



La Trobe University Student Union Council Meeting

Wednesday, 15^h of June 2022

Council Meeting –

The fifth meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday 15th of June 2022 at 14:00 via Zoom link online.

Meeting opened by the chair at: 1:01PM

Meeting closed by the chair at: 2:20PM

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 Wurundjeri people, the Elders past and present.

2. **Procedural Matters –**

2.1) Motion to appoint LTSU Women's Officer

Mover – Joel Blanch

Secunder – Skye Griffiths

Action –

1. The Council accepts the resignation of Nadine Medina as LTSU Women's Officer
2. The Council moves to appoint Sasha Irvine to the role of LTSU Women's Officer

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion passes with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions

2.1) Motion to fill LTSU Student Council vacancy

Mover – Joel Blanch

Secunder – Skye Griffiths



Action –

1. The Council accepts the resignation of Aidan Smith from the LTSU Student Council.
2. The Council moves for Tanmay Kabir to fill the vacancy on the LTSU Student Council.

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion passes with 6 in favor and 2 abstentions

3. Office Bearer Reports –

- a. President (*Joel Blanch*) – **presented and took questions**
 - b. General Secretary (*Skye Griffiths*) – **presented and took questions**
 - c. Welfare-Vice President (*Ansh Verma*) – **presented and took questions**
 - d. Education-Vice President (*Eric Seychell*) – **apology**
 - 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*) – **apology**
 - h. Residential Officers (*Hamish Grundy & Georgia Ibrom*) – **presented and took questions**
 - i. Social Justice Officer (*Eric Seychell*) – **apology**
 - j. Women's Officer (*Sasha Irvine*) –
 - k. Queer Officer (*Nicholas Ball*) – **apology**
 - 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**



4. LTSU Policy –

4.1) Motions carried from the May LTSU Student Council.

Two motions (4.1) and (4.2) from the May LTSU Student Council were to be discussed at this Student Council.

Noted by the General Secretary: the mover of motion 4.1 has withdrawn their support and the motion will not proceed as a result.

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

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 Palestinianians. 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



Amendment to motion 4.2

Mover – Joel Blanch

Edits to Preamble

On the 11th of May, Palestinian Journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh was shot and killed allegedly 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 Israeli forces, video footage revealed since has shown there was no gunfire prior to her 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. **This investigation should be an impartial and transparent ballistics examination of the bullet that killed her.**

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 the news without the threat of assassination.

The LTSU rejects these attacks on journalists trying to report freely, and stands against Israeli occupation of Palestine and condemns all actions that displace Palestinians from their homes in the West Bank and East Jerusalem

Edits to Platform

1. LTSU supports the freedom of press and the right of journalists to report without fear for their lives **and condemns the killing of Shireen Abu Aqleh**
2. **LTSU stands against all acts of terrorism and violence against civilians**

Edits to Action

1. **LTSU will publish a statement condemning the murder of Shireen Abu Aqleh calling for an end to violence in the region and supporting a two-state solution.**

The proposed amendments were not agreed to by the Mover.

Amendment put to vote by chairperson

Amendment passes with 6 in favor and 3 against

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion passes with 6 in favor and 3 abstentions

4.3) 'We Must Act Against Anti-Semitism'

Mover – Joel Blanch

Secunder – Skye Griffiths



Preamble

It is important to recognise that student councils can hold enormous sway over how safe and accepted students feel both on and off-campus. Student councils should continuously affirm their support for marginalised communities and pledge to fight against discrimination of any form wherever it may arise. Particularly, student councils should endeavour to consult and collaborate with marginalised groups before making resolutions that directly impact them.

