

## **Faculty for Justice in Palestine-CSULB Statement of Support for Student Protests**

**We write as CSULB faculty members to express our unequivocal support of, and abiding solidarity with, CSULB students** and students globally who raise their collective voice to protest the Israeli genocide of Palestinians and the ongoing U.S.-sponsored project of settler colonial violence in Palestine. We understand the righteous outrage of students who are compelled to act due to the ongoing atrocities in Palestine that the world has witnessed and yet state actors, including University officials, continue to deny, diminish, and distort. Alongside students, we firmly believe that no ethical logic exists that can or should be used to justify Israel's genocidal offensive, and thus we validate the students' exacting insight that calls of action to end war, violence, death, and destruction in Palestine are NOT antisemitic.

**We uphold the right of CSULB students, staff, and faculty to raise their voices and take action to name and condemn the genocidal violence of Israel against Palestine and the Palestinian people.** This includes support for student gatherings on campus and as part of the legitimate right as students to protest Israeli violence, condemn U.S. support for genocide, and demand an end to university complicity through its silencing and suppression of protest and the mere utterance of genocide, anti-Zionism, and a pro-Palestine position. We also stand behind student calls for CSULB to divest from corporations that profit from Israeli occupation and displacement of and violence against Palestine and the Palestinian people.

**We call upon university administrators, faculty, staff, and all government officials to respect the right of students to protest through collective displays of support for the Palestinian struggle for liberation.** This includes respecting the right to gather in protest and participate in activities as an alternative valuable learning experience outside the classroom; protection from the threat of or actual deployment of police or security forces; criminal, civil, or university action against students who engage in protest; suspension or expulsion from student status; suspension, expulsion, or eviction from campus housing; destruction of student solidarity artwork; or other forms of harassment, retaliation, and punishment.

**We vehemently reject attempts by those in power to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism.** As has been pointed out by many Jewish organizations and individuals, this is an outrageous betrayal of longstanding Jewish traditions of advocating for social justice and resisting state oppression in its worst forms. Calls for humanization of and for an end to violence against Palestinians do not equate with dehumanization of or violence against others.

**We condemn genocide and all forms of racism, including antisemitism and Islamophobia.** Students, staff, and faculty have the right to speak up against injustice without fear of retaliation, and the cynical weaponization of antisemitism is designed to undermine that right. Along with colleagues at other campuses, “as scholars and educators, we vehemently oppose any efforts to censure critical discussions of the current war—no matter how difficult these conversations may be.” **We will not be silenced.**

**We condemn *scholasticide*, which refers to the systemic obliteration of education and knowledge production.** Through the killing, maiming, arrest, and detention of teachers, students, administrators, university presidents, and staff in addition to the bombing of educational infrastructures, Israel is engaged in the systemic obliteration of the educational system in Palestine. Since October 7, 2023, Israel has killed 5,800 students and teachers, injured an additional 8,575, and destroyed more than 80% of all schools in Gaza, including all universities. We as faculty condemn these actions and question how our own administration is not standing in solidarity with the presidents, deans, faculty, staff, and students killed in Gaza.

**We demand that CSULB release an immediate and permanent ceasefire statement.**

**We demand that CSULB divest from any funds related to Israel, Israeli products, or Israeli companies, including those that own factories on stolen Palestinian land in what is now Israel.**

**We proudly stand with CSULB students who are taking action to voice their outrage, condemn genocide, and support a free Palestine. These students inspire us to practice our values and be courageous in the face of fear and intimidation. We urge and expect all administrators, faculty, staff, and government officials to take a stance in solidarity with our students.**

**Signed,**

**Members of FJP at CSULB**