

Union Aid Abroad APHEDA

The overseas humanitarian aid agency of the ACTU



Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA Policy on The Middle East

Adopted by the Management Committee December 2002

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA believes:

- Both countries, Israel and Palestine, have the right to live in peace within internationally defined and secure borders. Both peoples, Arabic and Hebrew speaking, have the right to national self-determination. Since 1948 only one of the two nations has been able to exercise this right.
- A political solution to the conflict is imperative, and both peoples should turn away from violence and force as a way of achieving security and independence.
- Israel must renounce state-terrorism against Palestinians, while all Palestinian organisations must renounce suicide bombings and actions against civilians in Israel as a means of ending military occupation and of winning independence and statehood.
- The United Nations Resolutions (including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338) must be respected. Israel must cease its 35 year military occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and return to live within its pre-1967 borders, in exchange for peace.
- International Humanitarian Law (the Geneva Conventions) should be respected by all parties in the conflict, particularly in relation to allowing medical, emergency and relief workers to reach those in need unimpeded.
- The dispossession of Palestinians of their land in order to construct illegal settlements must cease.
- There needs to be a just solution for the Palestinian refugees in accord with international law and United Nations resolutions.

Further, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA endorses the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1402 (30 March 2002) calling for the implementation of an immediate cease-fire.

As a humanitarian aid agency, Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA has a responsibility to provide assistance for development in impoverished and marginalised communities, in particular with refugees. As part of the Australian aid program, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA has been involved for many years in projects with Palestinian refugees.

Contact

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