemns the rise of the far right in Australia, including the One Nation Party, and rejects their racist, nationalist politics.
2. The SRC rejects narratives that blame migrants for the housing crisis
3. The SRC commits to rebuilding and strengthening a movement against the politics of the right and will seek opportunities to participate in and support anti-racist and anti-fascist initiatives.
4. The SRC endorses the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism Sydney (CARF Sydney)
5. The SRC commits to supporting and promoting CARF activities and initiatives and encourages students to become involved in opposing racism and fascism both on campus and in wider society,
6. The SRC commits to redoubling its efforts to build an activist student movement around issues like Palestine to strengthen our side.

**Action:**

1. The SRC will publicise this motion through its social media pages

**Discussion:**

Shovan Bhattarai spoke to motion, Australia is catching up to international developments in the rapid rise to the far right. The radicalising far right is reaching Australia. There should be no concession or apology against fascist far right ideology. We need to get serious about politics and build up our left-wing forces.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motion- there is increased defection to one nation. UK's far right is on the rise, and Australia is not immune to the pressures. There is economic inequality, emphasizing issues like the housing crisis and rise of interest rates. Politics is about time, we need to build the left to be organized and strong. One Nation polling at 22%, the Labor party is not taking this seriously, they legitimize the claims of the far right.

Vince Tafea spoke to the motion, the Minns Labor government is moving laws against free speech, conditions are worsening. People turn to media which is propaganda against immigrants. We need to change the narrative. Government is complicit.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion and danger of the rise of the far right- it is not a joke what is happening in the US today. The left needs to be organised.

Tobias Hanson spoke to the motion on what the surge in OneNation actually represents, that we have caught up in the growth of the far right. The government fetishizes the offshore Aus detention centres. Calls for Labor Unity faction to speak against motion.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion and the importance of talking to classmates about politics and making friends rather than endorsing them to come to long talks.

Rex Urquart responded to Duffy's comment and asked what their serious approach is. He emphasised the need for a strong left voice in society. Nazis came to power because left was not strong and organized enough. Labor is bankrupt and not a challenge to the far right. UK reform (far right) polls are skyrocketing. They need a stronger left in the UK.

Moved: Shovan Bhattarai

Seconded: Lucas Pierce

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

#### **Q5. Reopen International House now – students need safe, sociable, and secure housing**

It is fast approaching six years since students lived and our community thrived in USyd's International House. We are currently also living through Sydney's worst rental crisis. Yet, the University of Sydney still seemingly has no plans to renovate and reopen the once-prized residence that could offer 200+ rooms to its students in need.

Housing is a human right, and it is a blight on the University that it has not done more to help students over recent years. This is part of a larger pattern and disregard for students, who are treated as cash cows and consumers. International House remains closed, more university residences remain sold off to private companies left unchecked, and the remaining university residences have persistent issues with rent prices and quality.

Communications in 2023 referred to the University's "competing projects" and "awaiting decisions about how to finance" International House's renovations. We know that the University of Sydney has had continuous years of hefty surpluses, so money isn't an issue. It is an issue of priorities and what they can get away with. The University advertises itself as a global leader for its approach to housing, but this is yet to be seen.

We condemn the corporate university for its lack of action to create and maintain safe, affordable student accommodation. The outsourcing of pastoral care to private corporations has led to the disuse of International House and price-gouged Scape accommodation, both

actively disenfranchising students.

*When* we do reopen International House, it can't just be another isolated and overpriced student residence. We have seen how the USyd private Residential Colleges continue to be segregated playgrounds for those who are wealthy or lucky enough to attain one of the few accommodation scholarships available. They foster cultures of elitism and sexual violence. The 2018 red zone report details numerous incidents of hazing, bullying and sexual assault committed and covered up time and time again by residents of the colleges against other residents and non-residents on campus. This system needs to be scrapped, and we need more student accommodation that is safe, affordable and democratic.

We already have local success stories and models to build off. The University's first cooperative, Stucco, enables its members to contribute their time to university societies and campus life because its affordability (\$135 a week!) allows residents to not have to work full-time jobs alongside their studies to pay for a room so close to campus. Living near campus facilitates students in fully participating in extra-curricular activities, student unionism, accessing support networks, and living the normal life of a young person. However, we know that there are limits to co-ops established under community housing legislation, like Stucco – they exclude international students. This is a gap that only the University can fill, and it needs to step up to the plate.

With more students under rental stress and facing exploitative accommodation conditions than ever, now is the time to force the University to act. The SRC was the first group to campaign for the creation of International House in 1955, and we continue to campaign for its reopening and restructuring in 2026.

