



**src** activism  
advocacy  
representation

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## MINUTES:

of the 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of the 96<sup>th</sup> SRC held on **Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024**. Meeting held in the **ABS Case Study Lecture Theatre 1050**.

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*There was a quorum count  
The meeting was found quorate*

### A. Meeting open at 6.23 pm

#### A1. Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chair moved that Rose Donnelly be elected Deputy Chairperson.  
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 were received from:**

Aryan Ilkhani  
Ivan Samsonov  
Jack Lockhart

#### **Proxies:**

Cara Eccleston to Alexander Poirier  
James Dwyer to Laura Cook  
Gerard Buttigieg to Rose Donnelly  
Martha Barlow to Ishbel Dunsmore  
Angus Dermody to Vieve Carnsew

Motion to accept the Apologies  
Moved: Harrison Brennan  
Seconded: Jordan Anderson  
The apologies and proxies were accepted.

**D. Changes to Membership**

**E. Electoral Report**

**E1. Consideration of any resignations**

**F. Minutes** of the previous Council meeting.

Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting of the 96<sup>th</sup> SRC held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were circulated.

Motion: that the minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 be accepted.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly

Seconded: Angus Fisher

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

**G. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business for this item.

**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**

**K. Elections**

Procedural motion: that Council proceed to items Q4, Q7, and Q10.

Moved: Grace Street

Seconded: Victor Zhang

The procedural was put and **CARRIED.**

*Harrison Brennan resigned the chair to Rose Donnelly.*

**Q4. Direct Action. Reflections on ZIM**

*Preamble*

Palestinian Trade unions have called for solidarity in unions across the world to end the export of weapons to Israel, to halt academic and research ties with Israel, and to cut diplomatic ties with Israel, which includes the on-going call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). It is imperative we answer this call and support our union's campaigns against Israel.

On the evening of the 24th of March, we gathered at Port Botany to answer the call for BDS. The action was called by the Palestinian Justice Movement and Unionists for Palestine coordinated with our comrades in the Maritime Union of Australia to block the shift change to the ZIM ship "Ganges". The company ZIM is the oldest Israeli shipping company whose CEO has stated that the first priority of the company following October last year was to provide for the needs of the "Ministry of Defence and the government of Israel."

Protestors gathered at the park above Botany and Foreshore Road before heading across the road onto Penrhyn Road towards the gates of Patrick Terminus, where the ship is docked. Penrhyn Road, importantly, is the only way in or out of Patrick Terminus and the full force of the anti-protest laws, specifically with regard to "blocking commerce" apply on the road.

To be noted is the bravery of the MUA officials and delegates who rushed to the front of the crowd knowing that they would take most of the heat from the police. The police gave a "move-on order" one that few, if any, could hear and began making violent arrests before most even had the opportunity to get up and retreat. 19 arrests were made, several of whom are MUA officials and delegates, including Sydney MUA branch secretary Paul Keating. The 19 arrestees were taken to Surry Hills police station and were released around 0400 the next morning.

Despite the short notice for this action and noting that this action is during Ramadan, it is heartening to see the turnout and the bravery of the demonstrators. The protest was met with extreme police violence precisely because the action was able to strike at the war machine. Speakers at the rally expressed their disappointment in those that did not come to the action, noting that if our numbers had just been doubled we would have occupied Penrhyn Rd for hours instead of minutes.

#### *Platform*

1. The SRC affirms the call to action by Palestinian Trade Unions in ending the export of weapons to Israel, halting academic and research ties with Israel, and to cut ties with Israel;
2. The SRC supports direct actions by our trade unions such as the MUA's campaign against Israeli shipping;
3. The SRC condemns police brutality and the use of it on both Port Botany protests including the arrest of activists invoking the anti-protest laws;
4. The SRC calls for the anti-protest laws, otherwise known as the *Roads And Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022*, to be revoked, noting that these laws would imprison the memory of Jack Munday and the Builders Labourers Federation;
5. The SRC calls for the charges against all arrestees in both Port Botany actions to be dropped;

#### *Action*

1. Councillors and OBs will build for all future direct actions, including but not limited to transport to and from said action, briefings on responding to police brutality and arrests, and recruiting students for the contingent;

Discussion:

Victor spoke to the motion, describing the ZIM action as one of the most important in the Palestine solidarity movement this year. Victor argued that it was necessary for everyone to attend the action for its success, and criticised those who did not attend.

Harrison spoke to the motion, commending those who joined the action and called out Socialist Alternative members for sending only one person to the action. Harrison called on Socialist Alternative to explain themselves.

Deaglan spoke, describing the motion as not about Palestinian solidarity but as a cynical attack on Socialist Alternative. Deaglan objected to members of Council lecturing Socialist Alternative on activism and on the Palestine solidarity campaign. Deaglan argued that actions like the ZIM action do not build a mass movement for Palestine solidarity.

**Procedural:** that speaking time be limited to 2.5 minutes.

Moved: Jasmine Donnelly.

Seconded: Alex Poirier.

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

Deaglan continued speaking, commending the mass movement with weekly rallies.

Ethan Floyd spoke to the motion, calling on Socialist Alternative to explain where they were when the ZIM action took place, and to join future actions in the face of police brutality.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion, commending the action for interrupting global circuits of capital that serve Israel. Ishbel noted that mass boycotts are required to dismantle Israeli apartheid.

Julius Whitforth spoke, addressing the question of police repression, when the Labor party is responsible for expanded police repression in NSW. Julius argued that the ZIM blockades are not sufficient to block Australian support for Israel.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion, arguing that the weekly rallies are useful to build actions that impose costs on Israeli companies / Australian trade to Israel. Joining these actions is important to build connections with the union movement within the Palestine solidarity movement.

Tamsyn spoke against the motion, arguing that the ZIM action does not build a mass working-class movement for Palestine, in contrast to the Springbok boycotts during apartheid South Africa. Tamsyn defended the weekly rallies as the key means for building the movement for Palestine.

Grace Street spoke to the motion, defending the ZIM action and criticising Socialist Alternative's absence. Grace commended the action for its media attention.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke, describing the motion as a point scoring operation against Socialist Alternative and that the support for the ZIM action is left cover for the CPA.

Nour spoke, saying that the ZIM action was called by Palestine Justice Movement Sydney, and saying that people should be attending all actions. The action was successful in costing 100s of

thousands of dollars to ZIM by stopping the boat, as do the weekly rallies, and that everyone should be joining all actions. Nour noted that Palestinians can't come to the ZIM actions for fear of arrests, and commended the MUA for taking the frontline of the action.

Simon Uptis spoke, supporting the need for strategic debate. Simon objects to evaluating the success of actions by economic costs (to companies, government) but that they should be measured by mass participation.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion, noting that direct actions like the ZIM action have to happen on short notice; but that

Deaglan Godwin spoke, arguing that criticisms of S.A. amount to complaints about S.A.'s absence. The view that direct actions are crucial, by making comparisons to the boycott movement, and mass rallies feed into them is misled, because the mass movement is what is necessary.

Maddie Clark spoke, calling for sobriety about the state of the Palestine solidarity movement. The union movement are not backing the solidarity movement, because it is tied to the Labor party. Despite the anger at Israel's war on Gaza, the trade unions and Labor party aren't doing anything. What the student movement can do is provide a channel for action that will apply pressure on the union movement and Labor Party.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

### **Q7. Strike for Palestine on May 2**

Nearly 6 months in, Israel's genocidal war on Gaza shows no sign of ceasing. After six months of a nearly total blockade, and the never-ending destruction of Gaza's civil infrastructure (exemplified in the recent flattening of the al-Shifa hospital), the people of Gaza face a famine of horrifying proportions.

In recent weeks, Western governments have moved towards calling rhetorically for a ceasefire. We must be crystal clear that this is nothing but rhetoric, and a product of the significant mass sentiment for a ceasefire that exists. But if any of these governments or politicians were serious, they wouldn't just issue resolutions; they would immediately stop the delivery of military and economic aid which enables Israel to carry out this genocide. This means our attitude towards these politicians and governments has to remain one of firm opposition; change will not come from hoping that the Western ruling class have suddenly discovered their morals.

Change can come however from building a movement in solidarity with Palestine. At the core of this has to be continuous mass demonstrations. These protests have been historic in their size and the number of them. They have the effect of not only being symbolic demonstrations of the depth of support for the Palestinians, but also give confidence and empower those who attend. Deepening and spreading this movement is essential; no university, high school or workplace should be untouched by it.

As a student union, our primary task must be the building of a student movement in solidarity with Palestine. Regular rallies on campus help to normalise support for Palestine in our classes and spaces, and draw attention to our university's own complicity. Coordinated cross-campus actions bring together students from across the city as a distinct layer fighting the genocide in Gaza.

This is why Students for Palestine have organised another Sydney-wide student strike for Palestine on May 2. The last student strike was a huge success, and saw hundreds and hundreds of students from universities across Sydney walk out of class and march together for Palestine. To recreate this success and build further on it, everyone in this student union needs to throw themselves into helping to build and promote it. The student union and its representatives need to make an argument to every student to skip class and join the strike. We need to involve more students in not just attending, but in being activists and organisers. This means setting an example, by ourselves mass leafleting, plastering the campus in posters, and making announcements in every lecture. These should be basic regular activities every left-wing office bearer does. The potential to seriously mobilise students can only be realised if we put in the work and effort.

#### Preamble

1. The SRC endorses the Sydney-wide Student Strike for Palestine on May 2, called by Students for Palestine.
2. The SRC recognises the significance of the mass protests for Palestine, in particular the regular weekend rallies.
3. The SRC rejects the half-hearted calls for ceasefire by Western governments, and demands a permanent end to the siege of Gaza and occupation of the West Bank.

#### Action

1. The SRC will take a solidarity photo after this motion passes.
2. The SRC will share the contents of this motion on its social media
3. SRC office bearers and councillors are expected to attend the strike, help build and promote it, and commit the union's resources to it.

#### Discussion:

Jasmine spoke to the motion, commending past student strikes for mobilising students in solidarity with Palestine, and arguing that this should be a priority for the SRC.

Emma Searle spoke to the motion, calling for the Council to focus on building a mass action that can help challenge the Labor government. What we need to aim towards is building up strikes, and student movements are crucial for that.

Chloe Pamaka spoke to the motion, calling for a unified approach to building the May 2 student strike.

Ben Walden spoke to the motion, arguing that the SRC has a responsibility to support radical protest in Sydney and to fight for Palestinians.

