

## CALL FOR PAPERS



## International Scholarly Conference

### Reimagining and Rebuilding Palestine: Genocide, Trauma, and the Future of a Suffering Nation

**Date:** 30-31 January 2026\*

**Venue:** University of Cyprus (Nicosia, Cyprus)

**Co-Organizers:** Universitas Foundation and the University of Cyprus

CONFERENCE

30-31  
JAN  
2026

### 1. Background and Rationale

For over seventy-five years, Palestinians have lived under the shadow of dispossession, exile, and occupation. The *Nakba* of 1948 set in motion a continuum of displacement, systematic human rights violations, and recurrent military assaults. The recent devastation in Gaza represents an unprecedented level of destruction, with widespread targeting of civilians, infrastructure, and cultural heritage.

The toll is not only physical but deeply psychological. Generations have inherited the trauma of forced exile, siege, and violence. Yet, despite the enormity of loss, Palestinians have sustained a vibrant identity through culture, art, education, and community resilience.

This conference seeks to bring together scholars, practitioners, and policy-makers to reflect on the historical trajectory of Palestinian suffering; to explore the psychological and social impact of genocide and protracted occupation; and to chart pathways for reconstruction, healing, and national renewal. It will also seek to evaluate the proposed (“Trump”) Peace Plan and to consider alternative scenarios for the future of Palestine.

## 2. Objectives

The conference aims to:

1. **Document and analyse** the ongoing genocide and its impact on Palestinian society.
2. **Examine historical and intergenerational trauma** within Palestinian communities.
3. **Identify culturally grounded approaches** to healing and resilience.
4. **Explore governance, reconstruction, and development** strategies for a future Palestinian state.
5. **Consider the socio-political implications for reimagining the future of Palestine** in connection with the imagined community of the nation, and the aim of setting up a Palestinian state.
6. **Compare global post-conflict experiences** to extract relevant lessons for Palestine.
7. **Raise global awareness** in support of a just and rights-based Palestinian future.

## 3. Structure

**Duration:** 2 days

**Format:** Scholarly presentations, thematic panels, roundtables, workshops, artistic interventions, and parallel youth forums.

## 4. Indicative Programme Outline

### Day 1 – Context and Memory

- *From Nakba to Gaza: The Long Arc of Dispossession and Resistance*
- *The Nature of Genocide – Legal and Historical Perspectives*
- *Intergenerational Trauma – Memory, Identity, and the Legacy of Exile*
- *The Response of the International Community of Nation States*

#### – Healing, Resilience, and Justice

- *Healing the Wounds: Mental Health, Cultural Resilience, and Social Repair*
- *Transitional Justice and Accountability: Lessons from Bosnia, Rwanda, South Africa*
- *Education and Cultural Renewal: Restoring Palestinian Schools, Universities, and Heritage*

### Day 2 – The Future of a Suffering Nation

- *Reimagining the Palestinian Nation and State: Governance, Sovereignty, and Reconstruction*
- *Diaspora and Global Solidarity: Mobilizing Resources and Expertise*
- *A Roadmap for Recovery: Strategies for the Next Decade*

## 5. Submission Guidelines

Abstracts of up to **300 words** are invited, to include:

- > Title of the paper
- > Author's name and institutional affiliation
- > Email address
- > Abstract (max. 300 words)
- > 3–5 keywords



Abstracts should be submitted by  
**5 December 2025** to:  
[hadjistrylli.k@universitas.org.cy](mailto:hadjistrylli.k@universitas.org.cy)

ABSTRACT  
**5  
 DEC  
 2025**

Full papers (5,000 – 8,000 words)  
 must be submitted by **15 July 2026**,  
 for inclusion in the post-conference  
 publication.

FULL PAPERS  
**15  
 JUL  
 2026**

Authors of accepted abstracts will be  
 notified by **20 December 2025**.

ACCEPTANCE  
**20  
 DEC  
 2025**

The working language of the  
 conference is **English**.

### Important Dates

Event	Date
Conference Dates	30–31 January 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	5 December 2025
Notification of Acceptance	20 December 2025
Full Paper Submission	15 July 2026

### 6. Participation and Registration

The conference will take place at the **University of Cyprus**, Nicosia. Limited **hybrid participation** maybe available for speakers unable to travel.

### 7. Conference Fees, Funding, and Travel

A **registration fee of €100** applies to all participants. A **reduced fee of €50** is available for **students** upon presentation of a valid student identification card. The registration fee covers conference materials, coffee breaks, and lunch for both days of the event.

Participants are kindly requested to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses. A limited number of travel grants will be made available to support scholars and practitioners from Gaza, the West Bank, and refugee or displaced communities. Participants requiring assistance with visa arrangements may contact the Conference Secretariat to request an official invitation letter.

### 8. Publication Opportunities

Selected papers will be peer-reviewed and considered for inclusion in an edited scholarly volume coordinated by the **Universitas Foundation** and the **University of Cyprus**. All accepted abstracts will be published in the Conference Book of Abstracts (ISBN edition).

### 9. Practical Information

Accommodation options and logistical information will be provided upon acceptance of abstracts.

For further inquiries, please contact:  
[hadjistrylli.k@universitas.org.cy](mailto:hadjistrylli.k@universitas.org.cy)  
 +357 99 153830



### 10. Special Parallel Events

- > Art & Memory Exhibition – Works by Palestinian and diaspora artists
- > Film Screenings – Documentaries and oral histories
- > Book Fair – Publications on Palestinian history, culture, and politics

### 11. Contact

Katerina Hadjistylli, PhD  
Director, Universitas Foundation  
Conference Coordinator  
Email: [hadjistylli.k@universitas.org.cy](mailto:hadjistylli.k@universitas.org.cy)  
Phone: +357 99 153830