

HOW TO: INVOLVE YOUR CAMPUS IN THE NWA!

National Week of Action for Gaza – NUS & BDS Youth

BDS Youth (the youth branch of the Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions Movement) is collaborating with the National Union of Students to coordinate a National Week of Action (NWA) at the end of October with the title ***There Are No Universities Left In Gaza***.

Scholasticide is the systematic and total destruction and devastation of not just life, but knowledge and knowledge systems.

Palestinian students have not only lost an academic year, but their schools, universities, libraries, books, lecture halls, tutorial rooms, graduation ceremonies, have been destroyed, and their teachers and classmates killed. And our universities are complicit in this theft of life, joy and knowledge. As students, we feel deeply moved to support our siblings in Gaza.

Our universities are complicit in scholasticide in Gaza.

But there's hope. Together we can take collective action and implement Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) to bring an end to this oppressive regime in accordance with International Law.

The NUS is joining with BDS Youth to draw on their significant experience in activism and leadership, whilst using the NUS platform and resources to support and promote their work around the country.

How will the NWA work?

The National Week of Action has been centrally-planned, and will be locally-managed, with individuals from each state joining the Central Organising Circle to plan the actions of the week. The demands are in line with the Palestinian civil society call for Boycotts, Divestment & Sanctions. We aim to have one person from each university within the Organising Circle which meets regularly. Our Organising Circle has three working groups: Fundraising, Logistics, and Communications.



We need your support to implement the planning of the Organising Circle on a local level; on your campus.

Objectives

There are three main objectives of the National Week of Action for Gaza:

1. Resist the dehumanisation of Palestinians (particularly Gazan) by sharing their stories, lives, and aspirations; conveying both the total horror and devastation, whilst inspiring and mobilising people into action.
2. Highlight complicity of Australian institutions in the genocide carried out by Israel, as well as the broader settler-colonial project
3. Demand, call-on, and pressure Australian academic institutions to cut ties with complicit institutions and business and engage in an **academic boycott**

WEEK SCHEDULE

For the week Monday 21 October to Friday 25 October there will be 5 events:

1. **Film Screening** - Monday 21 October
 - a. Locally-organised viewing parties of centrally-chosen film
 - b. Film will be Dare To Struggle's *Palestine Under Siege* ([click here](#) to organise a screening and to be sent the film for free)
2. **Building events** - Tuesday 22 October
 - a. Local events in preparation for the national student strike
 - b. Events could include:
 - i. Banner-painting / cardboard sign-painting
 - ii. Postering
 - iii. Leftletting
 - iv. Chalking
3. **National student strike** - Wednesday 23 October
 - a. Centrally-coordinated national strike of students with central demands
 - b. Each state will aim to have at least one strike in the capital city, but if there is significant interest then there may be multiple strikes in many locations
4. **Discussion panels** - Thursday 24 October
 - a. Locally-organised panels by each different university with autonomy to choose the topic and speakers



- b. Suggested topics include:
 - i. Boycott, Divest, Sanctions
 - ii. Encampments
 - iii. Ties with weapons companies (such as books not bombs)
 - iv. Settler-colonialism
 - v. Destruction and desecration of holy sites

5. Closing webinar - Friday 25 October

- a. Centrally-organised, with local viewing parties
- b. Discussion topics:
 - i. Scholasticide in Gaza
 - ii. University & institutional complicity – the importance of divestment
 - iii. The Academic Boycott

ART EXHIBITION

Next semester, there will be a touring art exhibition replicating the We are not Numbers show from Perth/Boorloo. This art exhibition is to tour the country, spending one week in each capital city.

We are not Numbers is an art exhibition that refuses the dehumanisation of those murdered by Israel in Gaza. In a rejection of pure statistics that are devoid of emotion, the exhibition showcases the lives of real people from Gaza and centres their work, their art and their voices.

You can see photos from the exhibition [here](#):

We plan to have this exhibition visit only one campus in each state, so if you want that to be your campus please let us know. You could organise contingents from other campuses to visit the exhibition.

