**Statement of Support for All Innocent People Suffering in Gaza and Israel**

Our AFT Guild, Local 1931 Social Justice Committee encourages understanding, reflection, and personal growth through supportive and safe spaces for conversations.

We stand alongside fellow educators and human rights organizations around the world in calling for an end to terrorism against Israelis and an immediate ceasefire and an end to violence against innocent civilians in the Gaza strip and Israel, and the release of all hostages/prisoners.

We note that intellectual discomfort is necessary and vital in an open democratic society, and we are responsible to foster it as educators. The current institutional policing and silencing of dissenting voices in our country, and at our campuses, is alarming and frightening, for it means a deep fracturing of our democratic rights and intellectual freedoms to speech. We vehemently reject that our support of Palestinian right to life is anti-Semitic or that support of Israeli victims and Jewish allies is pro-Zionist. We stand with both suffering peoples, especially when both disagree with the continuation of military assault and warfare.

In light of the increasing number of deaths of innocent civilians in Gaza since October 7, 2023, which is over 14,000 as of November 26, 2023 according to [*The New York Times,*](https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/25/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-death-toll.html)and the 1,200 innocent Israeli’s who were murdered by Hamas on October 7, 2023 attack according to [*Reuters*](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-revises-death-toll-oct-7-hamas-attack-around-1200-2023-11-10/),  and the current [genocide](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/11/gaza-un-experts-call-international-community-prevent-genocide-against) in Gaza we are bearing witness to, we express our sincere support to all members of our college community and their families who are affected. We also express deep sympathy for the loss of innocent lives of Israeli citizens as well as those who are still held hostage by Hamas.

It is our duty to consistently foster understanding and inclusion, now, more than ever. Simultaneously, we emphasize the significance of embracing empathy and reconciliation to foster peace and reclaim humanity. We are committed to standing in peace and love, while rejecting harassment or intimidation within our communities, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism.

As members of the AFT Social Justice Committee, and as educators, we find it our duty to not only create a safe place to speak with students about the horrific attacks that happened to Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, the horrific history of the Holocaust that took the lives of more than six million innocent Jewish people, but also the long history of the occupation of the Palestinian lands, and Israel’s [apartheid](https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114702) and ethnocentric state against the Palestinian people.

We decry all forms of prejudice, ethnocentrism, and racial injustice, including Islamophobia, anti-Arab racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Israeli, and anti-Palestinian sentiments, and stand in love with all communities impacted. We denounce all forms of terrorism and terrorist organizations, whether they be state sponsored or not, national or internationally based.

Our AFT Social Justice Committee hopes to continue to take action by educating our campus communities. We hope to organize a list of resources to help our students and members to learn more about the Palestinian and Jewish plights. In the meantime, we offer the following resources:

* [The Battle for Justice in Palestine by Ali Abunimah](https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/554-the-battle-for-justice-in-palestine)
* [*Night* by Elie Wiesel](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1617.Night)
* [The Hundred Years’ War on Palestine by Rashid Khalidi](https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781627798556/thehundredyearswaronpalestine)
* [*The Diary of Anne Frank* by Anne Frank](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/48855.The_Diary_of_a_Young_Girl)
* [Nakba (edited by Ahmad H. Sa’di & Lila Abu-Lughod](https://cup.columbia.edu/book/nakba/9780231135795))
* [*The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale* by Art Spiegelman](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/15195.The_Complete_Maus)
* [Light in Gaza (edited by Jehad Abusalim, Jennifer Bing, & Mike Merryman-Lotze)](https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/1861-light-in-gaza)
* [The Holocaust](https://www.ww2classroom.org/system/files/essays/wie178_0.pdf?_ga=2.44147363.604579985.1701103846-1471075553.1701103845)
* [Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU) This is Palestine podcast](https://imeu.org/topic/category/podcast)
* [Then They Came For Me](https://www.ww2classroom.org/system/files/essays/WWII_CURRICULUM_GUIDE_VOL-4_OVERVIEW-ESSAY-3-And-then-they-came-for-me.pdf?_ga=2.10805683.604579985.1701103846-1471075553.1701103845)
* [Various episodes: The Intercept podcast](https://theintercept.com/podcasts/)
* [Charlotte Weiss Oral History](https://www.ww2classroom.org/search?q=node/171&_ga=2.78225811.604579985.1701103846-1471075553.1701103845)
* [BBC The Conflict Israel-Gaza](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/p0gkff2h)
* [Eva Schloss Oral History](https://www.ww2classroom.org/search?q=node/337&_ga=2.78225811.604579985.1701103846-1471075553.1701103845)
* [Democracy Now interview with Ta-Nehisi Coates on Palestine](https://www.democracynow.org/2023/11/2/ta_nehisi_coates)
* [Life In Auschwitz: Evaluating Primary Sources](https://www.ww2classroom.org/system/files/wie184_0.pdf)
* [Jewish Voice for Peace (San Diego Chapter)](https://www.jvpsandiego.org/)
* [The World Must Know: Public Remembrance and the Holocaust](https://www.ww2classroom.org/system/files/WWII_CURRICULUM_GUIDE_VOL-4_LESSON-PLAN-1-The-World-Must-Know.pdf?_ga=2.11657523.604579985.1701103846-1471075553.1701103845)
* [Documentary:  *Tantura*  (2022)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wgu36w-jYCk)
* [The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.ushmm.org)
* [Yanis Varounfakis on Israel-Gaza: “We Europeans have created this”](https://youtu.be/_OAniUDMA1Y?si=tlXwvVFdfeBu5egA)
* [Kim Iversen: The Truth About The Current Israeli  Palestinian Conflict](https://youtu.be/gMTXL6wLAUE?si=1uLnTdY36x3c8F7o)
* [The Holocaust History Project](http://www.holocaust-history.org)
* [U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer’s address](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/www.democrats.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/majority-leader-schumer-delivers-major-address-on-antisemitism-on-the-senate-floor__;!!PwqFijg!ucF34VM7WehNRTgg66YJoDG0HDx9AuPSx0UNYrEC8Qdm9Ibt9XhMj3gmUU_uLiytrTKoLFHvIC2exp8Ar5a6eFOAAhA$)
* [*Apeirogon* by Colum McCann](https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/50732671)