**Platform:**

1. The USyd SRC calls for more affordable student accommodation, both reformed from old spaces and newly built ones
2. The USyd SRC demands plans to urgently reopen International House that is delivered as affordable and democratic accommodation
3. The USyd SRC calls on the state government to reform renters' rights, to drastically favour housing as a human right, and to treat students in student residences as tenants
4. The USyd SRC continues the call to abolish the private residential college system and to turn it into a system of safe, affordable and democratic housing

**Actions:**

1. The USyd SRC will publish this motion on its social media, emphasising the near six year closure of International House and the lost potential housing for students
2. **The SRC endorses the 20th of Feb Welcome Week rally to abolish the residential colleges and fight for safe, affordable and accessible housing for all. [Amended]**

**Discussion:**

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion, the rising cost of living and the opening of international house. Housing needs to be affordable, he condemns corporate university.

Maxine McGrath added an action point.

Action point two “The SRC endorses the 20th of February Welcome Week Rally to abolish the residential colleges, and fight for safe, affordable and accessible housing for all.”

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion; the university needs to provide alternatives to the colleges with affordable and accessible housing.

Zavier Skazlic spoke to the motion, that housing is not seen as a human right by the university and rather it is used to squeeze every penny out of every student. Corporations collaborate to exploit students, and this is by fault of capitalism. The cost-of-living crisis oversaw by Labor government, which needs to address the struggles of students.

Jesper Duffy spoke to the motion and supports reopening international house. If the university cared about their students, they should abolish colleges (owned by government) and make them public housing. This issue needs direct action.

Anu Khulan spoke to the motion, with personal experience living in a place like scape. She had to pay \$4000 penalty fee for breaking contract with scape. Supporting international students are important, they don’t get much support. Fighting the government and school is important but so is support of the student.

Aron Khuc spoke to the motion and echoes above sentiment, having lived in Queen Mary building, one of the so-called “cheaper” buildings at \$400 per week. In some buildings the elevators don’t work, the students have to climb up 11 flights of stairs.

Moved: Remy Lebreton

Seconded: Maxine McGrath

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q6. Condemn the Iranian regime’s massacre of protesters**

### **Preamble:**

On the 28th of December, protests erupted in Iran, bringing millions into the streets. Sparked by a complete collapse in the value of the Rial, shopkeepers in Tehran mobilised in mass demonstrations, followed closely by university students and workers. The protests spread to all 31 provinces but were quickly met by brutal repression from the Iranian regime. The authorities carried out massacres of protesters, primarily on the 8th and 9th of January. More than 6,000 deaths have been verified, with another 17,000 recorded deaths under investigation. Medical professionals estimate numbers exceeding 30,000. January 2026 marks the deadliest period of repression by the Iranian authorities in decades. Sweeping arrests mean thousands of protesters

are still detained and at risk of torture or execution. One Iranian surgeon described scenes of blood pooling in street gutters. Another described the piles of bodies formed at the hospitals, forcing them to turn trucks filled with corpses away.

Due to this unrelenting militarised crackdown, large-scale mass protests are no longer taking place. Still, the grievances and demands expressed by protesters, including calling for the downfall of the capitalist Islamic republic, remain. Iranian workers are facing deepening poverty, worsening living conditions and an acute cost-of-living crisis. Combined with fuel price hikes, higher taxes and soaring prices of basic goods, millions are now pushed to the edge of survival. The West has also sanctioned Iran for decades, which has deepened class polarisation and allowed the regime to shift the burden of economic crisis onto workers, pensioners and the poor while enriching itself and expanding its security apparatus. Trump has threatened air strikes and military intervention, and Iranian monarchists are calling for the restoration of the oppressive Shah. But this does not mean the democratic demands of the Iranian masses should be dismissed, or that we should not stand in solidarity with their struggle.

The fight in Iran is not a single episode, but part of a longer struggle for workers' power, social equality and democratic control over society. The freedom of the Iranian people will not be delivered by their executioners, nor negotiated by exiles backed by foreign states. We must be uncompromising in our opposition to Western intervention, the Shah and the oppressive Iranian regime. We must defend the independence and democratic substance of this uprising and stand with the valiant protesters fighting for liberation.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC condemns the Iranian regime's massacre of protesters.
2. The SRC stands with the Iranian people's struggle for freedom and democracy
3. The SRC opposes Western intervention in Iran and recognises the cynical support given to the protests by Western governments.

