



Australian Federation
of Islamic Councils

Australian Federation of Islamic Councils Condemns Israeli Legislation Banning UNRWA

Tuesday, 29th October, 2024

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils (AFIC) vehemently condemns the recently passed Israeli legislation that aims to halt the activities of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in Gaza. This law represents a continuation of Israel's persistent disregard for international norms and human rights, particularly in its ongoing violent conflicts in Palestine and Lebanon.

Dr. Rateb Jneid, President of AFIC, stated, "This legislative attack on UNRWA is yet another demonstration of Israeli exceptionalism and its blatant disregard for the rulings of the International Court of Justice and international humanitarian standards. The ban on UNRWA activities not only exacerbates the dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza but also highlights a systematic campaign to strip Palestinians of their basic human rights and dignity."

Amidst the backdrop of relentless airstrikes and military aggressions in Gaza and Lebanon, the new law severely cripples the essential services and humanitarian aid provided by UNRWA, directly impacting millions of Palestinian refugees. This move by Israel follows a pattern of actions aimed at undermining any effort towards a sustainable and peaceful resolution in the region.

Dr. Jneid further emphasised, "We urge the global community and all member states of the United Nations to take a firm stand against this egregious law and demand its immediate reversal. The international community's failure to hold Israel accountable encourages further violations and destabilises the prospects for peace."

AFIC calls for immediate international intervention to ensure the continuation of UNRWA's humanitarian activities and to protect the rights of Palestinian refugees. Moreover, it is crucial that actions go beyond mere rhetoric; tangible measures, including sanctions and diplomatic pressures, must be implemented to address these recurrent violations.

In the face of these atrocities, it is not enough to condemn, it is imperative to act. We call on all nations committed to justice and human rights to move from condemnation to actionable measures against Israel's continuous defiance of international law.

Authorised by
Dr Rateb Jneid
President of AFIC