

ISPP Statement on Restricted Entry of Foreign Nationals at Birzeit University

October 10, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) has a long track record of scientific collaboration across disciplinary, cultural, and national boundaries. We are a diverse international body of scholars, with members from all over the world including Israel and the West Bank. We are committed to the principles of academic freedom, and we understand that unless all of us can exercise that freedom, none of us can.

We therefore condemn the Israeli government's restrictions on the entry of foreign nationals serving at Palestinian universities, including faculty members at Birzeit University.

Such restrictions represent a gross violation of academic freedom. They disrupt academic programs, individual academic careers, and international collaborations. They undermine the ability of innocent Palestinians to pursue higher education.

Higher education is essential to societal development, and freedom from political pressure is essential to the integrity of scholarly work of all kinds. ISPP therefore opposes any attempts by governments and political organizations to eliminate or restrict the operations of colleges and universities anywhere in the world.

We respectfully urge the Israeli education authorities to restore the academic freedom of academics working at Palestinian Universities by lifting restrictions on the entry and presence of foreign nationals serving on their faculty.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of ISPP