

Resolution Calling for an Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

WHEREAS, we value peace and the inherent worth of all human life;

WHEREAS, we condemn the terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7 where over 1400 lost their lives and an additional 200-plus were taken hostage, the subsequent attacks by Israel on Palestinian civilians, and all targeting of civilians whether Israeli or Palestinian;

WHEREAS, the bombing, blockading and forced displacement by the Netanyahu government and Israeli military has unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe on 2.3 million Gazan Palestinians, depriving the people of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care and shelter, which constitutes the war crime of collective punishment;

WHEREAS, the attacks on Israel by Hamas and the bombing of Gaza by Israel have killed thousands of civilians, including thousands of children, and continued war will kill thousands more Palestinians and Israelis;

WHEREAS, the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza could lead to a wider war and the deaths of many thousands more of Palestinians and Israelis, disproportionately affecting Palestinian civilians;

WHEREAS, an Israeli ground invasion will result in the crime of genocide, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights and over 800 legal scholars from around the world;

WHEREAS, the freedom of expression of people voicing opposition to the Israeli assault on Gaza is being widely suppressed and many are being punished;

WHEREAS, this conflict is occurring in the context of the decades-long history of dispossession, occupation and apartheid imposed on Palestinian people;

WHEREAS, antisemitic and Islamophobic hate crimes are on the rise in the U.S;

WHEREAS, we reject criticism of Israel and Zionism that lapses into antisemitism;

WHEREAS, we can criticize Israel and Zionism without resorting to antisemitism, and must be vigilant not to ally with those who do;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table, in accordance with our commitment to peace and humanity, condemns violence and advocates for the U.S. President and Congress to:

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire and the release of all hostages held by Hamas.
2. Suspend military aid to the government of Israel until the occupation is ended and the long-term security, well-being and dignity of both Israelis and Palestinians are achieved.
3. Demand the end of Israeli policies depriving Palestinians of food, water, electricity, fuel, medical care and shelter.
4. Condemn the violence between Palestine and Israel and commit to working toward a peaceful solution that recognizes equally the rights of both peoples to thrive in the land of Israel/Palestine.

Approved by the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Action Council, American Library Association, 3 November 2023