

PRESS RELEASE

9 June 2021

Recently, in response to world events and an increasing number of artists dealing with social and human rights concerns, a statement was published on the Whitworth's digital platforms speaking on human rights issues in the middle east.

We apologise for the upset this has caused. While it is recognised that individuals have strongly held views on the violence in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, The University of Manchester is a non-political organisation and it is not appropriate to offer comment on the situation, except to express profound sorrow at the violence and loss of life.

We value our relationships with all countries in line with UK government guidance. In this context we acknowledge that it was amiss to make a statement of this nature about such a complex and difficult situation.

The Whitworth's purpose as a gallery is to provide a welcoming place where debate and discussion can be held on difficult issues. We will learn from this and discuss the implications within our gallery Anti-Racism Group, in particular in terms of how we present these complex issues in our exhibitions and events.

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The University of Manchester