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Statement on Australia's official recognition of Palestine

The official recognition of Palestine by Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and other nations is a hugely significant step towards achieving a two-state solution in the region - something that has been bipartisan policy here in Australia since the creation of Israel in 1948.

The decades long status quo has utterly failed both the people of Israel and Palestine in the most monumental way, encouraging conflict, division and death.

Recognition is a critical step towards a two-state solution to bring peace to the people living in this region.

But Australia must also urgently do more to help stop the carnage on the ground in Gaza right now.

As a signatory to the United Nations 1948 Genocide Convention Treaty, Australia has an obligation to prevent genocide. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry confirmed that genocide is indeed occurring in Gaza.

The question is, why are we not doing more?

We cannot watch on while innocent children, civilians, journalists, doctors and aid workers - continue to be killed every day in Gaza.

ENDS

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