**Action:**

1. The SRC will publish this motion on its social media.

**Discussion:**

Starla Bilby spoke to the motion. We must reject Trump and the US, as well as monarchy. We must stand with Iranians for democratic control over society.

Emma Searle spoke to motion and supports bravery of Iranians facing up against oppressive regime. Freedom is not going to come from supporting the government.

Maxine McGrath spoke to motion, and about the women life and freedom movement wherein many have been violently killed. She endorses them for standing so staunchly in face of the

oppressive regime. She acknowledges the recent oppressive change in Iran. Does not support the Shah and US intervention. Do not stand with the Shah and US intervention.

Remy Lebreton spoke to the motion and unequivocally rejects campism- choosing one camp or the other. Doesn't support US intervention.

Deaglan spoke about campism- radicalization was squandered by politics of Stalinism. We need to draw on the lessons and mistakes from the past.

Moved: Starla Bilby

Seconded: Emma Searle

The motion was put and **CARRIED**

## **Q7. Solidarity with the Minneapolis anti-ICE protests**

All eyes have been on Minneapolis over the past few weeks since mass protests have erupted in response to Trump's state terror and the murder of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by ICE agents. Following a series of demonstrations in Minneapolis itself, anti-ICE protests have spread across the country from Texas to New York. We need to stand in solidarity with these demonstrations as it an example of the kind of mass mobilisation that can push back Trump's far-right agenda.

Since returning to power a year ago Trump has made good on his election promise to unleash a campaign of terror against migrants in the US. Trump has increased ICE's budget from \$10B to north of \$80B, making it better funded and armed than most national armies around the world. ICE has been on an openly racist rampage snatching migrants from their workplaces and children from their schools. On top of this, ICE then executed Renee Good and Alex Pretti, both unarmed US citizens and legal observers, for the supposed crime of observing and recording ICE operations in public. These two deaths accompany the 6 other deaths taken place in ICE detention centres. The administration later defended the murders and lied about Good and Pretti posing some kind of threat to the ICE agents' lives.

In response there have been mass demonstrations against ICE through Minneapolis. Street protests, high-school and college walkouts and pickets outside the hotels where ICE agents are sleeping erupted after Renee Good's murder. On the 23rd of January, students and workers took part in a general strike to shut the city of Minneapolis down, walking out of school and their workplaces for a 100,000s strong march through the city in -30 winter temperatures. On the day following the success of the general strike, ICE executed legal observer Alex Pretti in the streets, but the protestors were not cowed and continued to come out against ICE. These protests have thrown a spanner into Trump's plans, and the President has been forced to beat a temporary retreat from Minneapolis, pulling large numbers of ICE agents and their fascist commander Greg Bovino out of the state. The protests in Minneapolis offer a glimpse into the power workers and students can have in their masses on the streets.

We should stand in complete solidarity with these protests as they point to how far-right and authoritarian politics can be beaten back in Trump's America but also in Australia. On the one hand, the courts and the Democrats have offered strongly worded statements and speeches but nothing in the way of practical resistance to Trump. In fact the police forces of various Democrat-controlled governments have hindered the protests by protecting ICE officers and repressing protestors - 60 were arrested by police under "socialist" Zohran Mamdani's NYC government. On the other hand, it is the mass demonstrations and strikes themselves that have forced Trump to make a retreat from Minneapolis and the kind of action we need to see all over the world to stand up to Trumpian authoritarian politics.

### **Platform:**

1. The SRC stands with the "ICE out" protests in the US
2. The SRC condemns the Australian government's refusal to cut ties with Trump's racist regime
3. The SRC condemns the militarised response to the protests in the US and calls for justice for the people murdered by ICE and border patrols.

### **Action**

1. The SRC will post a video of solidarity to students walking out against ICE raids and attempt to send it to student groups in Minneapolis

### **Discussion**

Julius Wittfoth spoke to the motion, says that Minneapolis is a microcosm of what is happening right now with the far right. Mass protests are necessary. Courage of these people is inspiring- shows what can happen when politics are taken seriously. Democratic party protecting ICE, and Mamdani "so called socialist", arrested 60 anti-ice protesters.

William Ursu spoke to the motion, what is happening in Minnesota is the future the far right wants to implement. ICE didn't care about the family and friends of Renee Good. We need to organize, agitate and get serious in fighting far right. SRC has played major role elsewhere, can happen here.

Aron Khuc spoke to the motion, condemned murder of two civilians by ICE- Renee Good and Alex Pretty. The people are not fooled by Trump and Vance's lies. Coming together is inspiring.

Starla Bilby spoke to the motion and brought up reform UK and operation restoring justice, which details bullet points to deport millions of people in the UK. This is the road where Australia is heading down.

