

Supporting Students in Light of the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza

Dear Western Washington University Students,

As your elected ASWWU student representatives, we are committed to upholding the rights of free speech, academic freedom, and assembly on our college campus. We deeply respect diverse viewpoints, even when they are perceived as controversial, and we recognize these principles as essential components of our university community.

Due to the recent and horrific events in Gaza, there has been an increase in harassment and discrimination against Arab, Muslim, and Jewish students on our campus and across the nation. Students are facing online harassment which has very real impacts. No one should be harassed or fear for their safety. This situation is deeply concerning, and it is our shared commitment to ensure a campus environment characterized by respect, trust, and ethical conduct.

We wholeheartedly support our Arab, Muslim, and Jewish students and strive to promote the general well-being of all Western students. We will continue to defend your right to speak and organize freely. Our campus community must remain a safe space for all students.

We call on everyone in our campus community, including instructors, to be accommodating and empathetic to those affected by the attacks in Gaza. Global events can have major impacts on the mental health of our community members.

It's not the responsibility of those affected to keep others educated. We encourage all members of our community to take the initiative to educate themselves and engage in meaningful conversations. Please keep up to date with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and take the time to understand the historical context surrounding the recent escalation in Palestine and Israel.

In times like these, we stand united in support of our Arab, Muslim, and Jewish students. ASWWU is dedicated to promoting the general well-being of all Western students and ensuring that your voices are heard. ASWWU represents the student body, and we wanted to spend time listening to our peers' concerns before creating this statement. We've tried to approach this carefully and with empathy, but we're not perfect and are open to criticism. Our primary goal with this message is to create an open space for dialogue, and we invite you to reach out to us.

[List of resources to be updated upon release]