

# ALLIANCE OF AUSTRALIAN MUSLIMS

## REPRESENTING OVER 200 MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS IN AUSTRALIA



25 November 2023

## PUBLIC STATEMENT

### The AAM Welcomes the Journalist's Open Letter to Australian Media Outlets and Calls for Media Integrity and Balanced Reporting

The Alliance of Australian Muslims (AAM), along with the Muslim community, warmly welcomes the **Journalists Open Letter to Australian Media Outlets**, dated 24 November 2023. This letter, endorsed by over 150 esteemed journalists, calls for adequate coverage of credible allegations of war crimes, ethnic cleansing and apartheid.

Signatories outline eight steps for Australian newsrooms to take to improve coverage of the conflict, in which more than 14,000 Palestinians have so far been killed by Israeli forces since October 7, when a Hamas attack killed about 1200 Israelis.

Staff shared frustrations over the broadcaster's unwillingness to use terms including **"invasion"**, **"occupation"**, **"genocide"**, **"apartheid"** and **"ethnic cleansing"** regarding Israeli government policy and allegations made by human rights groups.

The open letter has asked that historical context of the conflict between Israel and Palestine is provided when referencing the October 7 attack.

*"The conflict did not start on October 7, and it is the media's responsibility to ensure audiences are fully informed,"* it reads.

The AAM, alongside the Muslim and Palestinian communities, resonates with the sentiments expressed in this letter. Since October 7, a noticeable bias and lack of fairness in media reporting on this crisis have been observed. This one-sided approach contradicts the journalistic duty of integrity, transparency, and accuracy.

Journalism is founded on fairness, integrity, and impartiality. Regrettably, many journalists, reporters, and media agencies have fallen short of these standards. Furthermore, we express concern over manipulating and misrepresenting religious and cultural terminology, words and terms by major media outlets. Such actions threaten the social cohesion of our country and contribute to the rise of Islamophobia, anti-Muslim, anti-Palestinian, and anti-Arab sentiments.

We urge all major media agencies to adhere to the core principles of journalism by reporting events transparently and impartially, free from political agendas or motives. We also encourage other journalists to support and join their colleagues in endorsing the recent open letter, standing in solidarity for journalistic integrity.



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