Maxine McGrath spoke to the motion, condemned democrats, they only are against ICE when republicans come into power. Labor is justice complicit too. Major parties are not on our side when protecting migrants and communities. We need to form student groups; people power is necessary.

Moved: Julius Wittfoth

Seconded: Tiana Moore

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

#### **M. Report of the Vice-President**

I am delighted to be serving with Shovan as Vice-Presidents for the 98th Council this year. Over the past few weeks, I have attended Executive meetings, Induction, and various Committees.

A primary focus this year will be continuing my work with the International Student Collective. There is still much room for improvement in the international student experience, especially during their first days in university. As such, the International Student Officers and I have been busy coordinating induction events that will follow off of O-Week on the 18th to 20th of February. We have also been busy preparing freebies for O-Week, which saw huge success last year.

As the International Student Collective grows, there will be increasing room for mobilisation towards campaigns. I look forward to working with the rest of the Council on this. A key campaign that saw limited movement last year was the Sydney University International House campaign -- something that I will continue to push alongside the Sydney University International House Alumni Association.

I apologise for my absence as I am still overseas and travelling. I look forward to meeting all Representatives to the 98th Council in due course as the semester progresses.

Best,  
Bohao

#### **N. Report of the General Secretary**

Hey guys! The Gen Secs have had a very busy start of our term with Welcome Week around the corner. With long days in the Honi office, and having met with many OB's this upcoming year is looking promising and we are excited to continue/begin working with everyone!! We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. We recognise that this land was never ceded and was taken without consent, and we pay our respects to Elders past and present.

##### **Welcome week:**

- Welcome Week preparations are nearing completion, with all required orders finalised.
- Artwork for Welcome Week materials has been commissioned from Krystal Dallinger-Simpson, a Gamilaraay/ Yuwalaraay artist from Walgett and Aunty Nadeena Dixon, a Dharawal, Gadigal Saltwater Emerging Elder.
- The 2026 Orientation Handbook has been finalised and sent to print by the time of publishing. (Thank god) Massive thank you to everyone who helped out, especially the SRC publication managers Amanda and Mickie, and lovely Honi Soit for letting us use their office and for the layup advice.

- Initial contact has been made with the Australian Conservation Foundation and the Retail and Fast Food Workers Union (RAFFWU) regarding collaboration during Welcome Week and potential ongoing engagement throughout the year.

**Budgeting and Financial Preparation:**

- Preparation for Collective budget allocations is ongoing (Need meetings with Welfare, and Ed ASAP).
- Budget proposals are required from all Collectives in order to inform fair and transparent allocation decisions. If we do not receive a budget proposal, previous years activities and collective size will be taken into consideration. However, this is not a good start for your term as office bearer.
- Follow-up communications are being prepared for Collectives that have not yet submitted proposals. As well as collectives we need to continue discussions with.

**SSAF:**

- SSAF has been approved this year, budgets will be provided during march council.
- We have a separate budget for orientation week -collective WW orders are not included in individual collectives final budget allocation for the upcoming year.

**Requests to council:**

- That Collective Office Bearers and councillors volunteer to assist with staffing the SRC stall during Welcome Week. Also, packing SRC stall tote bags.
- That all Collective Office Bearers submit their budget proposals. Fair budget allocations cannot be made in the absence of submitted proposals.

**Other:**

- We both attended the invasion day rally and intend to attend the protest of Isaac Herzog.
- Finalisation of Welcome Week stall rosters and volunteer scheduling.
- Allocation of Collective budgets following receipt and review of proposals.
- Continued liaison with external organisations regarding planned events and campaigns.
- Ongoing support and coordination with Collectives as the semester commences.
- Tote bags packing will be organised from Feb 9, please contact us if you want to help out!
- Planning Rad Ed for Sem 2, please keep an eye out!
- Will attend an SRC Legal Service meeting soon.

In solidarity,  
Ava & Vince

**O. Reports of Committees and Officers**

**O1. Report of the Education Officers**

2026 has only just started and we have already seen a new wave of barbarism across the world. States are murdering their own people in the US and Iran. Trump has extended his imperialist reach into attacks on Venezuela and threats on Greenland. And here in Australia, our government has invited a war criminal- Israel's President Isaac Herzog, while cracking down on our rights to protest and speak out against a genocide.

