

2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE URGENT PROPOSAL 1



Proposal: Recognition of Palestine

That the Australian Greens National Conference:

1. Notes:
 - a) The state of Palestine is currently recognised by 136 states, representing 70.5% of the 193 member states and two non-member states of the United Nations;
 - b) The importance of recognition of the state of Palestine, alongside the state of Israel, as a contribution to securing a negotiated two state solution, based on 4 June 1967 boundaries with both states sharing Jerusalem as their capital;
2. Formally recognises the State of Palestine.

Rationale

This proposal seeks to further develop the current Australian Greens Palestine policy by formally recognising the State of Palestine, in line with progressive international contemporary policy towards Palestine.

It is in part the follow up of a proposal from the Greens for Palestine passed by consensus at the October 2015 Greens NSW State Delegates Council, which read "That the Greens NSW put a proposal to December 2015 National Council requesting the Australian Greens develop a policy formally recognising the State of Palestine."

Currently Australian Greens policy states (Resolution Israel/Palestine March 2010):

Goals: the Australian Greens will work for:

- 2.1. the removal of Israeli settlers and Israeli security and military forces from the Palestinian territories
- 2.2. the termination of the occupation of the Palestinian territories and the establishment of a secure and viable state of Palestine alongside Israel, based on 4 June 1967 boundaries with both states sharing Jerusalem as their capital
- 2.3. a just and practical negotiated settlement of the claims of the Palestinian refugees that provides compensation for those who are unable to return to their country of origin, Israel or Palestine
- 2.4. the right of each state to independently manage its own affairs, including foreign relations and economic development, without the dominance of one state over the other
- 2.5. the equitable allocation of shared resources, including water
- 2.6. the promotion of a culture of dialogue, harmony, peace and reconciliation between the peoples of Palestine and Israel, both in the Middle East and in Australia, fostered through educational, cultural and other institutions
- 2.7. full equality before the laws of each jurisdiction, for every citizen of that jurisdiction, irrespective of ethnic origin, religion or belief, race or gender.

It is therefore now logical to take the next step and for the Australian Greens through this National Conference to formally recognise the Palestine National Authority as the State of Palestine, in line with current world-wide policy. Since the 1993 Oslo Accords between Israel and PLO in September 1993 and the establishment of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) as a self-governing interim administration in the Palestinian Territories, 69.9% of the 193 member states of the United Nations and two non-member states have recognised the State of Palestine (as of October 2014), and since then others, such as the Vatican, have also recognised its statehood.

To give effect to this proposal a new clause to the current Australian Greens policy could be added to the effect that "The Australian Greens in line with majority world opinion formally recognises the state of Palestine."

In relation to the Australian political landscape the Greens recognition of the State of Palestine would be extremely strategically advantageous in that it would provide the party with a clear point of differentiation between ourselves and the Liberal/National coalition and also the Labor Party.

The Labor Party's current policy, passed at their 2015 National Conference, is particularly egregious, in that at best it can be described as a 'Clayton's' policy (the policy you have when you are not having a policy), which only commits a future ALP government to 'discuss' taking certain steps towards the recognition of the State of Palestine if 'there is no progress in the next round of the peace process'.

Australian Greens recognition of the State of Palestine would be welcomed by the majority of progressively minded Australians.

Budget Impact Statement

There is no impact on the Australian Greens budget.

Contact

Name: Ray Goodlass, Greens NSW (Convenor, Greens for Palestine)

Phone: 0412 363 718

Email: rgoodlass@gmail.com

PROPOSAL WITH AMENDED RATIONALE PASSED BY CONSENSUS