



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Press Release

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Supports Senator Fatima Payman's Stance on Palestinian Rights

Thursday, 16th May, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) commends Senator Fatima Payman for her courageous declaration where she labelled the ongoing conflict in Gaza as genocidal. This conflict, now entering its 221st day, has already seen over 35,000 Palestinians killed and continues to unfold before our eyes every day. AFIC stands with Senator Payman in her call for the Australian government to impose sanctions on Israel and take decisive actions to support the Palestinian people.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, stated, "Senator Payman's commitment to speaking out during such a critical time, with the strength that no other ALP politician has done so, is courageous. Her willingness to address what the International Court of Justice has termed a 'plausible genocide' reflects the urgent need for moral leadership in politics. We commend her integrity and echo her calls for immediate action."

The Federation is particularly disheartened by the overall reticence of other political leaders and the Australian government's prevarication in unequivocally opposing these atrocities. "The silence and indecisiveness of other leaders in this time of grave injustice is extremely disappointing," said Dr. Jneid. "Moral clarity and courage must lead our actions during these challenging times."

AFIC emphasises the importance of solidarity with the Palestinian people and urges other leaders to follow Senator Payman's principled stance. "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free," AFIC echoes the sentiment expressed by Senator Payman, advocating for a peaceful and fair resolution to the conflict.

AFIC calls on all Australians and global citizens of conscience to lend their voices and support for the Palestinian cause and to demand their governments take concrete steps towards fostering peace and justice in the region.

Authorised by
Dr Rateb Jneid
President of AFIC