Yet there has been a new wave of global resistance. From Minneapolis to Tehran, we have seen the people rise up against tyranny. Here in Sydney, we had a huge turn out on Invasion day, and forced the police to back down on their protest ban due to the numbers that they knew would protest regardless. It is disgraceful that the government labels our movements hateful and terroristic when our movement has been a victim of right-wing violence with a Nazi throwing a home-made bomb into an Invasion day rally in Perth. The EAG will be urging a pushback against the new attacks on civil liberties propagated by the Labor government that is based on lies and slander. The Bondi massacre has been used as an opportunity by Labor and the media to implement attacks on the Palestine movement, floating funding cuts to universities who don't crack down hard enough on pro-Palestine students.

Despite this backlash, we will be protesting the arrival of Israeli President Isaac Herzog on Monday 9th February at 5:30pm. Herzog has been cited in the ICJ case against Israel for inciting genocide when he said that there were no innocent people in Gaza. He should be arrested on his arrival not greeted with respect. This will be an important protest for SRC OBs and councillors to show up to.

The EAG is also looking forward to engaging in this year's NTEU EBA campaign and supporting staff taking industrial action against the university. It will be so important to mobilise students in solidarity with staff whose wages and conditions have only deteriorated in the past years, with permanent position conversion still denied, and wage rises that have not kept up with inflation.

There is a lot to be fighting for this year!

Jasmine and Dana

## **02. Report of the Women's Officers**

It is undeniable that gendered violence has been increasing as a result of the rise of the far-right. In 2025, the greatest number of women were killed in acts of intimate partner violence in NSW, facilitated by the systemic neglect of victim-survivors. This year continued to see Bla(c)k deaths in custody and the systemic abuse of First Nations communities. Many issues of feminist organisers are even more applicable to First Nations women and gender minorities, such as heightened rates of domestic violence, police brutality, and imprisonment. It is so important to stand up for First Nations communities, something we've seen with the incredible turnout for the Invasion Day rally, despite the statewide protest laws.

The past month has been a busy time for WoCo. We organised our first meeting, with nine attendees. During this meeting, we discussed strengthening the collective and increasing engagement from new students, as well as ensuring that WoCo's politics remained focused on activism and transformative justice. We've just finished our 2026 edition of Growing Strong, thanks to the hard work of both old and new creatives. Something we've tried to prioritise as a collective is working alongside our other collectives, as this is the most important time to have strength in numbers. Pim and I organised the WoCo x ACAR contingent of the Invasion Day protest, involving a banner paint and a presence at the rally.

The most important upcoming event for WoCo is our yearly Welcome Week rally. The primary objectives of the rally are to highlight the gendered violence within our campus; especially during Welcome Week, when students are most likely to experience sexual violence. We will also continue to protest our university's continued complicity in the third calendar year of genocide in Palestine. Considering the draconian anti protest laws and continued campus suppression, it is so important to show up in all of our numbers to demonstrate to university administration that we will not bow down.

### **03. Report of the Disabilities Officers**

Happy new year! Between holiday fun, Dis.Co has had an extremely busy summer.

Whilst Santa did not deliver coal to us this year (we've been very good!!), the NSW Government decided to rush through horrific anti-protest laws in the early morning hours of Christmas Eve. These laws are an abhorrent attack on protest and speech under the guise of safety and inclusion. Under these new laws, police hold massively expanded powers to enforce the removal of face-coverings on protestors, including those wearing masks. This is extremely concerning for disabled people, and marks closer proximity to a surveillance state. Rest assured, we won't be idle as this situation unfolds further.

We also made a submission with the SUPRA Disability Inclusion Network to the NSW Clean Indoor Air Inquiry, highlighting how concessions to indoor air quality compromise students' safety on campus, on placement, and in student accommodation through exposure to airborne pathogens, mould, and harmful construction materials. Our key recommendations included monitoring and regulating air quality, air purifier usage, expanding access to respirator masks, and tightening construction and demolition regulations. To follow from this, Dis.Co will be starting a project investigating air quality around campus.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) is in the implementation stage, and we have been providing ongoing feedback regarding accessibility and its implementation for students and staff. In this work, we will continue to do our best to ensure the needs and concerns of satellite campuses are considered.

For Welcome Week, we have been working with organisers to continue to improve the accessibility of the Disability Hub. We commissioned art from Leila Mangos, making an ode to the disability activist Alice Wong, who passed away last year. We also finally have disco ball merch to go along with our name, thanks to Dana! We have additionally been working on this year's Accessibility Handbook, a joint publication with SUPRA to be handed out at Welcome Fest.

We have also been in regular contact with the new NUS Disabilities Officer, Mia, and hope to work with her to hold Labor to account on and off this campus.

