

MOTION FROM CAP TO REMOVE ANY INSTITUTION FROM CONTESTED OR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES FROM THE LIST OF CAP-AFFILIATED PROJECTS

Submitted to: The Executive Committee and the ASOR Board of Trustees, American Society of Overseas Research (ASOR)

Submitted by: Committee on Archaeological Research & Policy (CAP), ASOR

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Background

The Committee on Archaeological Research & Policy (CAP) has reviewed ASOR's current policies and public listings regarding affiliations with institutions established in occupied territories. Under existing ASOR policy, ASOR is committed to the dissemination of scholarly knowledge about the broad geographic and chronological parameters of the regions in which ASOR members work, and these include occupied territories. These areas include territories in which there may be at any given moment a dispute about which national entity or population properly has political control. Scholars or students affiliated or working with institutions established in these territories without the cooperation of the competent national authority can produce work that would be of interest to ASOR members or the wider public.

At the same time, maintaining a formal affiliation with institutions established in these territories raises ethical and reputational concerns and is inconsistent with ASOR's commitment to neutrality and responsible international research practices. CAP fully supports ASOR's commitment to these principles. Moreover, CAP unanimously agrees that these principles should be applied consistently to institutions established in these territories without the cooperation of the competent national authority, ensuring fairness, coherence, and alignment with ASOR's stated values.

Motion

Resolved, that the ASOR Board of Trustees take the following actions:

- Remove from the list of CAP-affiliated projects any institution established in these territories without the cooperation of the competent national authority.
- Decline future affiliation applications from any institution established in these territories without the cooperation of the competent national authority.

Rationale

Adopting these actions will uphold consistency across ASOR committees and established precedents, including longstanding practices concerning institutions located in occupied territories. It will also safeguard ASOR's reputation as a neutral, principled academic organisation committed to the highest ethical standards of scholarship and professional conduct, as affirmed in its bylaws. Lack of a clear policy regarding the affiliation of such institutions may undermine ASOR's ethical commitments and negatively affect its standing as a professional society.