What will the NUS & BDS Youth provide?

Meetings and contacts

- The NUS will manage all meetings, minutes, and zoom links
- The NUS will help oversee connections between states and within each state



- The NUS also has a significant number of contacts in its network of member unions and different officers, which will be available to you
 - If you're have difficulty contacting someone (in a student union, for a panel, etc), you can ask if anyone else may know them and can follow-up or provide better contact information
- The NUS will manage group chats and other communication methods

Financial processing

- The NUS will use its bank account to processing expenses and any fundraised income
- All joint expenses such as renting films, webinar speaker costs, etc. will be paid for through fundraised income
 - Local expenses may be able to be supported through reimbursement if there is spare fundraised income

Marketing resources

- The NUS will provide you with Canva templates for marketing events, to ensure unified demands and communications of the NWA events between all universities
- The NUS can provide information flyers and posters you can distribute, with a link to a central website page so people can see what events are on near them
- The NUS will create joint Facebook events with your student union, for each city's strike

Event resources

- For the film-screening, the NUS will provide access to the chosen film so that you do not need to pay
- The Organising Circle will be organising the speakers for the webinar, so you don't need to worry about that
- Local groups are encouraged to organise their local strikes/rallies, however if required, the NUS can assist in organising the strike, you just need to bring a contingent

What do you need to do?

Join the Central Organising Circle

The Organising Circle is the way that decisions are made to the national actions. It has multiple working groups in fundraising, logistics, and communications. The main aim of the Central Organising Circle is to help coordinate the sharing of resources and information.



Anyone is welcome to join, but the Central Organising Circle is for those planning the national strategies and coordination. If you have skills you can bring in any of the working groups, or in organising overall, please join!

There will also be state-based organising groups, and also possibly city-based organising groups (if there is large enough interest).

If you would like to join the Organising Circle, please fill out [this expression of interest form](#).

We will connect you with other people from your state and university (if you aren't already connected), but if you know anyone who would be keen to join, please include them!

Get your student union to endorse the Week of Action

- It is important to get your student union to endorse the NWA so that you can best use its resources for organising, and to communicate with its members
 - Many student unions have already passed motions in support of Palestine and against the genocide, so you can leverage that and make it an executive rather than council decision to endorse
- Every student union has different procedures, but your best option is to contact the President and/or Ethnocultural Officer and they can lead you in the right direction
 - The NUS President will be briefing each member union's President on the NWA, so they may already have started organising plans
- Consider the different societies at your university and if they would like to be involved (e.g. Palestinian Society or Muslim Student Association)

Join a rally in your city

Each state will have a rally for the national student strike on Wednesday 23 Oct (likely in the capital city). It would be amazing if you can organise a contingent from your university to this rally.

If you would like to have a rally in your own town/city (i.e. if you are not close to the capital city CBD), then you are more than welcome to start organising that with the Organising Circle and liaise with us.



Promotion

It's incredibly important to promote the NWA amongst as many networks you have access to — be it through a student union mailing list, posters on campus noticeboards, flyering at events, social media posts, etc.

You can use each of the Canva templates provided to market your own events, as well as promote the different joint events, like the rallies.

Organise local events

Your university/student union will need to organise:

- Room-bookings for group viewings of the film on the Monday and webinar on the Friday; we recommend a lecture theatre
- Building events on the Tuesday; get materials like paints, calico, cardboard signs
- A contingent to the rally in your city on the Wednesday; put up a Facebook event, invite your friends, bring a megaphone if you have access to one, organise a meeting location and have a couple of marshals
- A discussion panel or similar event on the Thursday; this is up to you to choose one of the suggested topics and invite students and staff to be guest speakers

You are more than welcome to organise additional events at your university, these 5 events are just the standard that the NUS can directly support. These could include:

- A cultural night / social event to help continue conversations
- Campus organising meeting(s) to organise the strike

**GOT ANY OTHER
QUESTIONS?**

GET IN TOUCH!

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