Isaiah Tasi (UNSW) spoke to the motion, noting that the UNSW student union did not anything for the last student strike.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion, endorsing the student strike but objecting to a false dichotomy between mass rallies and direct action. Direct actions are valuable as propaganda of the deed alongside mass actions.

Grace Street spoke to the motion, querying the May 2 date since it comes after May Day, which might be a more suitable day for building a mass action.

Jasmine Donnelly spoke to the motion, endorsing the student strikes and calling for a unified approach to building the student strikes.

Ned Graham spoke to the motion, noting that there is a need to look to students, who want a channel for their political frustrations.

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the motion, commending NLS's response to the motion and objecting to Grassroots's response. Deaglan notes that the May 2 rally was planned in an open organising meeting, and read out part of the minutes of the meeting. May 2 was chosen because May Day protests won't likely focus on Palestine. Deaglan regards these objections as deflections from concrete organising for the student strikes.

Vieve Carnsew spoke to the motion, noting that there are attempts to introduce Palestine solidarity within May Day rallies.

Tom Williams spoke to the motion, endorsing both May Day and a May 2 student strike. These protests are in highly populated areas where people can make a choice to support the protest. It's an important political signal as people return back to their electorates, showing their support for Palestine.

Maddie Clark spoke to the motion, commending the last student strike for the experience of students joining together across campuses in solidarity with Palestine. Maddie objects to squabbling over minor issues rather than focussing on building the student strikes.

Moved: Jasmine Al-Rawi

Seconded: Emma Searle

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **Q10 BOTTOMS AND TOPS, WE ALL HATE COPS! END POLICE BRUTALITY AT QUEER AND PALESTINIAN PROTESTS**

### **Preamble:**

On Sunday the 24th protesters blocked Patrick Terminals at Port Botany. The blockade disrupted ZIM Shipping, a company that ships white phosphorus munitions and other weapons for the Israeli regime to use in the ongoing genocide and occupation of Palestine. Protesters sat on the road,

stopped trucks from entering the terminal, and blocked the shift change. This action delayed ZIM Shipping's operations and cut deeply into their profit margin.

While the protest was successful in delaying the ship and interrupting the flow of profit to apartheid Israel, police violently brutalised protesters, throwing them to the ground and physically assaulting them. The NSW Police Force were also seen wearing far-right extremist symbols, including an Australian flag "thin blue line" patch. In addition, many arrestees faced homophobic violence and one reported being called slurs.

Nineteen protesters were arrested, all charged with violation of NSW's draconian and partially unconstitutional anti-protest laws. This repression of protest by the NSW Government is on top of the previous twenty-three protesters arrested in December for a similar blockade of ZIM Shipping. For many of us in the room, we recognise the faces of the cops that work at Surry Hills Police station, as they survey all the actions we hold on campus and all the marches we lead. We can recognise Task Force ODIN and the riot police. It is the same police brutalising our communities time and time again. It is the same police that kettled queer people and choked a trans woman at the recent 'No Cops No Bigots' rally. The police from Surry Hills Police Station have played a major role in over-policing Palestine rallies. These same officers pushed protesters at the ZIM blockade and threw them to the ground, verbally abusing and physically assaulting them before detaining them in Surry Hills Police Station.

These are the same officers at Surry Hills Police Station that abused us at our previous rally on the eve of the Mardi Gras parade. They are the same officers that abused us at the previous blockade at Port Botany. It was also the same police station, where fifteen years ago Veronica Baxter was detained by police.

The draconian anti-protest laws need to be revoked. And the charges dropped against all of all arrestees including all those arrested at ZIM-related actions. We need the immediate and unconditional disarmament of all police, including the removal of guns, tasers, bean bag rounds, batons, horses, sniffer dogs, and the \$700,000 giant water cannon that has never been used. We need the police to be defunded, and the police to be dismantled. We call for nothing less than complete abolition.

### **Platform:**

The SRC:

1. Notes that Surry Hills police and Strike Force ODIN violently brutalised protesters at both the No Cops No Bigots rally on March 1st AND the Block The Boat ZIM blockades.
2. Endorses the Drop The Charges campaign for the forty arrested at ZIM actions. 3. Endorses the right to protest and demands the anti-protest laws are immediately revoked.
3. Calls for the immediate defunding, disarming and dismantling of the police.

### **Action:**

1. The SRC will publish this motion from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.
2. All members of the Students' Representative Council shall commit to attending upcoming anti-police actions, including the ZIM blockades.



3. The SRC shall sign on to the Blak Caucus' open letter demanding the repeal of the anti-protest laws.

Discussion:

Esther spoke to the motion, objecting to the brutality of the NSW Police Force and calling for police disarmament.

Jamie spoke to the motion, noting that the police at the ZIM action kettled activists, just as they did at a Mardi Gras action.

Harrison spoke to the motion, criticising police brutality and calling for the Councils support for the motion.

Tim Duff spoke to the motion, objecting to the indiscriminate violence from the police against the radical movement in Australia, and drawing parallels between colonial violence of NSW police and Israeli police forces. Tim called for the dismantling of the police.

Moved: Esther Whitehead

Seconded: Jamie Bridge

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting resumed the order of the agenda.*

**Procedural:** that the Council proceed to item Q8.

Moved: Deaglan Godwin

Seconded: Maddie Clark

Deaglan Godwin spoke to the procedural, noting that discussion of the Labor Party's Migration Amendment bill was urgent due to its horrific nature.

The motion was put and **FAILED**.

**Procedural:** that the Council proceed to all motions on notice (Q) and deal with those items in order.

Moved: Harrison Brennan.

Seconded: Jordan Anderson.

Harrison spoke to the motion, noting that some of these motions will be withdrawn, and that Council will be able to address all motions.

Deaglan spoke against the procedural, arguing that it is an attempt to assert control over the meeting.

The procedural motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## Q. Motions on Notice

Procedural Motion that the Council place items Q9 and Q11 before Q8.

Moved: Jamie Bridge.

Seconded: Tim Duff.

Jamie spoke to the procedural, noting concerns that Council may become inquorate after Q8.

Deaglan spoke against the procedural, arguing that it is disgraceful that the movers believe QUAC is more important than attacks on refugees.

The procedural was put and **FAILED**.

### Q1. Direct Action! The SRC Supports the MUA in Blocking ZIM Ships

#### *Preamble*

Palestinian Trade unions have called for solidarity in unions across the world to end the export of weapons to Israel, to halt academic and research ties with Israel, and to cut diplomatic ties with Israel, which includes the on-going call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS). It is imperative we answer this call and support our union's campaigns against Israel.

The Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and the Palestinian Justice Movement Sydney (PJMS) have been instrumental in the campaign to prevent boats from the Israeli company ZIM from docking at Port Botany. We have a duty to mobilise student contingents to aid direct action wherever possible.

At the first protest at Port Botany last year, protesters were met with extreme police violence culminating in the arrests of protesters. The protesters, including elderly and children, were met with a mounted police charge. 23 arrests were made on the dubious claim that they were 'blocking commerce and trade'. The arrestees also face draconian bail conditions, the most notable of which bars them from participation in 'unlawful protest activity' and contact with 'Issue Motivated Groups', that is to say protesting at all or maintaining contact with any person with a conscience.

#### *Platform*

1. The SRC affirms the call to action by Palestinian Trade Unions in ending the export of weapons to Israel, halting academic and research ties with Israel, and to cut ties with Israel;
2. The SRC supports direct actions by our trade unions such as the MUA's campaign against Israeli shipping;
3. The SRC condemns police brutality and the use of it on the first Port Botany protest including the arrest of activists invoking the anti-protest laws;

#### *Action*

1. Councillors and OBs will endeavour to attend MUA led direct actions against ZIM and other Israeli shipping;

2. Councillors and OBs will organise a student contingent in preparation for action at Port Botany, including but not limited to transport to and from Port Botany, briefings on responding to police brutality and arrests, and recruiting students for the contingent;
3. Councillors and OBs will seek to grow the Urgent Action alert phone number list to develop a rapid response for when ZIM ships are docked at Port Botany.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Rose Donnelly

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

## **Q2. Israeli Apartheid Week - March for Palestine: Stop Genocide; Dismantle Apartheid.**

Each year in the month of March, campuses and cities across the globe put on a week of events and demonstrations to protest Israel's oppression of Palestinians. Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) is an official BDS campaign and tool for mobilising grassroots support for the Palestinian liberation struggle against Israel's decades long settler-colonial regime and apartheid. IAW has two main goals: raising awareness about Israel's ongoing settler-colonialism and apartheid against the Palestinian people and building support for the Palestinian-led BDS movement.

Though the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has recently ordered Israel to stop all genocidal acts, including the killing and harming of Palestinians, Israel continues its egregious genocide - with a staggering 30,410 Palestinians murdered and 70,100 severely injured. While the court ruling has helped tarnish Israel's international reputation, we need effective, intersectional grassroots campaigning, in order to build people power to dismantle Israel's regime of settler colonialism and apartheid - that is why this year's IAW theme is *March for Palestine: Stop Genocide; Dismantle Apartheid*.

IAW this year comes at a time when Israel is perpetrating a genocide against the 2.3 million Palestinians in Gaza. Apartheid Israel is pushing relentlessly for yet another wave of ethnic cleansing of Indigenous Palestinians. The ongoing Nakba - which started 75 years ago with the brutal expulsion of over 750,000 Indigenous Palestinians from their land and homes - has never stopped and is currently near its height. It is enabled by complicit governments - like our own Labor government, corporations and institutions - such as universities that normalise ties with Israel and weapons manufacturers as USyd has done, particularly in the colonial West.

With the genocide of Palestinians reaching new heights and the global solidarity expressed through mass actions and demonstrations pulling in millions, it is only appropriate that IAW events this year should span the month of March. As such ACAR and BDS youth have collaborated to organise forums, a film screening, art exhibition showcasing Palestinian resistance, demonstrations and more this month. At a time when Palestinians are facing another Nakba - campaigns like this should be the priority of a left-wing SRC.

Platform:

1. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council stands in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their resistance against an Apartheid state.

2. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council supports the BDS movement in its calls for boycott, divestment and sanctions to achieve freedom, justice and equality for Palestinians.
3. The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council condemns USyd's ties with the State of Israel and weapons manufacturers such as Thales that supply the IDF to carry out genocide.

