

Reflections on Working in Academia during a Genocide

Andreas Buerki, Cardiff University

The first part of this talk presents practice-based reflections on building an understanding of the role of academic and other workers at universities during the Gaza genocide (as per UN Human Rights Council, 2025). A pertinent aspect in this is the constrained environment that the present marketised UK university system imposes, including the forces, managerial and ideological, to which workers are subjected when attempting to conceptualise their duties and obligations in the workplace and outside of it. The second part of the talk aims to present options for the authentic expression of ethical working in academia during a genocide (where authentic is understood as consistent with an individual's understanding of their role and their conscience). A range of actions both within and outside institutionally sanctioned mechanisms of representation are discussed as examples of authentic responses to a genocide, as well as examples of effects of actions, including institutional reactions, community reactions and reactions of co-workers and students.

References

UN Human Rights Council (2025) *Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*. Available at <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/commission-of-inquiry-report-genocide-in-gaza-a-hrc-60-crp-3/> (accessed 19 September 2025)