

**Stop the starvation, stop the killing, recognise Palestine now**

There is no justification for Hamas' horrific terrorist attacks of October 7, nor for the taking and holding of hostages.

Nor is there any justification, neither as a simple matter of morality nor in international humanitarian law, for the use of starvation as a tool of war as being deployed by the Israeli government in Gaza.

I again call on the Australian government to use every diplomatic means at its disposal to help secure a permanent ceasefire, ensure the immediate and unhindered delivery of food, medicines and other medical supplies.

Given the Israeli government's persistent refusal to abide by international humanitarian law, the time has come for Australian government to join 147 other states in recognising Palestine.

My call is supported by the deluge of letters my office has received from constituents.

The Israeli government's brutal war on the citizens of Gaza is not only failing to bring the conflict to an end, but also costing Israel its international standing.

Killing children as they line up for the cruelly meagre supplies of food being made available is both inhumane and immoral.

Not only that, as the [New York Times](#) reported at the weekend quoting Israeli military sources, there is no evidence that Hamas systematically stole aid from the United Nations, as alleged by the Netanyahu government.

The time for excuses is over; the time for recognition of Palestine is now.

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