

UNI Statement on the War in Israel and Gaza

UNI Global Union has been shocked and appalled by the tragedy unfolding in Israel and Gaza. Our thoughts and solidarity are with all Israeli and Palestinian victims of the violence. We have a strong commitment to a peaceful world free from fear, where peace and democracy is based on the full application of international law. The need for all of us to intensify our efforts to achieve this objective has seldom been greater.

An immediate cessation of hostilities is imperative, and the international community should step in to ensure that all parties uphold fundamental principles of international law and that all civilians are protected.

The brutal attacks and murder of Israeli civilians carried out by Hamas are condemned by all of us, and we demand the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages unharmed.

Neither the killing of Israeli civilians by Hamas nor the bombardment of the people of Gaza by the Israeli Government will do anything to bring about a lasting peace.

A catastrophic situation is now unfolding in Gaza. The population is trapped beneath an unrelenting bombing campaign, the medical services in Gaza are increasingly unable to treat those desperate for help, and the shutting off of electricity, water and food is leading to a widespread humanitarian crisis that could cause the deaths of large numbers of men, women and children. There is an urgent need to open humanitarian corridors into Gaza and provide aid to those in critical need of help.

In UNI Global Union we have a longstanding policy calling for a just and sustainable peace in accordance with UN Security Resolutions and an end to the occupation. The collective failure of the Israelis, Palestinians and the international community to achieve a just resolution to this conflict, that has lasted generations, has meant a continuation of the violence, trauma and killing that has impacted so many on all sides.

All countries must now redouble their efforts towards a comprehensive and lasting peace which promotes equality, democracy, and respect for human and labour rights. We must end the cycles of violence that have devastated communities across the region.

The escalation in antisemitism and islamophobia around the world alarms all of us. But we will not let those that seek to use the crisis to stoke divisions succeed. Our strong opposition to war, violence and all forms of racism must bring us all together in the struggle for peace and justice for all.

Getting humanitarian aid into Gaza, the release of the hostages and an immediate ceasefire are the first steps on a road out of this crisis. A road that leads us away from war and violence and towards a peaceful future.