We have an event organised on 11 February in the Khanh Tran Room — Covid Conscious Crafternoon — to invite new and returning students to the Dis.Co community amid the heavy political landscape and overwhelming university life that often isolates disabled students.

We are excited and ready for the year ahead.

In solidarity,  
Kayla and Remy

#### **O4. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers**

- ACAR celebrates the liberation of the city of Uvira in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 18 January, with the Rwanda-backed AFC/M23 armed group withdrawing. We also note that our term started on the West Papuan Day of Independence!
- We commemorate the lives lost during the Bondi Beach shooting on the 14th of December. We must reiterate that we unequivocally condemn antisemitism and everyone should be guaranteed safety in their right to practice and express their religious beliefs. We released a collective statement in the aftermath of the attack and in response to the xenophobic, misinformed, and hateful discourse. We criticised the rampant white supremacy, racism, anti-migrant hate, anti-Palestinian rhetoric, and religious discrimination (including antisemitism and Islamophobia) that characterised much of the discussions afterwards. We also condemn and actively oppose the conflation and tenuous links drawn between the anti-semitic attack and anti-genocide, anti-apartheid, anti-colonial, pro-palestinian activism.
- We posted an explainer and criticism of the Jilian Segal’s “Plan to Combat Antisemitism” and the Minns government’s unjust laws banning mass protests. We strongly oppose the new hate speech laws that are made to restrict free speech calling out injustices perpetuated by colonial regimes globally, including the Zionist entity and so-called ‘australia’.
- ACAR condemns the unfair dismissal of Randa Abdel-Fattah from the Adelaide Writers’ Week. We celebrate the success of the boycott of the event, the resignation of the board, and the apology given to Randa following pressure from the band Pulp who are opening the Adelaide Festival.
- ACAR also contributed to the SRC submission for the state government’s sham of an inquiry that framed calls to justice for autonomy in Palestine as hate speech.
- ACAR attended the Stop Antisemitism and Genocide vigil and rally at Sydney Town Hall on 22 December. It was a beautiful event that brought together people to mourn the lives lost and criticise the political weaponisation of the tragedy by the Albanese federal government and the Minns state government. ACAR also attended the Stop War on Palestine rally on 16 January.
- The Ethnocultural Officers condemn the invasion of Venezuela and the kidnapping of their president Nicolás Maduro by the Amerikkkan government. ACAR condemns all forms of foreign intervention perpetuated in the name of imperialism, colonialism, and capitalism, including the United States’ long history of meddling in Latin American affairs and undermining their democracies. It is amusingly disgusting to observe how María Corina Machado, recipient of the Nobel “Peace” Prize, grovels at the feet of the fascistic and authoritarian US president Donald Trump. ACAR attended the emergency action for Venezuela on 4 January. We support Venezuela’s right to self-determination, democracy, and resistance against Trump’s attempts to install a puppet state and take control of Venezuelan natural resources.

- ACAR also attended the rally at the the Philippines Consulate-General on 19 Jan, supporting calls for the release of Filipino-American activist, Chantal Anicoche, from military custody, reported missing after a bombing of an indigenous community in Cabacao, Occidental Mindoro. Anicoche was a civilian conducting research in the area with the local community, before being taken by the 203rd Infantry Brigade of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), an unit that targets indigenous and rural communities. ACAR calls for an end to bombings and human rights abuses targeting Indigenous and peasant communities in Mindoro at the hands of the AFP. 3 children of the Mangyan-Iraya indigenous peoples and 2 youth researchers were killed by the bombings. Justice for the victims of the Cabacao massacre!
- ACAR had our first organising meeting of 2026 on the 20th of January, coming together with established and new members to reflect on the past year and prepare for the upcoming semester.
- The Ethnocultural Officers have been preparing merchandise and literature to hand out next semester, especially for Welcome Week, commissioning art from an ACAR member. We also worked with the Women’s Officers on merchandise designed by a First Nations artist calling for an end to Bla(c)k Deaths in Custody; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are currently the fastest growing demographic of people that are being sent to prison.
- ACAR attended the Stop Black Deaths in Custody rally on 18 January. The day commemorated the 10th anniversary of Dunghutti man David Dungay Jr’s murder at the hands of the colonial carceral system. We echo demands for an independent investigation into Black deaths in custody.
- ACAR put up posters promoting the Invasion Day rally and a First Nations truth-telling event for linguistically diverse communities organised by Speaking Truth.
- On 24 January, ACAR came together with allies at a community banner paint organised by the Ethnocultural Officers to prepare for the rally on the 26th.
- On the day of the Invasion Day rally, ACAR organised a student contingent and helped out with the SRC cool-down stall, providing free sunscreen, water, sustenance, and first aid to attendees. It was incredible to see so many people come out to show their support for First Nations self-determination and sovereignty. ACAR calls for the death of the colony and land back now!
- ACAR laments 1000 days of genocide in Sudan. Currently, the cities of El Obeid, Kadugli, and Delanj are under siege as the RSF expands in the Kordofan regime. Civilians have been trapped in and aid is blocked; a massacre is expected similar to the siege at El-Fasher. 400,000 deaths have been estimated as a result of violence, hunger, disease, and displacement. The UN found many people with minimal access to food, medical supplies, and adequate shelter in El-Fasher.
- Moreover, ACAR condemns the continuance of violence perpetuated by ICE, including the murders of Renee Good, Keith Porter Jr., and Alex Pretti, and the kidnapping of 5 year-old Liam Ramos after coming home from school.
- ACAR also takes disdain at Trump's creation of the so-called “Peace Board” while aid continues to be restricted by the Zionist entity and children freeze to death in Gaza.
- We also decry Trump’s threats of colonising Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), whose people are suffering under the violence of the Danish state.
- ACAR supports the Iranian people as they continue to revolt against the Islamic Republic regime in their fight for self-determination and liberation from dictatorship, monarchy, and

