



## La Trobe University Student Union Council Meeting

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022

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### Council Meeting –

The fourth meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2022 at 14:00 via Zoom link online.

Noted by the General Secretary: the fourth meeting of the Student Council was initially scheduled for scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> of May at 13:00 via Zoom link online. This was delayed with notice due to the expected low attendance.

Meeting opened by the chair at: 2:04PM

Meeting closed by the chair at: 3:01PM

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### Meeting Agenda –

1. **Acknowledgment of Country**
  2. **Procedural Matters**
  3. **Office Bearer Report**
  4. **LTSU Policy**
  5. **Next Meeting**
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#### 1. **Acknowledgment of Country –**

On behalf of the LTSU Student Council members present, we would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeripeople, the Elders past and present.

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#### 2. **Procedural Matters –**

Nil

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#### 3. **Office Bearer Reports –**

- a. President (*Joel Blanch*) – presented and took questions
  - b. General Secretary (*Skye Griffiths*) – report taken as read
  - c. Welfare-Vice President (*Ansh Verma*) – absent and no report submitted
  - d. Education-Vice President (*Eric Seychell*) – presented and took questions
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- e. Postgraduate Officer (*Arya Kale*) – **absent and no report submitted**
- f. Education & Public Affairs Officers (*Lani Dumas & Ramy Aljalil*) – **presented and took questions**

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- g. Welfare Officers (*Fatma Turac*) – **presented and took questions**
- h. Residential Officers (*Hamish Grundy & Georgia Ibrom*) – **presented and took questions**
- i. Social Justice Officer (*Eric Seychell*) – **presented and took questions**
- j. Women’s Officer (*vacant*)
- k. Queer Officer (*Nicholas Ball*) – **apology with submitted report**
- l. Disabilities Officer (*Monika Galovic*) – **presented and took questions**
- m. POC Officer (*Chloe Ye*) – **presented and took questions**
- n. Activities Officer (*Chelsea Nicholls*) – **absent and no report submitted**
- o. Club Officer (*Natasha Mottau*) – **absent and no report submitted**
- p. Rabelais Editors (*Callum Burkitt & Lewis Kimpton Drake*) – **presented and took questions**

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#### 4. LTSU Policy –

##### 4.1) The LTSU condemns antisemitism as defined by the IHRA definition

**Mover** – Joel Blanch

**Secunder** – Eric Seychell

##### **Preamble**

The LTSU recognises the ongoing issue of antisemitism, which remains pervasive in society today. It is a plague that humanity has struggled to overcome for over 2000 years. In 2022, and in recent years, we have seen a significant increase in antisemitism across Australia – and criticism of Israel has often been used to excuse antisemitism.

The internationally accepted Working Definition of Antisemitism, which was adopted in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), an intergovernmental body, representing 34 member countries, including Australia, the UK, the US and Canada. This definition was also adopted by the National Union of Students in 2017. Part of the definition states, “*Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish*



*community institutions and religious facilities”.*

The adoption of this definition is but one step in a continuous fight against antisemitism. The LTSU and other bodies within La Trobe and other universities must recognise antisemitism when it occurs and take a strong stand against it.

#### Platform

1. The LTSU condemns in the strongest terms antisemitism in all forms as defined by the globally recognised IHRA definition.

#### Action

1. The LTSU commits to working with the Australian Union of Jewish students and the Jewish community to act against all forms of antisemitism that occurs at La Trobe and the wider community.

A “countermotion” is moved.

**Noted by the General Secretary:** Countermotions are not recognised by the LTSU Standing Orders. This was not corrected by the chairperson during the meeting. As such, the “countermotion” has been included in the minutes.

#### 4.1 countermotion) The LTSU stands against antisemitism and racism in all its form

**Mover** – Alicia Griffiths

**Secunder** – Rory Gee

#### Preamble

Antisemitism is an appallingly widespread form of racism that has been central to some of the worst acts of racial oppression and violence throughout history including the Holocaust. With antisemitism on the rise throughout the world especially throughout far right politics, it is crucial to openly stand against.

It is important to have the right to criticise any state that engages in systemic racial oppression, discrimination and violence, including Israel which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch recognise is engaged in ‘apartheid’, Myanmar which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch recognise is engaged in ‘genocide’, and other state engaged in similar policies.

#### Platform

1. The LTSU stands against antisemitism and all other forms of racism, discrimination and oppression.
2. The LTSU recognises the importance of the right to criticise states involved in racial oppression, including Israel and Myanmar as widely recognised by human rights NGOs including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

#### Action

1. The LTSU commits to working with the Jewish community, the Palestinian community, the Burmese community and all other communities facing systemic racism.



