

WHY AUSTRALIA MUST RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE

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THE FAILURE OF THE PEACE PROCESS

- Direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel, based on the Oslo Accords, have ultimately failed due to:
 - The continuation of Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank
 - Israeli intransigence—a result of the vastly unequal balance of power between Israel and Palestine



ONE-STATE REALITY

- Continued Israeli settlement expansion is bringing about the demise of the two-state solution and imposing a one-state reality
 - This one state will either be:
 - **An apartheid state** (unacceptable to the international community, bringing about sanctions on Israel, and a recipe for long-term struggle) or;
 - **A non-Jewish democratic state** with a majority Palestinian population (unacceptable to Israel)
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INTERNATIONALISATION

- In the current absence of a viable peace process and in order to save the two-state solution, the international community has an obligation to recognise the State of Palestine
- The United Nations General Assembly and 138 countries (including Sweden and the Vatican) have already recognised the State of Palestine
- Additionally, 12 European parliaments have asked their governments to recognise the State of Palestine



WHY AUSTRALIA MUST RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- The **right of self-determination** for the Palestinian people is not open to negotiation with Israel, and entails the right to establish a sovereign, democratic Palestinian state
 - Recognition will help to save the two-state solution by empowering Palestinian negotiators and creating a more equal **balance of power** between Palestine and Israel. This balance will allow for a just and sustainable two-state solution to be achieved through direct negotiations, preventing the one-state reality.
 - Recognition will offer **hope** to the Palestinian people, as it will be received as a symbol that their struggle has not been forgotten by the international community
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WHY AUSTRALIA MUST RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE



- Recognition will contribute to **peace and stability** in the entire Middle East region, reducing terrorism and extremism
- With a just and sustainable two-state solution achieved, the Palestinian cause will no longer be able to be exploited by extremist groups to promote their own agendas

WHY AUSTRALIA MUST RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Recognition will demonstrate Australia's support for **international law** and United Nations resolutions, upholding Australia's standing as a good international citizen and increasing **Australian soft power**
 - Recognition will allow for future excellent **relations between Australia and the Arab and OIC countries** (including Indonesia and Malaysia), who support the Palestinian right to self-determination in their own state
 - Recognition will bring the official Australian position in line with that of the Australian public—in a 2017 poll, **73% of Australians** supported the recognition of the State of Palestine
 - Recognition is an important issue for Arab and Muslim Australians, representing a significant portion of the Australian population
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WHY AUSTRALIA MUST RECOGNISE THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Interest-based arguments aside, there is a strong moral justification for Australian recognition of Palestine
- Australia has a **moral responsibility** to help protect the Palestinian people from the brutal occupation and prevent further atrocities
- **Recognition is an investment in peace**