Western imperialism. Like many other nations, Iran has had a history of foreign intervention wherein US and Western hegemony take precedent over the rights of Iranian people. In accordance with our anti-imperialist values, ACAR also denounces American intervention in all its forms. True liberation will not be achieved by the same hands which have destabilized the region, undermined their democracies, and forcefully instated oppressive pro-Western leaderships.

- The Kurdish people in Syria have been guaranteed cultural linguistic rights, a core tenet of human rights. However, Syria has attacked the autonomous region of Rojava, deploying Syrian government forces in formerly Kurdish-led areas.
- ACAR notes that Myanmar has been taken to the International Court of Justice by Gambia to prompt accountability for the genocide of the Rohingya people.
- ACAR is starting to prepare for Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), which has been called by BDS for the 21st of March, including Palestinian Land Day on the 30th. In the lead-up to the day, we are preparing to launch a campaign calling out the USU for taking sponsorships from genocidal corporations MacDonalld's and Coca Cola.
- Furthermore, ACAR is preparing for ACAR Honi in Week 5!

## **O5. Report of the Queer Officers**

Trans rights have been under attack globally over the past several months.

Queensland has extended their ban on puberty blockers for trans youth until 2031, and funding has been pulled or is on the line for trans youth healthcare in the Northern Territory and Tasmania.

In the Northern Territory, trans women have been forced into men's prisons, and the local government is encouraging all other states and territories to adopt similar policies.

In NSW, the state government just rejected all recommendations from the recent bathroom review calling for universal public access to gender-neutral toilets. NSW also still allows queer workers, queer students, and sex workers to be discriminated against, and the state Labor government has repeatedly delayed comprehensive reforms to the Anti Discrimination Act.

Our own local pride organisation, the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, has also rejected member motions for trans rights and misgendered and censured its only transgender board director, so it is clear the fight for trans rights is up to the community rather than major companies.

Internationally, New Zealand has also banned puberty blockers, and the Trump administration has declared trans activism to be terrorism as well as removed rape protections for trans people incarcerated in prisons or detention centres.

With all of this in mind, it is important that the SRC enters this semester strong and committed to LGBTQIA+ rights. QuAC has had one meeting so far this term, and we are gearing up for our regular fortnightly meetings during the semester. We'll have a stall at Welcome Week and will kick off the semester with an educational movie night. We've got a

busy schedule planned for this year with anti-discrimination reforms on the table, supporting the NTEU, and following major pushes for immigrant and sex worker rights.

This year's Mardi Gras Street Rally will be held on February 15th at 1PM in Pride Square, Newtown. We will be marching to demand no right to discriminate and to resist police oppression. Everyone should come along to make a strong stand for queer rights and against increasing transphobia and state violence at home and abroad!

## **06. Report of the Environment Officers**

If the last month is anything to go by, Australia is on track to a year of climate mayhem. Bushfires have raged across rural Victoria, and both it and Adelaide had their hottest day on record just a couple weeks ago. Meanwhile, the Labor government, now in power for 4 years, who has had plenty of time to supposedly prove their progressive environmental credentials, continue to approve fossil fuel project after fossil fuel project. This is despite the release of the last year's National Climate Risk Assessment report, which predicted catastrophic consequences of climate change affecting the Australian population, including a dramatic increase in heat-related deaths and the displacements of tens-of-thousands of households living along the coast due to coastal erosion. Appallingly, The Labour Party deliberately kept this report under wraps for months.

