

Dear Colleagues.

Thank you for your letter of 15 February.

As President of TU Dublin, I am unequivocal in standing in solidarity with all victims of violence and human rights violations. Like you, I find the daily news from Gaza to be distressing - the loss of life is horrendous and the level of violence experienced by ordinary civilians is shocking. I agree with Tánaiste Micheál Martin's recent statement that international humanitarian law imposes a clear obligation on all parties, to all conflicts, to ensure the protection of civilians.

My guiding principle is my belief that universities should take the lead in providing a neutral setting to bring all members of society into a conversation. This is all the more important as our country becomes increasingly diverse. I, therefore, do not propose to make a public statement at this time.

Nevertheless, I can say that I am unaware of any institutional-level links with Israeli academic institutions or companies.

Finally, let me say that I completely share your rejection and condemnation of any form of racism, including islamophobia and antisemitism. TU Dublin must be a safe space for all. Any individuals within our community who are directly or indirectly affected by this, or another conflict, should be made aware of the supports that are available to all:

**For our students** <https://www.tudublin.ie/for-students/student-services-and-support/student-wellbeing/counselling-service/>

**For our staff** <https://www.tudublin.ie/for-staff/human-resources/employee-assistance-service/>

Yours sincerely,

David.