

Oxford UCU Branch Motion

Passed at Branch Extraordinary General Meeting on 12th August 2025

Disclose and Divest – General Regulatory Council Tribunal Motion

Oxford UCU notes:

Over 60,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel's most recent siege and assault on Gaza, for which [Israel faces trial for genocide at the ICJ](#) and members of the Israeli government have been [indicted by the ICC for crimes against humanity](#). The ICJ advisory opinion of July 2024 [determined](#) that Israel practices apartheid.

The UK is [under obligation](#) to take all necessary measures within its capacity to prevent a genocide taking place in Gaza and to not recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of Israel in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The report [From economy of occupation to economy of genocide](#) by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 documents corporate entities which have profited from Israel's economy of illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide. Similarly, last year, the UN Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council published a statement [States and companies must end arms transfers to Israel immediately or risk responsibility for human rights violations](#).

The collegiate University has holdings of [at least ~£30m in companies complicit in Israeli crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories](#), including ones named in the report and statement. The University has reportedly claimed it cannot divest from these companies because its holdings (via OEF) are passive.

On 7 July 2025, the UN Special Rapporteur said "[the very fact that \[University of Oxford\] stay\[s\] engaged in companies, in a sector ... that is punctuated by international crimes after international crimes enmeshes \[the University\] into liability](#)", that the University "cannot afford such a level of hypocrisy," and described the University explanation for not divesting as "very respectfully, preposterous." The Special Rapporteur asserted that there is a link between the fierceness with which Universities have repressed student-led scrutiny of investments and the embroilment of those institutions in the unlawful occupation of Palestine.

OUEM has not disclosed details of its holdings to either Colleges, members of the University, or in response to Freedom of Information Act requests. Responding to an [FOI request](#) in summer 2024, OUEM claimed it cannot provide details of investments into named companies because OEF is a managed fund and to do so would reveal information about its investment management strategy which would then be replicated by other fund managers.

The Information Commissioner's Office has clear guidelines describing the [obligation](#) of organisations to which the FOI Act applies towards transparency and the strong public interest in ensuring disclosure and accountability for decision making; especially if there is a ['suspicion of wrongdoing'](#).

A General Regulatory Council Tribunal has been granted to appeal the ICO decision to allow OUEM to refuse to disclose details of its holdings in certain named companies.

Oxford UCU believes:

The collegiate University should urgently minimise its complicity in human rights abuses.

Continuing to uphold financial and other ties with Israel and entities that enable or profit from its crimes against humanity exposes the University and its members to civil and criminal liability as victims seek remedy.

As a prestigious, publicly-funded institution it is in the public interest that the investments of the University of Oxford are accessible to scrutiny, not least to ensure those investments do not undermine the UK's obligations in international law.

Oxford UCU resolves:

To provide support to prepare for the GRC tribunal over OUEM refusal to disclose holdings.

To continue to call for full disclosure of collegiate University investments, including OEF.

To call for all collegiate University activities and investments to meet minimum ethical and legal requirements (e.g. [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)) including alignment with the principles contained in [UN Resolution A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1](#) and the exclusion of investments in arms companies.

To continue to encourage individuals to sign the [BDS pledge](#) in lieu of collective action by the University to minimise its complicity in human rights abuses.