

**RESOLUTION OF THE
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

E.B. Res. 2023/24-01

“Standing with our students and calling for a ceasefire in Palestine and Israel.”

WHEREAS, on October 13, a small group of Western students and community members gathered in Red Square in support of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, on October 20, they did the same; and

WHEREAS, on October 25, around 100 Western students walked out to participate in a national action in support of Palestine; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, around 300 Western students and community members rallied on campus as part of the international “Shut it Down for Palestine” campaign; and

WHEREAS, at these demonstrations hundreds of students called for a ceasefire; and

WHEREAS, Western students have been significantly impacted by the continued violence in Gaza and the West Bank; and

WHEREAS, Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish, and Israeli students have been particularly impacted by increases in anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic, antisemitic, and anti-Israeli harassment, rhetoric, hate, and threats; and

WHEREAS, the ASWWU is charged with promoting the general welfare of students [1]; and

WHEREAS, the ASWWU is charged with representing student interests and opinions to appropriate governmental agencies [1]; and

WHEREAS, Western students are represented at the city level by Bellingham City Council Members Hannah Stone, Hollie Huthman, Daniel Hammill, Edwin H. “Skip” Williams, Lisa Anderson, Michael Liliquist, and Kristina Michele Martens; and

WHEREAS, Western students are represented at the federal level by U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray who represent the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, those students living in Bellingham are further represented by U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen who represents Washington’s 2nd Congressional District; and

WHEREAS, Western students are represented by U.S. President Joe Biden; and

WHEREAS, On October 7 the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), the Al-Qassam Brigades, broke through the Gaza wall at many points, took around 250 Israeli hostages, and engaged with the Israeli Defense Force, Israeli Police, Israeli Settlers, and Israeli Civilians [2, 3, 4]; and

WHEREAS, the attacks on October 7 killed around 1200 Israelis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. State Department considers Hamas’ actions on Oct. 7th terrorism [5]; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) has responded with disproportionate violence against Palestinians which has led to the devastating loss of thousands of civilian lives and has deeply impacted the students of Western Washington University; and

WHEREAS, U.S.-funded weapons are actively being used by Israel to kill Palestinians that were not involved in the Oct. 7th attacks. [6, 7]; and

WHEREAS, those weapons are further being used to ethnically cleanse the Gaza Strip and expel Palestinians [8]; and

WHEREAS, those weapons are further being used against Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem [9, 10]; and

WHEREAS, Israel has launched an invasion of the Gaza strip and raids in the West Bank [10, 11]; and
WHEREAS, Israel has limited the flow of water, power, food, fuel, medical aid, and communications in and out of Gaza [12, 13]; and
WHEREAS, infrastructure has been destroyed to hinder the advancement of Palestine; and
WHEREAS, Hospitals, refugee camps, schools, media offices, communications facilities, civilian homes, mosques, churches, and bakeries have been bombed by Israel [14]

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board stands against the ongoing war crimes and ethnic cleansing in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem;
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board condemns all violence against civilians and non-combatants;
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board supports a long-term ceasefire and a just peace in Palestine and Israel;
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that the Bellingham City Council pass a Resolution supporting a long-term ceasefire;
THAT, the U.S. Congress and the U.S. President have the ability and legal responsibility to stop the senseless killing in Gaza, East Jerusalem, and the West Bank;
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. House Representative Rick Larsen co-sponsor H.Res 786 “Calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine;”
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell call for a ceasefire by sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Senate Resolution similar to H.Res 786;
THAT, the ASWWU Executive Board requests that U.S. President Joe Biden instructs the US Ambassador to the UN to support ceasefire actions and enforcement in the UN Security Council.

*Introduced in the Executive Board, November 30, 2023
Agreed to in the Executive Board, with amendments, December 7, 2023*

cc: Council Member Hannah Stone 1st Ward
Council Member Hollie Huthman 2nd Ward
Council Member Daniel Hammill 3rd Ward
Council Member Edwin H. “Skip” Williams 4th Ward
Council Member Lisa Anderson 5th Ward
Council Member Michael Lilliquist 6th Ward
Council Member Kristina Michele Martens At Large
Rep. Rick Larsen WA-02
Sen. Patty Murray
Sen. Maria Cantwell
Pres. Joe Biden

- [1] Western Washington University and the Associated Students of Western Washington University, *Associated Students Charter*, Bellingham, WA, 2010.
- [2] Al Jazeera, "Why the Palestinian group Hamas launched an attack on Israel? All to know," Al Jazeera, 9 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/7/palestinian-group-hamas-launches-surprise-attack-on-israel-what-to-know>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
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- [6] T. Deen, "American Weapons Used in Gaza Trigger War Crime Accusations Against US," 23 October 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.ipsnews.net/2023/10/american-weapons-used-gaza-trigger-war-crime-accusations-us/>. [Accessed 5 November 2023].
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- [10] Al Jazeera, "Deadly assault on Jenin refugee camp as Israel raids on West Bank intensify," Al Jazeera, 9 November 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/9/deadly-assault-on-jenin-refugee-camp-as-west-bank-raids-intensify>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].
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- [14] AJLabs, "Israel-Gaza war in maps and charts: Live tracker," Al Jazeera, 29 November 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker>. [Accessed 30 November 2023].