**Procedural Motion to delay Motion 4.1 and 4.2**

**Mover** – Joel Blanch

**Secunder** – Ziggy Webster

**Action**

1. The motion of 4.1, 4.1 countermotion, and 4.2 be delayed until the next meeting of the Student Council to ensure for proper consultation with the Jewish and Palestinian communities.

**Motion put to a vote by chairperson**

**Motion passes unanimously**

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**4.2) The LTSU condemns the killing of Palestinian journalist, Shireen Abu Aqleh, by Israeli force**

**Mover** – Alicia Griffiths

**Secunder** – Rory Gee

**Preamble**

On the 11th of May, Palestinian Journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh was shot and killed by Israeli forces while reporting on a raid by the IDF on a refugee camp in the West Bank. Shireen was a well known Palestinian activist and reporter, and had a career spanning decades on reporting attacks happening in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel claimed Shireen was killed in crossfire between Palestinian and Israel forces, video footage revealed since has shown there was no gunfire prior to her killing. Mourners were then attacked at the funeral procession for Shireen by Israeli forces, and her brother was intimidated to keep quiet about the killing.

Her death has been the subject of global news and faced condemnation from the media. International governments, such as the US and France, have called for an investigation into the killing, which Israel has failed to provide.

This is an appalling attack on Palestinians and journalistic expression. 46 journalists have been killed since 2000 by Israeli forces while reporting on raids and attacks happening in Palestine. Student unions need to stand in solidarity with journalists across the globe and their right to report news without the threat of assassination.

This attack is happening in the context of mass expulsions of Palestinians. Israeli authorities just approved the eviction of over 1300 Palestinians. The LTSU rejects these attacks on journalists trying to report these atrocities.

**Platform**

1. LTSU supports the freedom of press and the right of journalists to report without fear for their lives



2. LTSU condemns the killing of Shireen Abu Aqleh and the attacks on Palestinians by Israeli forces

**Action**

1. LTSU will publish a statement condemning the murder of Shireen Abu Aqleh by the IDF
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#### 4.3) LTSU celebrates kicking out the Liberals but condemns Labor's refugee policy

**Mover** – Alicia Griffiths

**Secunder** – Rory Gee

**Preamble**

Scott Morrison's Liberal government received a well-deserved thrashing at the federal election on the weekend. The Australian population totally rejected their pro-business, anti-climate, war-mongering, refugee-bashing, hard right culture warrior agenda and their sexist, corrupt, out of touch leaders. It was particularly satisfying to see leading figures like Josh Frydenberg lose his seat, who as treasurer oversaw record profits for business and massive tax cuts for the rich while wages declined, welfare stayed below the poverty line and public services were underfunded. The LTSU celebrates the end of 9 years of Liberal government, which among its other crimes routinely attacked students through round after round of cuts and fee hikes.

However the new Albanese Labor government has promised to maintain the status quo on a number of key issues, including refugee policy. Just 3 days after the election, the Labor cabinet ordered the turn back of a boat of asylum seekers from Sri Lanka, where Tamils face systemic oppression. Acting Prime Minister Richard Marles stated in the media, "there is absolutely no change in terms of Australia's border settings under this government". Labor plans to continue with the Liberals' policies of boat turn backs, mandatory detention and offshore processing, the cornerstones of one of the world's most brutal border regimes that has been the inspiration to the far-right around the world. It was the Labor Party who started mandatory detention under Keating and introduced offshore procession under Rudd and Gillard. The LTSU supports refugees and condemn Labor's refugee policy

**Platform**

1. The LTSU celebrates the end of 9 years of Liberal government.
2. The LTSU condemns Labor's refugee policy including their support for boat turn backs, mandatory detention and offshore processing.
3. The LTSU endorses the Tamil Refugee Council for their work supporting and fight for the rights of Tamil refugees who have fled from Sri Lanka.

**Action**

1. The LTSU will promote the upcoming World Refugee Day Rally on June 18 by sharing it from its Facebook page and sending an email to its members.



**Amendment to motion 4.3**

**Mover** – Skye Griffiths

**Seconder** – Joel Blanch

**Edits to Preamble**

Remove paragraph 2

**Edits to Platform**

2. The LTSU condemns the **Australia Governments'** refugee policy including their support for boat turn backs, mandatory detention, and offshore processing.

The proposed amendments were not agreed to

Amendment put to a vote by chairperson

Amendment passes with 6 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

Motion put to a vote by chairperson

Motion passes unanimously

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**5. Next Meeting**

*The fifth meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 at 13:00 via Zoom link online.*