Actions:

The University of Sydney Students' Representative Council will:

1. Promote Israeli Apartheid Week events on social media.
2. Attend Israeli Apartheid Week events.
3. Encourage and support SRC councillors to engage in boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) actions that seek to end the occupation of Palestine and bring about justice, freedom and equality for Palestinians.
4. Campaign against the University of Sydney developing or maintaining ties with organisations, companies and tertiary and/or government-funded institutions that support/are supported by/are funded by the settler-colonial State of Israel.

Mover: Rav Grewal

Secunder: Grace Street

The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

**Q3. Join our PRO-CHOICE rally to fight Day of the Unborn Child.**

**Preamble:**

Last week WA became the final state in Australia to decriminalise abortion. About fucking time.

However, while abortion is now decriminalised it remains inaccessible. Cost, stigma, and lack of public abortion clinics result in many people being unable to access safe abortions, this is especially the case for people who already face healthcare barriers, low income, rural, trans and non binary people.

Over regulation and policing of women and gender diverse peoples' bodies has led to only 10% of GPs being registered to administer mifepristone, the drug required to induce a miscarriage and only 1% of GPs being able to prescribe it over telecalls.

Furthermore, both medical and surgical abortions average around \$500 out of pocket up to 12 weeks. After this time the cost increases significantly and can be up to \$4,000 out of pocket for late term abortions. This is not good enough.

We must fight for safe and free abortions without discrimination, and we must do it in the face of the bigotry of Day of the Unborn Child. Day of the Unborn Child is a yearly Catholic tradition created by Pope John Paul II to celebrate robbing people of their bodily autonomy and furthering the pro-life movement. In their Facebook event, Life and Family Institute encouraged attendees to

show that “every human life is worth protecting. That every human life is sacred. That abortion is evil!”

Every year we hold this rally, however, it is especially important this year as we’ve seen increasingly violent and repressive attacks from the Christian far-right against abortion access, trans rights, and for the entrenchment of discrimination against the queer community.

**Action:**

1. The USyd SRC will post the rally materials to the SRC socials.
2. The USyd SRC councillors will join the counter-protest on April 14th.

Discussion:

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion, noting that the fight for free and safe abortions is still necessary. Eliza called for attendance at the rally on April 14<sup>th</sup> as a counter-protest to the Day of the Unborn Child.

Ellie Robertson spoke to the motion, calling for free and safe abortions and objecting to attacks on abortion rights by the Catholic Church.

Maddie Clark spoke to the motion, commending the protest in the face of the disrespect of the political establishment and calling for mass mobilisation in defence of abortion and LGBT rights.

Jordan spoke to the motion, concurring that rising far-right rhetoric requires the student movement to show up to the April 14 protest.

Esther spoke to the motion, criticising the power of the Christian religious lobby on influencing our governments, and adding that this applies to the Zionist lobby as well. Esther called for sex workers to be added to the anti-discrimination act.

Moved: Eliza Crossley

Seconded: Ellie Robertson

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

*The meeting took a recess at 8.30pm*

*There was a quorum count at 8:47pm*

*The meeting resumed at 8.54pm*

## **Q5. Recognition of Murdoch’s reign over Australian politics (e.g. Uni SRC/UNION)**

### ***Preamble***

Murdoch’s empire; including NewsCorp’s subsidiaries like; ‘The Australian’, ‘The Herald Sun’, ‘News.com.au’, ‘The Daily Telegraph’ and media platforms like; ‘Sky News Australia’ have continuously been a stain on the democracy of Australia. Since the inception of ‘The Australian’ newspaper in 1964, Murdoch’s empire has grown significantly; allowing for lobbying and fearmongering to influence political parties and individuals to conform to Murdoch’s doctrine. For

too long has the Australian political landscape been controlled and threatened by the ever-encroaching and ever-growing presence of Murdoch.

The youth action group; 'Youth Against Murdoch' has been established by young people to fight against the overwhelming influence of Murdoch in Australia and abroad. We have seen that across Australia especially, there has been little-to-no action made to halt the bias and at times, clear lies peddled by NewsCorp. Though there have been calls for a Royal Commission by former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and other individuals like former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, no actual concrete action has succeeded.

Under the Australian political system, legislative reform and a Royal Commission are some of the only viable options that need to be taken into account in order to achieve a balanced and fair media apparatus in Australia.

Youth Against Murdoch seeks to shed amicable light on this issue and bring together individuals from all sides of the political spectrum who believe in media integrity.

### ***Platform***

Youth Against Murdoch (YAM) calls on the USYD SRC to:

1. Recognise Murdoch's (i.e. NewsCorp) influence over Australian politics
2. Recognise Youth Against Murdoch as a social activist group
3. Promote Youth Against Murdoch on its social media platforms
4. Assist in the distribution of flyers around the USYD campus

### ***Action:***

Distribute a copy of the adopted motion to [youthagainstmurdoch@gmail.com](mailto:youthagainstmurdoch@gmail.com)

Discussion:

Victor spoke to the motion, calling for the SRC to support the campaign against Murdoch.

Grace spoke to the motion, criticising the Murdoch media's vilification of brown men in Palestine and recent reportage of USYd students' actions against the Tel Aviv University.

Moved: Victor Zhang

Seconded: Grace Street

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q6. END PLACEMENT POVERTY: The Students Against Placement Poverty National Week of Action 8-12 April 2024**

### **Preamble**

We are currently facing a crisis of placement poverty that threatens students with homelessness, hunger & serious health issues due to the burden of compulsory unpaid placements. Coupled with

increasing cost-of-living pressures, the exploitation of student labour across social work, education, nursing, engineering, and other areas of study is unacceptable - as it always has been.

Students, unions, professionals, the National Union of Students, and now even the Universities Accord Report have denounced placement poverty and called for ending unpaid placements. The Report, however, fails to incorporate existing calls for the government to revise the Fair Work Act to ensure that unpaid placements become illegal, and merely recommends that students on placements be offered funding, rather than wages in line with industry standards. This Accord Report's unwillingness to call for systemic reform fails students by neglecting to recognise the current state of higher education as expensive and elitist. Following the release of the report, Education Minister Jason Clare said that addressing unpaid placements would not be among the first reforms for the Labor government to announce - displaying a deplorable lack of care for struggling students and aligning with the companies that benefit from exploiting them.

The campaign 'Students Against Placement Poverty' (SAPP) highlights that unpaid placements not only exploit student labour but also violate the codes of ethics of both social work and teaching professions, such as those set out by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). These state that social workers should maintain "acceptable working conditions" (7.2.6) and that professional relationships between social workers and students on placement should be "constructive and non-exploitative" (9.1.5).

SAPP are holding a National Week of Action next week, 8 April to 12 April, with a National Zoom Forum on Monday 8 April and interstate in-person rallies later in the week across Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Endorsed by the National Union of Students as part of their overarching End Student Poverty campaign, and taking place at different campuses across Australia, this SAPP Week of Action has widespread support from outraged and tired students. Following this broader acknowledgement of placement poverty and with the Federal Budget being released next month around mid-May, now - more than ever - is the time to bring more people into the campaign, be oppositional toward Labor's apathy in respect of placement poverty and to call for the following demands:

- All placements hours must be paid at a rate of at least the industry minimum wage
- Government funding must be provided across the board to ensure that placement opportunities are properly resourced
- Changes must be made to the Fair Work Act to prohibit the practice of mandatory unpaid placements for all industries
- Accrediting bodies must ensure that their standards allow for flexibility in meeting placement requirements and prioritise capability-based models.

### **Platform**

1. The USyd SRC condemns the exploitation of and burdens on students through unpaid placements and vocational training, as continued by the federal Labor government
2. The USyd SRC supports the Students Against Placement Poverty campaign and endorses its demands (as stipulated above).

### **Action**

1. The USyd SRC will endorse the Week of Action 8-12 April and promote it on its social media platforms.
2. The councillors of the USyd SRC will attend the forum and rally of the SAPP National Week of Action 8-12 April
3. The USyd SRC will continue to support the Students Against Placement Poverty campaign beyond the Week of Action 8-12 April through advocacy, sharing information about placement poverty and the campaign, and engaging relevant student groups and faculties.

Discussion:

Grace Street spoke to the motion, condemning the placement poverty crisis and calling for the Council to support the week of action.

Sofija Filipovic spoke to the motion, condemning the requirement for students to work many placement hours for free. The week of action aims to place pressure on corporate universities and the Labor government for their inaction on placement poverty.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion, commending Students Against Placement Poverty and the work of the ASU on campaigning against placement poverty. Unpaid placements are wage theft, and which should be treated like any other form of theft.

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion, condemning unpaid placements. Elize notes that these sectors are highly feminised, and calls for support for the campaign.

Mover: Grace Street

Secunder: Sofija Filipovic

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

## **Q8. Stop Labor's Attacks on Refugees!**

### **Preamble**

Hundreds of refugees are being threatened with a minimum of one year in prison if they refuse to cooperate with efforts to deport them, under a new bill introduced by Labor. This bill passing would mean refugees who don't cooperate with the government's attempt to deport them could be fined almost \$100,000 and imprisoned.

Labor have made this disgraceful move after the high court ruled it was illegal for the government to indefinitely detain refugees like this in Australia. If people on bridging visas, without visas, or in immigration detention fail to comply with a directions from the Immigration Minister to assist in their own deportation will be a criminal offence carrying a mandatory minimum of 12 months in prison, a maximum of five years, a \$93,900 fine, or both imprisonment and a fine.

The bill also expands the Immigration Minister's powers to revisit former positive asylum findings, should they consider their home country to be safe again - meaning that someone who escaped Chile's Pinochet regime in the 70s and rebuilt a life here could technically be sent back. The bill also proposes to place outright bans on designated "removal concern countries" - which echoes



the Trump Travel Ban of 2017. Some of these countries could include - South Sudan, Russia, Iran and Iraq.

This is a disgrace - everyone fleeing persecution and oppression in their home countries should be welcome here. Labor tried to rush this bill through last week in under 36 hours, and it has now been delayed until budget week. We need to use this time to show that we reject all forms of racism and anti-refugee fear mongering.

**Platform:**

1. The SRC demands the dissolution of the Migration Amendment (removals and other measures) bill
2. The SRC calls for all refugees to be welcomed into Australia, and to receive immediate permanent protection without threat of deportation,
3. The SRC calls for an end to the racist cruelty of the Australian government towards refugees

**Action:**

1. The SRC will sign the NUS Queer Office open letter in opposition to the bill
2. The SRC will take a solidarity photo in opposition to the bill

**Discussion:**

Annabel Pettit spoke to the motion, arguing that the bill is worse than anything Peter Dutton wrote. The Migration Amendment Bill poses serious harms to refugees in Australia. Annabel notes that this bill is part of business as usual for the Labor Party, and that this is because it is a pro-capitalist party.

