

The student Palestine societies and groups in the UK call for boycotting the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest which will be held from 14 to 18 May 2019 in Tel Aviv, Israel

The student Palestine societies and groups in the UK urge all students, academics and artists to boycott the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest, which will be held from 14 to 18 May 2019 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

We also call for the removal of Israel from the list of host countries of the Eurovision Song Contest and for the boycott of other local Eurovision parties that are expected to happen on these dates.

The Israeli government is using Eurovision to whitewash its ongoing denial of Palestinian rights and continued illegal occupation of Palestinian land.

Israel has, for much of its history, used the cultural capital it gains from events such as Eurovision to distract attention from its war crimes against the Palestinian people.

The hard-right Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called last year's Eurovision winner, Netta Barzilai, Israel's "greatest ambassador".

In the week following Israel's victory in Eurovision last year, while the world's attention was focused on Barzilai, 62 Palestinians in Gaza were killed by Israeli soldiers.

Similarly, this week Israel has launched dozens of murderous airstrikes against the besieged population of Gaza.

More than a century after they were first dispossessed by the British government's Balfour Declaration, the Palestinian people are facing a new Nakba in form of Donald Trump's "Deal of the Century" co-ordinated by the US and the Israeli governments, this plan seeks to destroy the Palestinian people and dismantle their collective rights.

We must stand in unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people as they face this latest assault.

More than 100 artists from Europe and beyond, including Pink Floyd's Roger Waters, electronic music pioneer Brian Eno, and film director Mike Leigh have pledged their support for the call to boycott this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

We understand that the intention of many organisers of the local Eurovision parties in some universities in the UK is genuine and not meant to cause any offence.

However, just as British students led the successful campaign to boycott sporting and cultural events hosted by Apartheid South Africa, we now urge them to respect this call from Palestinian civil society, and to stand with them in their struggle for liberation, self-determination and return.

On behalf of the student Palestine societies and groups in the UK

14/5/2019

The General Union of Palestinian Students in the UK (GUPS-UK)

Oxford Students' Palestine Society
Rhodes Scholars for Palestine, Oxford
Cambridge University Palestine Society
KCL Action Palestine Society
Imperial College Friends of Palestine
Warwick Friends of Palestine Society
St George's University Palestine Society
Sheffield Hallam Palestine Society
University of Sheffield Palestine Society
University of Leeds Palestine Solidarity Group
UCLan Friends of Palestine Society
University of Birmingham Students for Justice in Palestine
University of Sussex Friends of Palestine Society
Westminster Students for Palestine society
Goldsmiths University Palestine Society
University of Leicester Palestine Society
BDS Campaign - University of Manchester
City, University of London Palestinian Society
University of York Palestinian Solidarity Society
UCL Friends of Palestine Society
Northumbria University Friends of Palestine

