

**HEY! WE ARE YOUR STUDENTS.  
THESE ARE OUR DEMANDS.**

**LSE**



# 1. DIVEST!

In line with the calls to action in the LSESU Palestine Society's Assets in Apartheid report, divest from any and all companies identified as complicit in crimes against the Palestinian people, arms manufacturing and proliferation, fossil fuel production, and the financing of such activities. In the immediate term, these demands include: 1) an immediate public commitment to divest from any holdings (e.g., through bonds or mutual funds) in firms involved in any of these four egregious activities; 2) releasing all information on the mutual funds managed by Mercer; 3) declaring the full name of all bond issuers in the publication of future LSE investment portfolios; 4) immediately dropping both the Royal Bank of Canada and JPMorgan as investment portfolio managers; and 5) revising the Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) policy to explicitly exclude any investments in arms manufacture and ensure that all LSE investment decisions--whether direct or indirect--are held to the same ethical standard. Further to this point, we demand clear and demonstrable commitments to all of the recommendations of the Assets in Apartheid report, agreed to in writing immediately.

# **2. DISAFFILIATE!**

**Sever academic and cultural ties to institutions and individuals complicit in crimes against the Palestinian people. This includes:**

**1) NO speaking opportunities for representatives of the Israeli state or Zionist extremists (e.g., far-right Israeli ambassador Tzipi Hotovely, who spoke at LSE in 2021); 2) NO careers fairs hosting companies profiting from or engaging with (e.g., by financing) the industries mentioned in the Assets in Apartheid report; 3) NO graduate schemes with companies profiting from the industries mentioned in those divestment demands (e.g., allowing complicit banks to promote career opportunities on LSE Careers); 4) NO research partnerships with companies profiting from the industries mentioned in those divestment demands; and 5) NO admission to the University for any active or reserve IDF members who have participated in genocidal acts or war crimes.**

# **3. DROP THE SILENCE!**

Release an immediate public statement, in collaboration with LSESU Palestine Society, LSESU Islamic Society, and any/all organisations who endorsed the Assets in Apartheid report, expressing unwavering solidarity with Palestinian liberation. The statement should: 1) call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza; 2) condemn the educide in Gaza, restrictions on Palestinian academic life, and barriers to education access within Palestine--this should echo the 4 March 2022 statement on Ukraine; 3) demand that the UK government implement a bilateral arms embargo on any and all military bodies engaged in crimes against the Palestinian people; 4) condemn censorship and policing of pro-Palestinian speech and actions on all university campuses; and 5) revoke and replace the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-semitism, which conflates antisemitism with anti-Zionism, publicly reaffirming the distinction between the two.

# 4. DESIGNATE!

Designate scholarship money and funding for Palestinian students, following the example of universities such as the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Goldsmiths, and the University of Exeter. As every university in Gaza has been bombed, we call on LSE to expand its Scholars at Risk scheme and explicitly extend it to the Palestinian academic community, per the guidance of the Scholars At Risk network. This would echo LSE's response to the invasion of Ukraine, whereupon the school pledged a further £250,000 to the scheme. Additionally, we demand that LSE provide mental health support, resources, and student services explicitly for Palestinian students and those affected by the genocide. Furthermore, we call on the University to proactively provide visa support to Palestinian students and prospective students, including immediate public and practical support for Amena Al-Akshar's residency, an accepted PhD candidate who was denied a student visa by the UK Home Office.

# **5. DEDICATE!**

Dedicate both finances and public support for the rebuilding of destroyed Gazan universities and the Gazan education system, ensuring that this must happen on the Palestinian people's terms and not on those of Western or Israeli institutions. Specifically, create a fund for and dedicate resources to an inter-departmental academic working group to head the calls of Palestinian higher education professionals to this end. This could follow the example of the LSE Ukraine Programme, enabling the freedom and flourishing of Palestinian scholarship and giving a central voice to Palestinian people within academia.

# 6. DISENGAGE!

Disengage from the Prevent framework's evident prejudices for the sake of students' general well-being. In association with the LSE Faith Centre, LSE Student Union (LSESU), University and College Union (UCU), Unite, Unison, and the LSESU Islamic Society, implement cultural awareness and anti-bias sensitivity trainings for every University employee who is trained in the UK Government's "Prevent" scheme, mindful of the fact that it is institutionally racist and Islamophobic--thereby "Preventing Prevent," as various organisations call for. This disengagement would safeguard students by 1) protecting their right to free speech--specifically, speech that conveys solidarity with Palestine--and 2) deterring and condemning harassment or Islamophobia faced by Muslim students within LSE spaces, with particular attention toward gendered Islamophobia. Lastly, reform the Risk Spotters group through greater student voice representation (beyond the Sabbatical Officers) and make its membership, contact details, and dynamic criteria fully transparent, so as to destigmatise events on Palestine.

# 7. DISAVOW!

Demonstrate clear intent to disassociate LSE entirely from Paul Marshall and his financial contributions, by renaming the Marshall Building the "Rafah Building," and abolishing the Marshall Institute. Via an anonymous Twitter account, Paul Marshall was exposed to have liked and shared multiple tweets expressing support for the 'great replacement' conspiracy theory, religio-racial war instigation, extreme xenophobia, and climate denialism. He is also the major 41% shareholder in GBNews, which Ofcom has repeatedly criticised, most damningly for Laurence Fox's "clearly and unambiguously misogynistic" remarks about one female political journalist. There is no place in decent academia for such close alignment with reactionary and hateful political media outlets.

# 8. DENOUNCE!

Publicly denounce former LSE Vice Chancellor and current Columbia University President Minouche Shafik for the repressive and violent tactics that she has employed against her students. In 2021, Shafik collaborated with the police to harass LSE students protesting the appearance of Israeli ambassador Tzipi Hotovely at an LSESU Debate Society event. The University also failed to protect its own students who were subjected to media harassment by publicly stating that protesting students could face disciplinary action. Secondly, issue a formal apology to the LSE community for the “rather be racist than boring” Benny Morris event, with condemnation of the Law School and David Kershaw as its Dean for openly hosting racism and supremacism on campus and thus endangering students’ wellbeing.

# 9. DEMOCRATISE!

After divestment, involve the entire student and staff body within LSE's investment decision-making processes, not just arbitrarily hand-picked non-representative individuals (i.e., the current Student Union nominee), and make them accountable to the student and staff consensus. Initiate a proper democratic assembly so that LSE students and staff 1) remain transparently informed on LSE's institutional functionings and investments and 2) have a channel for direct input into the University's collective pursuits of knowledge cultivation (e.g., Goldsmiths' Gold Paper). Such an assembly should assure that we do not find ourselves in a similar position to the one that we are confronted by today.



# 10. DEFEND!

Announce an amnesty for all students, staff, and faculty involved in peaceful pro-Palestinian activism on LSE's campus, including the ongoing occupation inside the Marshall Building. Guarantee that security staff, cleaners, and café workers will not have their pay, job security, or well-being threatened by Management due to the establishment and continuation of the student occupation and relevant student protest activities. Ensure that security will not be ordered or granted permission to violate the rights of any students to peacefully protest.