Harrison spoke to the motion, criticising the Labor Party's attempt to implement destructive powers against refugees in Australia. Harrison notes that the Labor Party is using this bill to deflect from internal crises in Australia.

Lauren Finlayson spoke to the motion, arguing that Australia / the Labor Party seeks to profit from racism, and calling for freedom of movement between countries as a human right. Lauren commends student activists fighting against these policies.

Keira Fairley spoke to the motion, positioning this bill as part of decades of attacks on refugees in Australia and as a blueprint for other countries around the world, like Rishi Sunak in the U.K or neo-Nazi parties in Germany. Moral arguments to the Labor Party are not enough; mass mobilisation and protest is necessary.

Lucas Pierce spoke to the motion, criticising the Labor Party and the bill. Lucas described the bill as an Orwellian bill where refugees are forced to cooperate with the government's attempt to deport them.

Ishbel Dunsmore spoke to the motion, condemning the bill and situating it within wider shifts towards militarisation in the Australian government. Ishbel calls for support and signing the petition <<https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/refugees-are-welcome-bigots-and-racists-are-not-release-asf17>> to oppose the bill.

Daniel Holland spoke to the motion, criticising the powers in the bill and calling for a more humane policy towards refugees.

Max Pomarca spoke to the motion, arguing that this is the latest in a long line of attacks on the poor and working class in Australia. Max notes that this bill would force parents and their children back to their countries of origin, and which could threaten the risk of death for those refugees.

Alex McEvoy spoke to the motion, criticising the bipartisan support for racist policy in Australia. Alex notes that everyone who celebrated Labor's win in 2022 were celebrated exactly these kinds of policies. Alex criticises the attempt by Labor to subvert the democratic process by rushing this bill through, which means that the Labor party cannot be supported.

Gerard Buttigieg spoke to the motion, condemning the bill and its ramming through Parliament, describing the Labor Party's approach to this bill as fascistic in nature. Gerard objected to viewing this bill as business-as-usual for the Labor Party, pointing to Whitlam's transformed policy on refugees. Gerard objected to everyone else in the left for failing to shift politics in Australia in contrast to the Labor Party.

Simon Uptis spoke to the motion, rejecting that Whitlam's record is enough to defend the Labor Party. Simon notes that the Labor Party's ties to capitalism are the source of its racist policy, because Australian capitalism needs racism.

*The Chair named Gerard Buttigieg and Deaglan Godwin.*

Tim Duff spoke to the motion, objecting to the Whitlam defence and noting that Australia is a settler state, which has only ever opened the borders because they have control of stolen land, won through genocide.

Jasmine Al-Rawi spoke to the motion, noting that the Labor Party has always been a racist party, using refugees and immigrants as scapegoats for economic crises, which right now originate from the Labor government.

Maddie Clark spoke to the motion, speaking about Behrooz Bahrani, who had to give his book via text messages. Behrooz talks about refugees who sewed their mouths shut, who thought the refugee camps are worse than the places that they fled. But the Labor Party is not moved by these stories: we cannot appeal to their moral compass. Saving the refugees requires mobilising people.

Moved: Annabel Pettit

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

The motion was put and **CARRIED.**

## **Q9. PUT YOUR MONEY WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS: FUND QUEER ACTIVISM AT USYD**

### **Preamble:**

In February 2024, you, the 96th SRC, voted to pass a motion stating that strong queer campaigns are essential to a radical USYD SRC. Essential to strong queer campaigns is a fully-funded USYD Queer Action Collective.

With state and federal governments repeatedly refusing to pass desperately needed changes to queer rights in the form of Self-ID, anti-discrimination and more, strong queer campaigns are more important than ever. Yet at the same time, QuAC's budget has been more than halved since 2017.

The Queer Action Collective has punched far above its weight in the activist left in this council term alone. We (QuAC) turned out hundreds of people to our co-hosted Mardi Gras Street Rally this February, and we maintained this energy going into Trans Day of Visibility 2024.

QuAC understands that queer liberation is intersectional, with our members this year organising the two biggest rallies on Gadigal land against Blak deaths in custody so far other than Invasion Day (Justice for TJ Hickey, and Justice for Veronica Baxter which QuAC hosted). We remain steadfast in our active opposition to the genocide, apartheid, pinkwashing, and occupation in Palestine with our Queers For Palestine contingents and continual opposition at our protests to pinkwashing.

QuAC also knows queer liberation is a material issue, as seen in our engagement with the 'Abolish the Colleges' campaign. We live in a society where future Liberal Party MPs can have their parents pay thousands of dollars to have staff do their laundry and cooking in luxury residential colleges, while 40% of homeless young people in so-called 'Australia' are queer.

QuAC also remains the only body representing and fighting for queer students on campus. We led the charge on past campaigns such as Fagi Soit, which required funding to be found from other collectives due to our limited budget. We are leading the charge on present and future campaigns such as the fight for a 24/7 Queer space.

We also maintain a collaborative relationship with Pride in Protest, the ONLY other collective fighting for queer liberation on Gadigal land in 2024. With Pride in Protest, we have waged campaigns to get cops out of Mardi Gras, pass the Equality Bill in full, and so much more. In the motion you passed in February 2024, you committed to actually integrating your commitment to fighting for queer liberation into the operation of the SRC. It is abundantly clear that QuAC remains the best-equipped student body of the SRC for this struggle. The members of this Council have a choice. Will you put your money where your mouth is and allocate QuAC the budget we need and deserve, or will this council become yet another body that claims to care about queer rights in theory but never in practice? The choice is yours.

### **Action:**

1. The annual budget of the USYD SRC Queer Department/USYD Queer Action Collective for the 96th SRC shall be set at a 'base funding' of at least \$8000.

Discussion:

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion, noting that the February Council endorsed queer activism and that QUAC is best equipped to do this. Jamie calls for Council to increase the budget right now, since its budget is not keeping up with its work, including work around Palestine solidarity, self-ID, and on-campus campaigning.

Esther Whitehead spoke to the motion, noting that from 2017 the budget has been halved. Activism needs funding, and QUAC needs support to continue its work, including around fighting drag bans. Esther calls for the Council to support this funding request now.

### **Amendment**

That Council substitute the whole of the Action section with:

2. Council will commit to advocating for a budget increase of the USYD QUAC which will be advocated for before the next Council meeting in May.

*It was not amenable to the movers.*

The Amendment was put to the council for a vote.

Moved: Jordan Anderson

Seconded: Harrison Brennan

Jordan Anderson spoke to the amendment, reading it out to Council.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the amendment, commending the work of QUAC over the last year, and agreeing that there should be a budget increase. Harrison noted that a budget increase is possible, but that these decisions should be taken in consideration of the whole budget across all collectives.

Jamie Bridge spoke against the amendment, arguing that there is only talk about supporting queer activism, but there is no commitment to supporting queer activists.

Tim Duff spoke against the amendment, criticising logistical objections against the funding.

Deaglan Godwin spoke for the amendment, arguing that this motion is not about activist funding but about attempts to position the QUAC as the premier activists in the student union.

Marcus Verdicchio spoke to the motion, noting that we should move beyond factionalism and that it is hypocritical to say you support queer rights but not support this motion.

The amendment was put and **CARRIED**.

Jamie Bridge gave a right of reply on the main motion, criticising the amendment.

Mover: Jamie Bridge

Seconder: Esther Whitehead

The motion was put and **CARRIED (AS AMENDED)**.

## **Q11 HANDS OFF OUR QUEERSPACE! DEFEND QUEER ORGANISING FROM UNIVERSITY PROFITEERING**

### **Preamble:**

The Queerspace in Manning House is the ONLY place on campus where queer students can organise for their rights and express themselves. For 30 years, queer students have come together in safety and resistance to the Queerspace; it is where the Queer Action Collective began in 1998, and it is where queer student activists fight for our liberation and build community today against USYD management.

However, the University of Sydney Union (USU) and their outsourced so-called “security” routinely invade the Queerspace to evict queer students for evenings, weekends, and ticketed events. The USU does this to keep their costs low and their profits high. The USYD Queer Action Collective is launching the campaign to demand queer safety and that liberatory organising comes first before management profit.

Queer students must have access to the Queerspace 24 hours a day, seven days a week; queer students turn to the Queerspace “after-hours” because there is literally nowhere else safe they can go. Queer students are evicted from and priced out of housing, they face domestic and sexual violence in their own homes, they are fired from their workplaces, and they are turned away from shelter housing for their identities. There are many places on campus that students can access 24/7 - it has always been logistically possible for Manning House to do the same. However, neither the USU nor USYD management cares that when USU security evicts queer students from the Queerspace, they are barring them from the only refuge that queer people have on USYD campus.

USU management has decided that queer lives matter less than the cost of keeping a room unlocked. The Queerspace must be open 24/7 and we will NOT accept any other solution. The Queerspace must NOT be moved, conditional swipe card access must NOT be added, and security must NOT be bolstered.

No manager, cop, or hired security is welcome in the Queerspace. Mardi Gras is a night where queer people celebrate our existence and our political struggle against police and corporatisation. It is especially egregious, then, that Manning Bar management locked the Queerspace on Mardi Gras night for a \$90 ticketed event, threatened and intimidated queer people, invited cops with guns into an event filled with queer people, and ordered private security into our organising space, the Queerspace, to convert it into a security control room. Cops and security use their monopoly on violence to strip search queer people and force us to show identification. We should not be forced to show any identification to access the Queerspace, and neither police nor security should be allowed to threaten us on campus.

When the USU's profit margin is threatened, their only response is violence and collaboration with armed police. We should not be removed from our organising spaces when university management wants to corporatise USYD with ticketed events.

The USU and USyd management cannot claim to support queer students while they continue to intimidate us, threaten us with police violence and remove us from the only safe space we have on this campus. Police and private security should not be on campus, and no manager or executive is welcome in our queer organising space. The Queerspace should be, for all hours of the day, a space to organise for queer liberation.

## **Platform**

1. The SRC commits to the following demands:

- 24/7 access to the Queerspace - we are still queer on weekends and holidays!
- Unrestricted access to the Queerspace during events - queer safety over profit
- Cops and private security off campus - no right for management to force us to show ID or leave
- Queer or not, no building management and no university executives in our Queerspace!
- No compromises - don't move the Queerspace, no swipe card requirement

2. The SRC notes that the Queerspace is an activist organising space on campus, and that it should be defended like any other activist space.

