



Foothill College Academic Senate Resolution Recognizing Sustained Peace and Safety for All Students Winter 2024

WHEREAS, Foothill College Academic Senate is committed to creating inclusive and just conditions where all students, staff, faculty, and administration feel a sense of belonging; and

WHEREAS, Foothill College has a history of embracing social justice, striving for equity, and supporting all members of our college community; and

WHEREAS, we cherish our cultural richness on our campus as evidenced by our Heritage Months, and strive to ensure all communities feel respected and heard, including our Arab American, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Palestinian, and SWANA (Southwest Asian and North African) communities; and

WHEREAS, Foothill College Academic Senate recognizes that many groups within our community have had long and complex histories of trauma, displacement, and oppression, and we are committed to creating safe learning spaces for every student by committing to combat Anti-Arab racism, Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and ethnonationalism in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, we recognize these complex histories and their intergenerational impact are felt deeply by our local communities during times of war, and we choose to uplift the value of peace and restorative justice—locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, Associated Students of Foothill College adopted a resolution, “Resolution Acknowledging the Palestinian Lives Lost During the Attacks Against Humanity” on May 27, 2021 which resolved to commit to provide factual information and history that concerns the Israeli occupation of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, DeAnza College Student Government adopted a “Resolution Acknowledging the Palestinian lives Lost During the Attacks Against Humanity on May 26, 2021 which resolved to commit to provide factual information and history that concerns the Israeli occupation of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, DeAnza Associated Student Body passed a resolution “In Support of Divestment from Companies That Profit from the Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territories” on March 15, 2017; and

WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of hundreds of civilian lives in Israel, and over tens of thousands civilian lives in Palestine, including over 9,600 Palestinian children from Oct 7 to the present, and also throughout the decades of displacement, occupation, and blockaid endured in Gaza and the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, 625,000 children are out of school, at least 390 educational institutions, including all universities in Gaza, have been destroyed or damaged by Israel, 4,327 students have been killed and 7,819 others injured, at least 231 teachers and administrators have been killed, and another 756 educators injured; and

WHEREAS, over 100 journalists and their families have been killed since Oct 7th; and

WHEREAS, we recognize all liberation movements are connected and are inspired by student activism at both Foothill and DeAnza colleges to take action; and

WHEREAS, the Foothill College Academic Senate believes that peaceful diplomacy is the only way to achieve these goals; be it

RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Academic Senate call for support of the International Court of Justice's orders that Israel must do everything within its power to prevent genocidal acts against Gazans, including, among others, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about Gazans' physical destruction, carried out with the intent to destroy the Gazan people; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Academic Senate call for an immediate and permanent humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all Israeli and Palestinian hostages, the immediate and safe passage of substantial humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people, and the immediate restoration of basic services, water, electricity, and fuel access to protect the health and well being of children and their families; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Foothill College Academic Senate demand that US taxpayer funds be used to prevent further loss of life and be invested in our nation's educational system.

References:

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/23/gaza-media-office-says-100-journalists-killed-sinceisraeli-attacks-began>

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<https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/the-war-in-gaza-has-been-deadly-for-journalists>

<https://www.npr.org/2024/01/24/1226534897/israel-has-destroyed-hundreds-of-educational-institutions-in-gaza-since-the-war#:~:text=in%20Gaza%20City-,Israel%20has%20destroyed%20more%20than%20390%20educational%20institutions%20in%20Gaza,many%20Palestinian%20schools%20and%20universities>

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<https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>