

EDPP's Response to Enduring Violence in Palestine and Israel

Dear Munk community,

We are deeply troubled by the most recent Israeli military offensive airstrike in the city of Rafah Monday morning in pursuit of recovering 2 Israeli hostages kidnapped by Hamas, which killed approximately 100 Palestinians in the process. This number adds to the staggering death toll in the region with the latest figures amounting to just under 30,000 Palestinians and just over 1,100 people killed in Israel. Rafah is currently housing close to 1.5 million refugees, according to the UN - more than half the population of Gaza - as a result of violence and forced displacement. This specific attack gravely compromises the existing shortage of aid entering the region, worsening the health crises plaguing Palestinians.

Our hearts ache witnessing the ongoing violence and injustices inflicted upon innocent civilians, regardless of where they reside. We find ourselves amidst a harrowing humanitarian crisis. The suffering endured by the communities embroiled in this conflict is beyond measure, leaving scars that may never fully heal.

In this time of turmoil, we urge you to open your hearts to empathy and understanding. Take the time to educate yourselves about the complexities of the crisis, recognizing the humanity and dignity of all those affected. Let compassion guide you as you engage with others, seeking common ground and pathways to peace. Together, through empathy and education, we can strive towards a future where such suffering ends and where the rights and dignity of every individual are respected and upheld.

Following the lead of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, we lend our voice to urge Israel to comply with the legally binding orders issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and with the full span of international humanitarian law as well as continue to call for an immediate ceasefire and safe return of all hostages. We denounce the assault on fundamental human rights in the region and implore for safe access to humanitarian personnel and supplies. In our own Munk School community, we advocate for empathy, understanding and a continued effort to inform ourselves and shine a light on the injustices that go against our values of equity, diversity and inclusion.

EDPP is committed to holding itself accountable to fulfill its mandate in advocating for a safe and inclusive learning environment. **We take this moment to remind you that if you ever feel unsafe or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us or your equity advisors.** Additionally, we're sharing the compilation of resources curated by the Equity and Inclusion consultation team again. This compilation provides detailed information on resources available to everyone on and off campus.

Sincerely,

Members of the Equity, Diversity and Public Policy Initiative

[Please find below a list of resources accumulated by EDPP and the Survey Subcommittee](#)

University of Toronto Campus Safety

Special Constable Service
21 Sussex Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1J6
Canada
Campus Safety Communications Centre (24/7)
Non-urgent: 416-978-2323
Campus Urgent: 416-978-2222 or 911

*If you or someone you know has experienced harassment or discrimination based on race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship and/or creed at U of T, report the incident to the **Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity office**: <https://antiracism.utoronto.ca/help/>.*

*You can also reach out to either the **MPP or MGA Equity representative** for support within our community.*

You can report incidents of anti-Muslim racism through the National Council of Canadian Muslims' Hate Crime Reporting form at <https://www.nccm.ca/programs/incident-report-form/>, and antisemitic incidents at U of T to Hillel U of T at <https://hillelontario.org/uoft/report-incident/>.

If you or someone you know is in distress, you can call:

Canada Suicide Prevention Service phone available 24/7 at 1-833-456-4566
Good 2 Talk Student Helpline at 1-866-925-5454
Connex Ontario Mental Health Helpline at 1-866-531-2600
Gerstein Centre Crisis Line at 416-929-5200
U of T Health & Wellness Centre at 416-978-8030
Or find more crisis resources on this page of The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health:
<https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/crisis-resources>

If you or someone you know has experienced anti-Muslim racism and is in distress, you can contact:

Canadian Muslim Counselling at 437-886-6309 or info@muslimcounselling.ca
Islamophobia Support Line at 416-613-8729
Nisa Helpline at 1-888-315-6472 or info@nisahelpline.com
Naseeha Mental Health at 1-866-627-3342
Khalil Center at 1-855-554-2545 or info@khalilcenter.com
Muslim Women Support Line at 647-622-2221 or gbv@ccmw.com

If you or someone you know has experienced antisemitism and is in distress, or requires mental health support, you can contact:

Hillel Ontario at counselling@hillelontario.org or [@hillel.uoft](https://www.instagram.com/hillel.uoft) on Instagram

Chai Lifeline Canada's Crisis Intervention Team at 1 (800) 556-6238 or CIT@chailifeline.ca
United Jewish Appeal at humanservices@ujafed.org or
<https://www.jewishtoronto.com/community-member-support-request>

The University of Toronto offers intellectual hubs and specializations in both Palestinian and Jewish studies. If you wish to learn more about these fields and interdisciplinary research taking, please refer to the following links:

Hearing Palestine: <https://palestinestudies.artsci.utoronto.ca/>

Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies: <https://www.jewishstudies.utoronto.ca/>

To dive into the history behind the present humanitarian crisis: *The Al-Nakba: The Palestinian Catastrophe* series available on YouTube
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7FML0wzJ6A>

For an introductory and historical overview of the conflict: *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: Contested Histories* by Neil Caplan, 2020.

For a narrative nonfiction history of Palestine and Israel as told through the interconnected stories of a Palestinian Muslim man and a Bulgarian-Israeli Jewish woman: *The Lemon Tree* by Sandy Tolan, 2006.