In relation to one marginalised group, 2021 saw an increase in recorded antisemitic incidents and a huge increase in antisemitic activity occurring on campuses across Australia. To counter antisemitism, there is an internationally accepted Working Definition of Antisemitism, which was adopted in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, an intergovernmental body, currently representing 34 member countries, including Australia, the UK, the US and Canada. The Working Definition can be adopted formally as a benchmark when assessing complaints of antisemitic misconduct, including bullying and discrimination. It is vital that we acknowledge and act to prevent the rise in antisemitism, consistent with the motion passed by the National Union of Students in December 2017

Platform

The LTSU condemns antisemitism in all its forms as defined by the globally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition. The definition states that: "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 LTSU has included the following clarifications as part of adopting the definition to ensure that freedom of speech is maintained in the context of discourse about Israel and Palestine without allowing antisemitism to permeate any debate:

1. It is not antisemitic to criticise the government of Israel without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.
2. It is not antisemitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies or to take a particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.

This LTSU recognises that marginalised groups have the right to define what determines discrimination. This LTSU takes a firm stance against discrimination of nationality, race, religion, or any other personal characteristic and pledges to take measures against bigotry, racism, and ignorance.

Action

1. The LTSU commits to working with the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS), as the peak representative body for Jewish students on campus in Australia and New Zealand, to ensure activist spaces, events and protests are inclusive and welcoming of Jewish voices and perspectives. There should be no pre-qualifications necessary for Jewish students to attend and/or feel included.



2. The LTSU calls on La Trobe University to follow in the lead of this council and take a stronger stance against antisemitism by adopting this definition of antisemitism
3. LTSU will never endorse or condone a movement that is antisemitic, Islamophobic or bigoted in any way.

Amendment to 4.3 'We Must Act Against Anti-Semitism and Racism'

Mover – Alicia Griffiths

Seconder – Rory Gee

Edits to Preamble

It is important to recognise that student councils can hold enormous sway over how safe and accepted students feel both on and off-campus. Student councils should continuously affirm their support for marginalised communities and pledge to fight against discrimination of any form wherever it may arise. Particularly, student councils should endeavour to consult and collaborate with marginalised groups before making resolutions that directly impact them.

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. Antisemitism is on the rise throughout the world, especially in association with far-right governments including in Hungary and Poland, as well as right wing street movements. It is crucial to oppose this trend and actively stand against anti-semitism.

It is important to have the right to criticise any state that engages in racial oppression, including Hungary which Human Rights Watch recognises is running an “anti-semitic hate campaign”, Israel which Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International recognise is engaged in ‘apartheid’, Myanmar which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch recognise is perpetrating ‘genocide’, and other state engaged in similar policies.

Edits to 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 Hungary, Israel and Myanmar as widely recognised by human rights NGOs including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Edits to Action

1. The LTSU commits to working with the Jewish, Palestinian, Rohingya and other communities facing racism and discrimination.

The proposed amendments were not agreed to by the Mover.

Amendments put to vote by chairperson

Amendment ties with 3 in favor, 3 against, and 3 abstentions

Standing orders 5.1 – ‘In the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.’ The chairperson votes against the motion.

The amendment fails



Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion passes with 4 in favor, 3 against and 2 abstentions

4.4) The LTSU stands against antisemitism and racism in all its forms

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. Antisemitism is on the rise throughout the world, especially in association with far-right governments including in Hungary and Poland, as well as right wing street movements. It is crucial to oppose this trend and actively stand against antisemitism. It is important to have the right to criticise any state that engages in racial oppression, including Hungary which Human Rights Watch recognises is running an “antisemitic hate campaign”, Israel which Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International recognise is engaged in ‘apartheid’, Myanmar which Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch recognise is perpetrating ‘genocide’, and other states engaged in similar policies. This motion seeks to ensure the LTSU represents the interests of students at La Trobe in standing against antisemitism and apartheid

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 Hungary, Israel and Myanmar as widely recognised by human rights NGOs including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

Action

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

Motion put to vote by chairperson

Motion ties with 2 in favor, 2 against and 5 abstentions

Standing orders 5.1 – ‘In the case of an equality of votes, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.’ The chairperson votes against the motion.

The motion fails

5. Next Meeting

The sixth meeting of the La Trobe Student Union (LTSU) will be held on Wednesday the 20th of July 2022 at 13:00 via Zoom link online.



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STUDENT UNION