## **Action**

1. The USYD SRC will sign onto the USYD Queer Action Collective's petition for a 24/7 Queerspace.

2. The SRC will publish this motion and the Queerspace petition from its social media accounts, on its website, in Honi Soit and circulate it through any relevant means.

3. The SRC and its members shall adhere to the demands in item 1 of this motion's platform in all conduct with the USU.

4. Any members of the Students' Representative Council who receive or send communication to the USU regarding autonomous spaces (unless it is related only to non-queer autonomous spaces), queer issues, or police and private security, must forward it and all responses to the Queer Officers.

Discussion:

Jo Stass spoke to the motion, noting the importance of the queer space for queer students at the University and condemning the University for continuously kicking queer students out of the queer space. Jo calls for unlimited access to the queer space.

Jamie Bridge spoke to the motion, relaying some testimonies from members of the Queer collective about the queer space and its importance to the queer community on campus.

Tim Duff spoke to the motion, noting that the queer space is an important activist space for QUAC. Movement building happens in spaces like these.

Esther spoke to the motion, noting the links to the student housing crisis and queer issues; the queer space is an option for queer students in housing crisis.

Eliza Crossley spoke to the motion, defending the accessibility of queer spaces and that these spaces should not have limits placed on them by University management.

Jamie Bridge delivered a right of reply, commending the motion to Council since the queer space are a means of campaigning for queer rights on campus and across society. Jamie criticises the USU and those on Board for allowing this to happen.

Moved: Jo Staas

Seconded: Jamie Bridge

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting resumed the order of the agenda.*

Procedural motion: that Council consider all reports and minutes (items L to O) *en bloc*.

Moved: Harrison Brennan.

Seconded: Jasmine Donnelly.

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

Annabel Pettit called on Harrison Brennan to speak to the motion, and explain how he will help organise for the student strike.

Harrison Brennan spoke to the motion, commending the last student strike and explaining his intention to lecture-bash, assist in flyering, attend the organising meeting, create Instagram reels, and do a banner-drop.

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

### **L1. Executive Minutes**

Minutes of the Executive meetings from the 6<sup>th</sup> of February to the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2024 were circulated.

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

Report of the executive from the 7<sup>th</sup> of February to the 27<sup>th</sup> of March 2024.

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

Harrison Brennan tabled a written report:

## March Meeting's Report:

During February I spoke at a myriad of welcome events organized by the different faculties, spruiking the SRC's casework and legal service but put significant emphasis on the student-led activism of the union. I spoke with students extensively during welcome week festivities, handing out our show bags containing Counter Course and promoting the collectives and their ongoing campaigns. Whilst at the main stall and at the varying welcome events I was primarily flyering for the Palestine student strike which engaged a large mass of students. Over February I was also working with SUPRA on the Fair Fares Now campaign, where we achieved, as of last week, the 20,000 signatures required to have the proposal heard in parliament. This had significant engagement from domestic and international students alike. I thank all who contributed to collecting signatures for the petition.

My central focus has been on Palestine organizing of various kinds. Last Tuesday and Wednesday I spent flyering with office bearers on Cadigal Green and Eastern Avenue for the Palestine NDA. Weekly stalling with the SRC banner is something I intend to make a ritual for office bearers throughout the year. If you are an office bearer or councillor and keen to flyer, let me know. The other week I attended the Families for Palestine picket outside of Albanese's office after hearing that the police were threatening to issue a move-on order. Thanks to the timely response of many activists and supporters in the community, the order was not issued and deterred by both negotiations with lawyers and the over 50 people that turned up to the sit-in. For those interested in supporting this community-led initiative that is going on its fourth week, please follow @familiesforpalestine on Instagram as they do frequent callouts asking for supplies and/or people to man the picket. Last week I attended and spoke at the Student Strike for Palestine. We saw an amazing turnout both at the rally on campus and the gathering at Town Hall. The key message in every speech was crystal clear - that we cannot stop mobilising until the genocide ends, until apartheid is overthrown, and occupation is crushed. I have been and am continuing to build for the slew of events for 2024's Israeli Apartheid Week, which has been extended to the whole month in recognition of ongoing occupation and the genocide facing the Palestinians in Gaza. I have shared information to the SRC socials and have put in a printing request for stacks of flyers that activists here can hand out throughout the month.

On Sunday the 25th of February the Australian Government released their Australian Universities Accords report, a 400 page document outlining a slew of recommendations for how to "drive lasting and transformative reform in Australia's higher education system". The Australian Government invested \$2.7 over 2 years in this 12-month review of Australia's Higher Education system and delivered a report that failed to meet the needs of students across the country. Whilst some of the accord's recommendations are promising - adjustments to HECS indexation, paid placements, creation of a student ombudsman - much of the recommendations fail to offer any fix to the structural issues that plague our universities. There is no recommendation of direct funding for universities, not even to 1% of GDP. There is no recommendation to regulate universities and



change their for-profit model, nor prohibitions on partnerships with weapons manufacturers and climate criminals - like Thales and Santos. Nor are there any concrete recommendations on fixing the welfare system in Australia to ensure students aren't experiencing poverty whilst undertaking their studies. And, ultimately, there is no recommendation for fee-free education in Australia, that which would widen access to university for many prospective students, remove the debt financially crippling current students, and fix the profiteering model of our universities which treat international students as cash cows, and suck domestic students dry after they graduate. I will be releasing a response to the accord's result in the coming weeks.

A reminder that if you have events you would like the SRC to promote make sure to message me with the event and its details by Sunday every week, so that I can share it Monday morning in the "What's On This Week" post.

### **April Meeting Report:**

Much of my March has been spent on SSAF Acquittal, verifying the expenditure of the previous 95<sup>th</sup> SRC. It a ridiculously arbitrary project that is a by-product of VSU and can be used as a justification to revoke or cut SSAF funding from the SRC. Hence, it has consumed a lot of my time as we push to gain more funding, not less.

The other week USyd held their study abroad festival along Eastern Avenue. I and many others caught wind that Tel Aviv university, an institution complicit in supporting Israeli occupation, apartheid and the ongoing genocide, was invited. Many of us staged a peaceful sit-in at the Law Building and won our demands to have Tel Aviv university leave campus. We were then joined by members of the NTEU in a speak-out and a march down to F23. The University in public statements to the media has said that they are investigating the incident, and I think we should all be aware and responsive of management pursuing punitive punishments for those who attended.

The other weekend I attended the Port Botany Zim shipping protest, where trade unionists, student activists and community members stood side by side blocking the port and interfering with the commercial activities of an Israeli corporation who has offered its vessels, ships and other infrastructure to serve the "*national needs of Israel*". Non-violent direct action is one of the most effective tools in our arsenal as activists. The Zim protests, not only BDS in practice, are an effective and tangible way to contribute, in what little way we can, to interrupting the flow of trade and commerce that props up the settler-colony of Israel. It was disappointing to not see more of the SRC in attendance.

Our caseworkers have continued to be burdened by academic misconduct cases, which in a recent report from SAU, it was revealed that in 2023 there over 1000 allegations of academic misconduct referred from different faculties, and 40% were unsubstantiated. Our caseworkers have seen the absolute human cost of the process, where students have been unable to graduate, to enter graduate jobs, or enter their postgraduate degree because on misconduct cases that are taking anywhere between 6-12 months to investigate and complete. Not to mention that the university has outsourced investigation to a law firm.

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

Jasmine Donnelly and Deaglan Godwin tabled a written report:

### **March Meeting's Report:**

The beginning of the academic year offered us the opportunity to speak of hundreds of students at Welcome Week. Students really demonstrated a keenness to truly throw themselves into campus life, with lots of excitement around the SRC's collectives and their associated activist work. Students were particularly keen to mobilise around last week's School Strike for Palestine, intrigued by the prospect of joining a mass student movement. Following on from this, in a great way to begin the semester, we attended Thursday's national student strike for Palestine. Hundreds of students walked off at USYD for the biggest pro-Palestine protest at USYD ever! We were greeted by a huge contingent at UTS and then even more from UNSW and high schools at Town Hall. The school strike was an excellent display of students' unwillingness to stay silent in the face of injustice and students' awareness of the atrocities in Palestine.

The buzz around the strike should reaffirm the centrality of Palestine activism to the SRC. We need to build a strong student movement that stands up to our own government's complicity in this unfolding genocide. We encourage all councillors to get more actively involved through leafleting, postering and attending Students for Palestine meetings. The key event in the upcoming few weeks will be the protest outside the Labor Party Offices on March 15. Next week will be Israeli Apartheid Week, and there are a suite of events being held by Students for Palestine and ACAR. Message the Students for Palestine page if you want to get involved in a more ongoing way with pro-Palestine activism.

It is also very pleasing that the campaign for concession fares for all students has been successful in its goal to reach 20,000 signatures in the parliamentary petition. Should this petition be successful, it would represent a significant win for students, however we must not lose sight of the fact that this is the bare minimum for students during the ongoing cost of living crisis. We must continue to demand free public transport for all, not just all students, whilst acknowledging how we can deliver immediate relief through campaigns such as these.

The cost of living crisis continues to impact students, as was reaffirmed to us by students at Welcome Week, and as the SRC we can offer tangible relief to students in the form of contributing to FoodHub. FoodHub volunteers will be finalised imminently, so please email the VPs ([vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au](mailto:vice.president@src.usyd.edu.au)) if you would like to contribute to volunteering for FoodHub!

### **April Council Report**

Happenings:

We condemn Israel's ongoing genocide of Palestinians, and most recently the systematic targeting of healthcare and aid workers. With this, we must also condemn the Australian Labor government's egregious refusal to sanction Israel or address the Palestinian genocide in any practical terms, leaning on meaningless rhetoric that enabled these deaths. This demonstrates that the Labor Party can't be convinced through moral arguments- they can only be fought.

Students for Palestine Sydney Uni organised a successful speak out for Palestine Wednesday March 20– planted an olive tree outside New Law to demonstrate students’ solidarity with Palestine.

The National Union of Students launched ‘Change the Age’ to campaign for the age of independence to be lowered from 22 to 18– more info can be found at the National Union of Students instagram.

