

Humanitarian Principles Undermined

Joint statement by Australian Jewish and community organisations, January 2026

As Australian Jewish and community organisations committed to justice, we are appalled at Israel's decision to deregister 37 international humanitarian organisations. At a time of critical need in Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, these measures catastrophically restrict access to life-saving assistance.

We echo the views of Israeli, Palestinian, and International NGOs. The deregistration undermines principled humanitarian action for communities in dire need.

Israel, as the occupying power under the Geneva convention, has an obligation to ensure adequate supplies to Palestinian civilians. Israel is failing to fulfil that obligation. It is also preventing others from filling the gap.

While governments can legitimately require humanitarian organisations to operate ethically, the Israeli registration framework violates core humanitarian principles of independence and neutrality.

Conditioning aid on political alignment, penalising support for legal accountability, and requiring the disclosure of sensitive personal data of Palestinian staff and their families all constitute a breach of duty of care and expose workers to surveillance and potential harm.

Ensuring access to humanitarian aid is a legal obligation, not a choice.

We call on the Australian Government and Opposition to declare that this is a clear breach of humanitarian principles, and communicate this to the Israeli government.

Signed by:

- Australian Jewish Democratic Society
- Emet Australia
- New Israel Fund Australia
- Jewish Women 4 Peace – Action Ready
- Jewish Voices of Inner Sydney
- Friends of Standing Together – Melbourne
- Friends of Standing Together – Sydney