

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DR MOOREY, BABCP PRESIDENT, ON 3/9/25

REPLY FROM DR MOOREY at 9.40am, 3/9/25

Dear Dr Bryce,

Thank you for your letter. The events in Palestine generate very strong feelings and I appreciate your organisation's efforts to raise the issue as widely as possible.

The situation in Palestine is rightly being seen as a humanitarian disaster and the limits imposed on BABCP, as a UK charity, from speaking out on this is frustrating for many of our members. The Association cannot make statements on the actions of foreign governments as this is beyond our remit. We can and will, however, comment on the impact of these events on our members and the people they help and speak out against Islamophobia and antisemitism in the UK. We will be making a statement on this at our AGM.

The EABCT is not so constrained and I understand there will be a more direct reference to Palestine from EABCT at the conference.

Your sincerely
Stirling Moorey

REPLY TO DR MOOREY, 10.48AM, 3/9/25

Dear Dr Moorey,

Thank you for your reply to our letter. I shall send a proper response in early afternoon.

In the meantime, I note your comment that EABCT will make reference to Palestine at the conference. I would therefore be grateful if you would share our letter with your colleague(s) at EABCT.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Bryce

REPLY FROM DR MOOREY, 11.18AM, 3/9/25

Dear Dr Bryce,

Thankyou for your email. I will share your letter with BABCP¹.

Best wishes
Stirling Moorey

REPLY TO DR MOOREY, AT 2PM 3/9/25

Dear Dr Moorey,

¹ I take this to mean EABCT

Thank you for your letter and the indication that both BABCP and EABCT intend to make some reference to what is happening in Gaza at the conference. We will await those remarks with great interest.

Turning to the detail of your response, I think there are several important points to address. You refer to the situation in Gaza as a “humanitarian disaster”. The problem with characterising what is happening in Gaza in this way is that it avoids a key factor, namely the agency of the Israeli state. For example:

- People may die in a humanitarian disaster but in Gaza people are being killed – more than 60,000 to date - by the Israeli Defence Force.
- In humanitarian disasters the delivery of healthcare is often made complex by the circumstance of the disaster. In Gaza not only has the healthcare disaster been caused by Israeli state violence, it has been compounded by Israel’s systematic destruction of healthcare facilities and massively exacerbated by Israel’s deliberate obstruction of access to necessary healthcare supplies.
- In humanitarian disasters, disease often spreads because of naturally-occurring damage to infrastructure. In Gaza, the spread of disease has been massively enabled by Israel’s deliberate destruction to water and sewage facilities, repeated forced displacements with attendant overcrowding and the deliberate starvation of the population.

These are just some of the reasons that “humanitarian disaster” is not only inadequate but also misleading.

You go on to say that BABCP cannot speak out, citing your charitable status by way of explanation. I would like to draw your attention to other UK charities which *have* spoken out. Take Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), for example, whose current websiteⁱ includes the following: **“GAZA IS BEING ERASED! DEMAND STARMER AND LAMMY STOP ISRAEL’S GENOCIDE.”** This is a call that they have displayed for a number of months. Like BABCP, MAP is regulated by the UK Charity Commission and this causes me to suggest that BABCP’s concern is misplaced.

I appreciate that BABCP had correspondence with UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI) over the word “genocide” appearing in a BABCP publication earlier this year. According to UKLFIⁱⁱ, this led to Mr McIlravey, your CEO, saying “We will no longer allow the unqualified use of contested terms – such as ‘genocide’ in relation to the events in Gaza – to appear in our publications”. This leaves considerable latitude for you and your BABCP colleagues to refer to Gaza using carefully chosen terms. I would suggest, for example, that to point out that Mr Winney, the First Minister of the nation hosting the congress, has described what is happening as a genocide is in keeping with Mr McIlravey’s undertaking.

Finally, I return to our request that you condemn the killing of civilians and the destruction of health infrastructure in Gaza. I suggest that making that statement neither compromises BABCP’s charitable status nor the undertaking given to UKLFI. However:

- it would ratify the concerns of your members who are “frustrated” by BABCP’s current position and demonstrate professional leadership,
- give clear notice to the Israeli delegates that their professional colleagues elsewhere are not standing silent as their government kills Palestinians

- draw their attention to the growing calls for an academic boycott grow and serve notice of their own need to take a stand against the genocide.

Most important of all, a clear statement from you will send a message to our colleagues in Gaza and the rest of Palestine that the professionals in this country and their professional associations are appalled by what is happening to them and no longer willing to be silent.

Yours sincerely,
Graham Bryce

ⁱ <https://www.map.org.uk/campaigns/gaza-is-being-erased-demand-starmer-and-lammy-stop-israels-genocide>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.uklfi.com/psychotherapists-chief-executive-apologises-for-use-of-term-genocide>