Chris Minns has shamefully rushed bail reforms through Parliament that can only be described as draconian. Jasmine has been campaigning with NSW Left to push these laws to be repealed. There is a mass meeting on Thursday 4th April 6pm in Redfern to discuss the campaign further. Deaglan attended the annual Marxism Conference in Melbourne, which this year was the largest on record. He spoke on dual power and the institutions of working class democracy, and attended talks featuring socialists from countries such as Egypt and Argentina, Palestinian refugees from Gaza, and activists from across Australia.

#### Upcoming Events

- Repeal the Bail Laws meeting– Thurs 6pm Redfern Centre
- Vigil for Palestine for Palestine held by Palestine Action Group Sydney– Thurs 4th April (Haldon St Lakemba 8pm)
- 6 months of genocide: End it now held by Palestine Action Group– Sun 7th April (Hyde Park Sydney 1:30)
- Honi Soit Event– Fri 5th April (Public House Petersham 2pm)
- Student Strike for Palestine- 1pm Thurs May 2

Signing off,  
Jasmine and Deaglan

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

Daniel O'Shea and Rose Donnelly tabled a written report:

#### **March Meeting’s Report:**

What turbulent times this last month has been. The General Secretariat has undergone some minor restructuring since our last report but I can assure you that the Council remains in tip-top administrative shape. In terms of the actual work that’s occurred over this last month, much has transpired! Firstly, I’d like to sincerely thank everyone who helped us out over the course of the Welcome Period. There were a few too many late nights in the mold dungeon, and there would have been many more were it not for the generously donated time of our volunteers. We managed to give away nearly all the showbags at Welcome Week, with a few left over that will be distributed via SRC stalls that Harrison and the Secretaries have begun to run.

On Tuesday morning, Office Bearers and Collective Convenors received an email asking them to outline a proposed budget for 2024. Due in two weeks’ time, these budget proposals are the same in function as those used by the 95th GenSec’s last year, and will allow us to allocate budgets that are commensurate to the needs of OB’s. While we will be largely working off of last year’s figures,

we ask all OB's to fill out these proposals so that adequate funding is provided in instances where OB's plan to run multiple expensive events or campaigns throughout the year.

Budget, however, is due a little bit later down the line. For the time being all our attention is directed to the 2023 SSAF acquittal and getting that out of the way. Past/present OB's should keep an eye on their messenger for the next couple weeks as we make enquiries about how collective funds were spent over the last year so we can demonstrate to the University that our allocation was used appropriately.

Things will be back to normal here by the end of this council, and I anticipate that the next report will have a lot more going on than just monotonous administrative tasks. But, for this month, only one GenSec will be signing off for the first time in recent memory. What a time to be alive.

In sickness and in health,  
Daniel O'Shea.

## **O. Report of Committees and Officers**

### **O1. Report of the Education Officers**

Grace Street and Shovan Bhattarai tabled a written report.

#### **April Meeting Report:**

This past month has seen a great continuation of students standing in solidarity with Palestine as Israel intensifies its attack on Gaza. It has been almost six months now, with over 32 000 Palestinians killed, and most recently the 14-day siege on Gaza's largest hospital, Al-Shifa hospital, has led to a current count of over 300 people murdered. In these six months, we have seen a pitiful response from our government and universities. The Labor government remains good friends with the United States and Israel, and the University of Sydney has maintained its partnerships and exchange programs with Israeli universities deeply tied to the genocide unfolding.

This year, the whole month of March was dedicated to Israeli Apartheid Week. Across forums, teach-ins, film screenings, and rallies on campus, students were brought into learning about and organising for Palestine.

On March 19, students disrupted Tel Aviv University's stall at the Sydney Abroad Fair, where we stayed in the room, gave speeches, and chanted until the representatives left. The NTEU joined Students Against War for a speak-out afterwards, protesting this partnership with Tel Aviv University. Tel Aviv Uni is not a normal university, for it collaborates with Elbit Systems and the Israeli Air Force, offered a year of free tuition to students who fought in the 2014 war on Gaza, and established the Institute for National Security Studies, which is primarily made up of former senior IDF and other state security officers.

The following day, Students for Palestine held a great speak-out on campus and planted an olive tree in solidarity with Palestinians and in recognition of their strength and the right to return

to their land. The tree serves as a permanent symbol and reminder of our resistance to our University's complicity in this genocide.

Last week, students met for a rally at F23 to present Mark Scott and USyd management with Students Against War's open letter with the signatures of over 750 people condemning USyd's ties with Israel. We marched to UTS to join the NTEU protesting the University's Defence Innovation Network. This was an important show of opposition to Australian universities collaborating with Israel and its 'defence', with solidarity amongst students and staff of different universities and campuses.

These were important wins and actions but the struggle will continue until our university finally cuts ties with apartheid and militarism, and until Palestine is free. Our education must not be funding genocide, and military and weapons partnerships should not be funding our research and studies. We will keep mobilising, showing up, and speaking out for Palestinians and for oppressed peoples all over the world.

## **O2. Report of the Wom\*n's Officers**

Eliza Crossley and Rand Khatib tabled a written report.

### **March Meeting's Report:**

Women's liberation must include the liberation of Palestine, as it must include the liberation of all colonised, oppressed peoples. Women's liberation without liberation from colonisation is colonial feminism- so-called "equality", reserved only for the white and wealthy. As the WoCo, we know our duty in this space is to bring forward decolonisation as an important lens to our feminism.

WoCo helped flyer, build for and attended the NDA for Palestine on the 29th of February. We were also involved in Israeli Apartheid Week, with a WoCo panellist on the Intersectionality with Palestine forum. The forum highlighted the intersections between the Palestinian struggle for liberation and: women's rights, queer liberation, environmental justice, Blackfulla justice, and Jewish liberation from Zionism. We hope to continue this work throughout the semester, building a strong left in support of a broad pro-Palestine movement.

WoCo also co-hosted the Abolish the Colleges forum and have been flyering for the Abolish the Colleges campaign out on Eastern Avenue. The colleges are sexist, elitist institutions that perpetuate violence on campus and beyond. It has been good to talk to students and community members about these archaic institutions, and build the momentum of the campaign.

We are also organising a student contingent to the International Working Women's Day rally and are in the process of building the Day of the Unborn Child counter protest. Abortion is healthcare, and while decriminalised abortion still remains inaccessible and stigmatised in NSW. Furthermore, in light of CLM's recent mobilisation it is important that we have a strong left to protest these attacks on women, trans and queer people.

On a fun note, Women's Honi is going to be in Week 8 and we have sent out our expressions of interest to be part of the editorial collective. Sign up, it's going to be a blast!

Come along:

- SASH OB film screening, *The Silences of the Palace* - Thursday 7th of March at 6pm Wallace Theatre (not autonomous)
- Student contingent to International Working Women's Day Rally - Saturday 9th of March 11am (not autonomous)
- WoCo meeting Wednesday in Manning - Friday 8th of March 1pm Women's Room (autonomous)
- Day of the Unborn Child COUNTER PROTEST - March 25th (not autonomous)

In love and rage,  
Eliza & Rand

#### **April Meeting report:**

In March WoCo attended the International Women's Day rally and march at Town Hall. We attended the rally under our banner, *Feminist liberation not liberal feminism*. To our disgust, the rally goers chose liberal colonial feminism. Attendees held signs that focused on slogans like "Who runs the world? Girls!" and on individual women in power, particularly former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and former Prime Minister Julia Gillard. In choosing to focus on how these women were some of the first in their roles rather than their actual commitment to feminist liberation, attendees echoed the neoliberal focus of 'breaking the glass ceiling' that Unions NSW brought to the rally.

While women are being killed indiscriminately in Gaza and forced to undergo menstruation and Caesarean births without care products or anaesthesia, it was unacceptable for attendees to boycott chants for Palestine - instead saying "we're here for women," as if Arab women are not women deserving of Western solidarity.

WoCo has continued in fighting for Palestinian justice, with one of the women's officers chairing the recent Land Day rally and speaking at the Tel Aviv sit-in and ZIM blockade.

Upcoming on the 14th of April we will hold our Day of the Unborn Child Counter Protest. The Day of the Unborn Child is a yearly Catholic tradition created by Pope John Paul II to celebrate robbing people of their bodily autonomy and furthering the pro-life movement. In their Facebook event, Life and Family Institute encouraged attendees to show that "every human life is worth protecting. That every human life is sacred. That abortion is evil!"

Every year we stand up to fight this with a counter-protest in defiance of pro-life rhetoric. It is especially important this year as we've seen increasingly violent and repressive attacks from the Christian far-right against abortion access, trans rights and for the entrenchment of discrimination against the queer community.

We have also started working on Women's Honi and are looking for artists if people want to contribute!

In love and rage,  
Eliza & Rand

### **O3. Report of the First Nations' Officers**

*The First Nations' Officers withdrew the March report.*

### **O4. Report of the Global Solidarity Officers**

#### **March Meeting's Report:**

Last Thursday Feb 29 was the National Student Strike for Palestine. It was a massive success! Around the country, students left their classes and rallied in major cities in support of Palestine. There were rallies in Sydney, Melbourne, Wollongong, Canberra, Hobart, Brisbane, Perth, and Adelaide. All of them had really great turnouts - around 500 in Sydney, up to 1000 in Melbourne.

The strike showed that there are big numbers of students who are still following the horrors that are unfolding in Palestine and feel the need to do something about it.

It also took making arguments to people on campus in the lead up to the strike that they should be there - that their week two classes aren't more important than standing up for Palestine, that it's really important lots of students come out to strike for Palestine. That's why we threw ourselves into single-mindedly building the strike, and why it was important that a large number of left-wing activists on campus did the same.

The success of the student strike in mobilising big numbers of students around the country vindicates the argument that the whole of the left in the SRC should throw itself into the Palestine campaign. Going forward, the SRC should be whole-heartedly building an activist Palestine campaign. The next key cross-campus protest will be outside the Labor Offices on 15th March.

There's no shortage of horrors to keep fighting around - the starvation in Northern Gaza, the flour massacres, the bombing of tents in Rafah. Students are seeing these atrocities, and they want to do something about it. The SRC should give a lead to that activist sentiment and turn it into a powerful, energetic campaign.

Tamsyn and Gabe.

#### **April Meeting Report:**

As the genocide in Gaza only gets worse, our SRC has to keep building Palestine activism wherever we can. Two weeks ago, we planted an olive tree on campus at the speak-out for Gaza. The speakout made a scene on campus, brought out a bunch of students, and the olive tree stands as a symbol of solidarity for Palestine on a university campus that otherwise supports Israel.

The genocide is getting worse thanks to the billions of dollars of military funding given to Israel by

the US, and thanks to the hundreds of millions being given to Elbit Systems by our Labor government.