This year, the environment office wants to be part of challenging the prerogatives of the government and the fossil fuel companies, fighting for environmental justice and an end to the fossil fuel industry. No progress can be made without fighting those benefiting the sources of the climate crisis. We want to throw ourselves into every environment campaign that comes up, and organise events, protests and collective meetings along the way.

We've currently been working on the Enviro collective's magazine Combust, which you'll all get to read soon. It touches on a broad range of topics, from the history of Australian lawns to data centre development.

We've also got some events in the works for the first few weeks of next semester, such as a film screening and a screen printing session. And we're planning on taking part in the campaign against the expansion of the Moolarben coal mine in Mudgee. You'll see more from us on this soon.

We're looking forward to a year of environmental activism!

## **07. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

We're only one month into 2026 and the monsters of global imperialism have reared their ugly heads further. We've seen the US bombing of Venezuela and the violent kidnapping of its President, resulting in the murder of almost 50 Venezuelans. Additionally, we have seen the valiant uprisings and mass protests in Iran calling for the removal of the Ayatollah and the collapse of the regime, while bravely rejecting US intervention. The Imperial boomerang has become fully evident as the full violent capacity of US imperialism has turned on migrants and

citizens. ICE has continued its Gestapo-like raids and kidnappings involving children as young as five. Deaths at the hands of ICE agents continue. The whole world watched the execution of two US citizens; Alex Pretti and Renee Good. The resistance to ICE has been incredibly inspirational, and we stand with the protesters in Minnesota.

Finally, Palestinians continue to be slaughtered and Gaza is divided and occupied with a new “board of peace” headed by people like Netanyahu and Tony Blair. And despite all this the Labor party has continued to support the genocide and are even inviting war criminal Isaac Herzog.

We have attended various rallies and protests in January: a rally to demand the US out of Venezuela, multiple Palestine Rallies, and the Invasion day rally. This is all in spite of Chris Minns undemocratic anti-protest laws which continue to suppress our ability to show global solidarity in the face of capitalisms horrors.

As the Global Solidarity officers we think it is the job of the SRC to promote, engage and mobilise students in the fight for all struggles around the world. This means on-the-ground building and getting things going even before semester starts.

## **08. Report of the Student Accommodation Officers**

This year’s team of Student Accommodation Officers have begun communications with the International House Council to keep them accountable to the student body. International House has remained closed despite promises each year that an announcement is ‘just around the corner’. This year, we will advocate for the building’s temporaneous reopening and a version of its future that serves students and not profit. We have many plans to reignite the fight for housing justice in 2026, and we hope to see you all join us in demanding our university and governments end housing injustice.

Many thanks,

Sholto Mirrlees-Black

## **09. Report of the Social Justice Officers**

It is the decade for billionaires. The new Oxfam report is sounding the alarm bells on the staggering state of wealth inequality in 2026. Billionaire fortunes have grown by three times the average annual rate over the past 5 years. The wealth disparity of capitalism today is captured in the gut-churning statistic that the world’s richest 12 billionaires have more wealth than the poorest half of humanity. It is clear that the fight for social justice will be foregrounded by a struggle against the fortunes hoarded by the rich.

Another 31 Palestinians were killed by Israel in the last week. Again, breaking the so-called ‘ceasefire’ in Gaza that is – in true dystopian fashion– being overseen by a ‘Board of Peace’ hosted by the likes of Donald Trump, Netanyahu and Tony Blair. More than half a million Gazans are trapped in famine while the rich decide their fate. It is clear the leaders of our world only have further horrors in store for Palestinians, as they draft plans to build real

estate and data centres on top of the rubble they have created. Imperial warmongering continues to be a daily feature of our world.

The wealth divide is exacerbating oppression. According to Oxfam, 'women and racialised people predominate in the lowest-paid and most poorly protected jobs'. Women are systematically undervalued in their workplaces and homes. An estimated 12.5 billion hours of unpaid labour is performed by women every day, adding at least US\$10.8 trillion in value to the global economy. The fight for women's liberation, and for all the oppressed, will have to be a fight against the rich if we are to win true justice in the face of this unequal system.

Thanks,  
Emma Searle  
SRC Social Justice Officer 2026.

Procedural motion to move agenda items M, N, O en bloc.

Moved: Vince Tafea

Seconded: Aron Khuc

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Motion to accept the reports.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Remy Lebreton

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Meeting closed at 9:18pm.