The UN security council motion calling for a ceasefire won't do anything to stop the genocide so long as these countries keeps funding it. A UN motion won't do anything to stop Netanyahu who has previously said he "won't listen to the Hague."

We're going to keep fighting for a free Palestine on and off campus, and we think all left-wing officebearers and councillors should put a substantial amount of time and resources into doing the same.

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

### **March Meeting's Report:**

This month, our efforts have been injected into building the Palestine National Day of Action (on 29 February 2024). We used Welcome Week (not just on main campus, but also at the Conservatorium) and the USyd Enviro stall to promote solidarity with Palestine and encourage students to come along to the Palestine School Strike. Beyond Welcome Week, we have postered, flyered Redfern run and flyered Eastern Avenue.

The NDA was a huge success with hundreds of students coming along from university and school campuses. We marched from USyd campus to UTS where we picked up their contingent before congregating in Town Hall. We also marched to the Labor Party's office, to show our anger at their government's decision to support and endorse Israel's genocide of Palestine.

We will continue to prioritise Palestine activism on and off campus. We are helping to organise Israeli Apartheid Week (this week), which will continue to demonstrate student's solidarity with Palestine. Next Friday there is another rally to support Palestine outside of Labor's office and we encourage all students to attend.

Israel's genocide of Palestine is only getting more worse by the day. Most recently, more than a hundred Palestinians were killed when Israel opened fire on aid trucks. To also see the media characterise this as "chaotic scenes", rather than what it was - a brutal massacre as part of Israel's genocide - further epitomises that society's major institutions are stacked against Palestine. We echo demands for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, a free Palestine, an end to the genocide and an end to the occupation.

The Enviro Office remains committed to this struggle and will continue to build solidarity with Palestine.

### **April Meeting Report:**

Since the start of the year, the focus of the Environment Office has been on Palestine. Israel's genocide of Palestine is getting worse and worse each day. Yet, the Labor party has continued to demonstrate its apathy toward the people of Palestine and indeed where they stand: firmly with



Israel and firmly on the side of the oppressors.

We condemn the 19 arrests of pro-Palestine activists at the ZIM Action, last month. Time and time again, the police demonstrate their allegiances with the far right, the bosses and all that is unjust. It is shameful that Chris Minns characterised police presence as necessary and not “heavy-handed”. Indeed, the draconian anti-protest laws - supported by Labor - are part and parcel of this repression of left-wing activists.

We note the complicity of not only the Labor government but also our universities in the genocide of Palestine. As such, we have helped to organise and mobilise for on campus actions for Palestine. On March 20 we attended and Jordan Anderson spoke at a campus speak-out. This rally also planted an olive tree to commemorate the 31,000 Palestinians murdered by Israel since October last year.

In addition to this, we were involved in a sit- in and speak- out in front of a stall for Tel Aviv University, demanding USyd immediately cut all ties with Israel. Including cutting their weapons partnership with Thales- a weapons manufacturing company, which is abhorrent in of itself. Thales has collaborated with Elbit, an Israeli weapons company that uses its weapons on Palestine.

We are also continuing to show up to the Palestine Action Group rallies at Hyde Park North, every Sunday at 1:30pm. We encourage everyone to do so, too. Palestine continues to be a priority as the death count mounts and as the “ceasefire” motion is devoid of any real content, ending in a week.

As well as organising activism for Palestine this weekend Maddie Clark and Tom Williams attended the Marxism Conference where Palestine was a big topic of discussion. It was a successful left wing event with over 1000 coming along. The various threats of capitalism were discussed as well as strategies for how we can push back and win gains for students, workers and the oppressed.

We also want to be aware and condemn other legislation that the Labor Party has made its priority this past month. Like the new immigration bill which will make it even harder for refugees to find asylum in Australia. It gives the government more powers to deport refugees, even if their lives are in danger if they are deported back to their home country. This bill has been rightfully characterised as an attempt to “Out-Dutton, Peter Dutton”, however the Labor Party has instigated this with no pressure from other parties.

Labor has also reaffirmed its commitment to AUKUS. This is an expensive and dangerous deal that will be paid for by ordinary Australians. It makes the likelihood of war more not less possible and the environmental and health costs associated with the disposal of radioactive waste as part of the deal are of grave concern.

## **O6. Report of the Ethno-Cultural Officers**

### **March Meeting’s Report:**

Welcome week was a great success; we spent the week engaging students on the issue of Palestine by promoting the National Day of Action. Our outreach translated to a productive ACAR meeting for planning out the year and a successful film screening of the film 'Gaza'.

Beyond welcome week, ACAR promoted, leafleted and postered for the National Day of Action for Palestine throughout last month. This demonstration was highly successful as 100s of students came out to protest to show that they would not remain complicit in Israel's genocide of Gaza and to demand the Labor government to stop its support of Israel.

ACAR has been very busy with planning for Israeli Apartheid Week. This is a BDS-led initiative, mobilising grassroots support on a global level for supporting the Palestinian liberation struggle. We have events planned for the month of March, panel discussion, online teach-ins, contingent to the Palestinian Film Festival and to the Sunday rally and more, plus plenty of merch to give out.

We also plan to start a recurring reading group on Palestine with the first reading to be *Nation and Class: Generations of Palestinian Liberation* by Raja Khalidi. Furthermore, this month we will start getting our team together for ACAR's publications next semester.

At a time when the death toll in Gaza has reached over 30,000 and when Israel has just committed one of the most depraved war crimes of the campaign yet - through the massacre of 100s of Palestinian civilians trying to collect food aid - we must keep the pressure up.

### **April Meeting Report:**

ACAR has been busy at work throughout March, working tirelessly to execute a successful Israeli Apartheid Week campaign, in collaboration with BDS Youth. With the ongoing genocide, invasion and destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital and the threat of a Rafah offensive, this Israeli Apartheid Week held more significance than ever. Thus, we found it fitting to hold events across the month of Gaza. Here's a recap:

#### **Film Screening of *'Roadmap to Apartheid'***

The documentary discusses the similarities between apartheid South Africa and apartheid Israel, how Israel implements practices from apartheid South Africa and also touches on Israel's complicity in apartheid South Africa. It was an amazing documentary and is available on YouTube!

#### **Intersectionality with Palestine Panel**

Speakers included: Ethan Lyons (Wiradjuri activist), Jenny Leong (MP for Newtown, feminist), Fahima (Australian Religious Response to Climate Change), Sophie Cotton (member of the NTEU), Dana Kafina (Palestinian & Environmental activist)

#### **Prisoners or Hostages? An Online Teach-in with Addameer on Palestine's Political 'Prisoners'**

Addameer Prisoner's Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental civil institution working towards Palestinian political prisoners in Israeli and Palestinian prisons.

This teach-in with Tala Nasir (Human Rights Lawyer at Addameer) sought to raise awareness of Palestinian prisoners' rights. Since October 7;

- There have been 7700 arrests, some of whom were lawyers, journalists & politicians.
- IOF has opened two military camps, estimates of thousands of Gazan detainees, many arrested without charges under new combatant laws
- **Prisoners are given two low-quality, low-quantity meals a day, and a limited amount of dirty water, leading to an average loss of 15-20kg**
- More restrictions on being taken to hospitals/medical centres, increased raids into cells
- According to Israeli media (i.e. not accurate figures); 27 detainees have died in these camps so far
- Prisoners have faced an escalation of torture

April 17th is Palestinian Prisoner's Day, this year marks the 50th Palestinian Prisoner's Day. The day marks the release of Mahmoud Bakr Hijazi, in the first prisoner exchange between Palestinians and Israel in 1971.

### **Teach-in/Online Political Tour of Jerusalem with Grassroots Al-Quds**

This Tour provided the story of the city from a Palestinian perspective and described the political reality in Jerusalem under the Israeli occupation, especially after October 7th. The tour covered the different Israeli policies designed to displace Palestinians from Jerusalem and discussed the worsening situation in Jerusalem during Ramadan and the genocide in Gaza.

### **07. Report of the Welfare officers**

#### **March Meeting's Report:**

This month welfare officers Jasmine and Julius have been focussing on building the national student strike for Palestine that took place on Feb 29th. The strike was a great success in mobilising hundreds of students to march and skip school or university for Palestine and protest outside the Labor Party offices, which shows that the issue of Palestine solidarity will continue to be the most political, mobilising issue for young people.. The student strike vindicated the argument made by Socialist Alternative that Palestine solidarity activism should be the sole focus of the SRC going into semester one as it is evidently the most mobilising issue in building student protests.

This was noticeable even during the weeks leading up to the student strike, as we would meet random students on stalls or during lecture announcements who took leaflets to help us stop people or make announcements in their own classes. We were also able to meet students who wanted to help us paint banners for the march and were able to have a successful banner drop on campus to promote the strike.

Because of this our focus over the next month will be building the next student protest outside the ALP offices on March 15. The Labor party have been complicit in the genocide in Palestine, cutting aid to UNRWA and handing the Israeli weapons company Elbit systems \$917 billion to produce more weapons to massacre Palestinians with. With over two weeks to build the rally, this protest has the potential to be bigger than the last and make a bit of a splash in society, so

building this rally should be the focus of left wing councillors and office bearers over the next couple of weeks.

Julius and Jasmine

### **April Meeting Report:**

In march welfare officers Jasmine and Julius continued to focus on building the Palestine solidarity campaign. The death toll in Gaza has now risen to 32,000 as the IDF continues to bomb and starve Rafah. To protest our university's ties to Israel in the face of this genocide we helped build a student protest on campus called by Students for Palestine. At it, we planted an olive tree to show our solidarity with the Palestinians and defy our university. To build this rally did some stalls to find students not only interested in coming but also in building the rally by leafleting and painting banners and so on. Students have not stopped paying attention to the genocide in Palestine and are eager to protest.

We have continued to protest the government and ALP's role in all of this also, despite the government's attempts to appear frustrated with their ally and making a show of RE-instating UNRWA funding. The src should have no illusions in the ALP.

We also attended the Marxism conference in Melbourne, where we were able to hear from speakers such as Moshé Machover, Haidar Eid and Vashti Fox. As part of building solidarity with Palestine, it is important to learn about the history and politics of Palestinian oppression. The Marxism conference is the only place to hear from socialist legends like these and was well worth attending to discuss their ideas. And the Marxism conference is not purely an academic event, but an activist one where we were able to discuss Palestine solidarity with other activists from across cities in Australia which is also an important part of the conference.

### **O8. Report of the Refugee Rights Officers**

#### **March Meeting's Report:**

The SRC Refugee Rights office has been continuing to work on a variety of projects over the past month.

We had a successful Welcome Week, handing out flyers that contained QR code links to a signup sheet and the Refugee Rights Instagram in order to publicise our existence to new students. The sheet will remain open throughout the year for those interested in becoming involved in events and campaigns, and through growing the Instagram account we will be able to expose a wider range of students to activism.

We have also been using the Refugee Rights Instagram to promote other campaigns, primarily the Students for Palestine rally that took place on Thursday the 29th of February. We'll continue to

use this platform to boost Palestinian activism to ensure sustained turnout and continued pressure on the Australian government to act on the genocidal actions of Israel in Gaza. The cause of Palestinian liberation is intrinsically linked to the campaign for refugee rights, given that 1.9 million people have been internally displaced within Gaza as a result of Israel's assault. It was amazing to see the strong turnout for this rally, and in particular the large number of high school students who are leading Palestine activism.

Going forward, we will continue to explore ways in which we can connect with community organisations involved with refugee activism, with organisations that we have identified including the Tamil Refugee Council and the Asylum Seekers Centre. We'll also continue to use the Refugee Rights socials as a conduit for publicising other campaigns and posting reminders of actions taken by the SRC and its collectives.

### **April Meeting's Report:**

Last week Labor announced plans to threaten hundreds of refugees with a minimum of one year in prison if they refuse to cooperate with efforts to deport them, under a new bill introduced by Labor. This bill passing would mean refugees who don't cooperate with the government's attempt to deport them could be fined almost \$100,000 and imprisoned.

Labor have made this disgraceful move after the high court ruled it was illegal for the government to indefinitely detain refugees like this in Australia. If people on bridging visas, without visas, or in immigration detention fail to comply with a directions from the Immigration Minister to assist in their own deportation will be a criminal offence carrying a mandatory minimum of 12 months in prison, a maximum of five years, a \$93,900 fine, or both imprisonment and a fine.

The bill also expands the Immigration Minister's powers to revisit former positive asylum findings, should they consider their home country to be safe again - meaning that someone who escaped Chile's Pinochet regime in the 70s and rebuilt a life here could technically be sent back. The bill also proposes to place outright bans on designated "removal concern countries" - which echoes the Trump Travel Ban of 2017. Some of these countries could include - South Sudan, Russia, Iran and Iraq. This is an absolute disgrace and the refugee rights office calls for all refugees seeking asylum here to be granted protection immediately with no threat of deportation.

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

#### **March Meeting's Report:**

On February 29, Students for Palestine organised a national day of action in solidarity with the Palestinians. This involved students and highschoolers from all across Sydney, and similar protests were held in Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, and more. We marched from USyd to the Labour offices near town hall to display our public opposition to the Labour party's complicity in Israel's genocide.

It is clear that young people are more left wing than the ALP, and it will be these people that drive the movement for Palestinian justice forward.

Over the past 4 months, students have been more open to engaging in political organising - helping us to paint protest banners, hand out leaflets, and promote rallies through campus posterings.

It is clear that Palestine is the key mobilising issue for left wing people right now, therefore the orientation of the SRC should be involving those people in activism more broadly.

### **April Meeting Report:**

This month we have again prioritised building protests on and off campus against Israel's genocide in Gaza. Arguing to students that they must take a stand against the appalling complicity of our government in this genocide is the responsibility of every left wing office bearer and councillor.

The appalling disregard of the ALP government for the thousands murdered by Israel, exemplified by its decision to impose no consequences for Israeli war crimes, should surprise nobody. Just this month, the ALP tried to pass anti-refugee legislation so racist it makes Donald Trump's Muslim travel ban look benign.

As well, Labor have just signed contract with Elbit systems - one of the biggest weapons companies in Israel - totalling \$917 million dollars. In the face of this pro-Genocidal response by our own government, and the refusal of Netanyahu to a ceasefire, or, even less, the allowance of aid into the occupied territories, we must continue to protest.

Alongside the weekly rallies in Town Hall, we organised and took part in a campus speak out against the ongoing attacks on Gaza, on March 20. We planted an olive tree on campus as a symbol of solidarity with the Palestinians, who relied heavily on olive trees as a means of economic and cultural importance, before the total besiege on October 7. Part of Israel's colonial project has seen over 800,000 olive trees uprooted, in an attempt to erase Palestinian cultural identity and connection to land.

In this context, it was a pleasure to attend the annual Marxism conference hosted by socialist alternative. This year set a record for ticket sales, with more than 1500 people attending. A key theme of the conference was how to rebuild radical left-wing politics in Australia. In the face of genocide and barbarism, must be the overriding question we must all grapple with.

### **O10. Report of the Queer Officers**

#### **March Meeting's Report:**

Since our last report in early February we have done the following:

- O-week flyering for QuAC
- Co-hosted, co-chaired and held the O-week snap action to end rape on campus and abolish the colleges, with the USyd Women's Collective

- Built and held QuAC's O-week event (QuACTivism 1001 O-Week drinks event)
- Built, co-hosted and attended the Mardi Gras Street Rally
- Picketed Cumberland Council as they became another council to ban drag storytime
- Marched in the Pride in Protest Mardi Gras Float calling for cops out of pride, a free Palestine, and more.
- Public Housing Forum: Abolish the USyd Colleges, by Feminist Liberation Collective
- Attended snap action: No Cops, No Bigots, which was brutally repressed by police  
Attended "Trans Pride, not Genocide" community speakout
- Attended a community picket of the opening of Qtopia, calling for an end to the genocide in Palestine
- Ongoing attendance of weekly Free Palestine rallies and the school strike for Palestine.
- Upcoming plans:
  - Building Trans Day of Visibility 2024 Rally (and possible student contingent?)
  - Veronica Baxter campaign
  - Reading group and associated plans
  - Day of the Unborn Child

### **April Report:**

Since our last report in early March QuAC has done the following:

- We rallied for justice on March 17th for Veronica Baxter, a Blak trans woman who died in police custody. We demanded the implementation of RCIADIC, the decriminalisation of recreational drugs, the passing of the Equality Bill in full, and the disarming, defunding, and dismantling of police. Thank you to the USYD First Nations Collective and Pride in Protest for co-hosting the rally.
- We endorsed and attended the student contingent to the International Working Women's Day rally on March 9th, with USYD Women's Collective, Feminist Liberation Collective, Sex Worker Action Collective, and Pride in Protest.
- We held an internal workshop on transformative justice for collective members which focused on queerness and consent, with more open workshops and reading groups to come - stay posted!
- We stopped USU management from kicking students out of the Queerspace and Manning House at a ticketed event on March 15th.
- We flyered, postered, and passed endorsements from STUCCO and the Conservatorium Students' Association for Trans Day of Visibility on March 31st. Queer Officer Tim chaired the rally on the day and led the march from Pride Square, Newtown, to Sydney Park. Trans visibility means making our political demands loud and clear, and our struggle towards liberation is one that ends state and corporate erasure of queer radicalism.
- We showed up as part of a queer bloc to the Block The Boat action at Port Botany to disrupt ZIM shipping, who are transporting weapons that the Israeli regime murders Palestinian people with in their genocide of Palestine. Nineteen people were arrested, many of whom were part of that queer bloc. Many more were brutalised and abused by Strike Force ODIN, the same riot police who kettled and bashed us on Mardi Gras eve.

- We continued to attend the Palestine Action Group rallies, along with the Students Against War speakout where we marched to cut university ties with Israel.

- 

Upcoming:

- The campaign for a 24/7 Queerspace free of cops, seccies, and managers. Keep your eyes peeled, Big Things Coming Soon ...
- Ongoing campaign to defund, disarm, and dismantle the police, and to remove NSW Police and private security from USYD campus.
- Pride in Protest's Provocations conference, a FREE left wing queer rights conference where QuAC will (hopefully) be holding sessions.
- Day Of The Unborn Child counter-rally on April 14th at 10am with USYD Women's Collective.

## **O11. Report of the Disabilities Officers**

### **March Meeting's Report:**

Hi everyone!

We had a strong Welcome Week where we met many new members and engaged with new and returning students to showcase what we and SUPRA are doing, including our first meeting of the year last week.

#### **Activism**

We have been participating over the past weeks in the weekend protests in solidarity with Palestine and we highly encourage all members of the SRC to come to events in this week's Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) spotting a highlight on atrocities committed by Israel. Khanh spoke on a panel of activists at the Student Safety Conference in February and we expect the USU to release an Action Plan to address sexual violence and student safety on and outside of campus in the coming weeks.

#### **Launch event for Disabilities Community Room**

We are planning, together with SUPRA and the USU, a launch event for the Disabilities Community Room between Weeks 6 - 9 to officially launch the Room and offer an opportunity for us to celebrate together with learning more about what the Room offers. Later in the year, we have confirmed together with the USU a creative art initiative for the Room where students and members of the community can participate in.

#### **Disabled Honi Editorial callout**

Our autonomous edition of Honi Soit is scheduled for publication towards the tail end of Semester One! If you are a student with disability or a student carer, whether you are undergraduate or postgraduate, you are invited to apply to become an editor! Editing is an incredibly enriching and fulfilling experience.

#### **USU DIAP and SRC**

We are working together with the USU to consult, over time, to contribute towards a strong Disabilities Inclusion Action Plan for the USU. This has been a two-year process so far and we look



forward to working with the Union Board to ensure that its activities and policies, for both students and staff, are just for disabled people and workers.

### **University infrastructure and Building Standards Review**

We are working with the University DIAP implementation team to consult and have focus groups for Building Standards Review. This is an important opportunity to voice our demands for better accessibility across campus following decades of delays and inaction on making our campus less of a burden to navigate -- particularly for our older buildings and ensuring that venues are genuinely accessible to all students. Many buildings and university architects cite a 10%-15% compliance to the DDA, however, this is inadequate and leave significant loopholes for swathes of campus becoming inaccessible by default.

Given that the University may be modifying the SRC's Wentworth Building in the future, we will campaign for a genuinely accessible SRC office. At status quo, the building's age and layout does not allow for an accessible space for all students, not least those with mobility disabilities.

In solidarity,  
Khanh and Victor

Motion: That Council accept the minutes and reports in items L to O.

Moved: Harrison Brennan

Seconded: Sofija Filopovic

The motion was put and **CARRIED**.

*The meeting closed at 10.26pm*