

Sept 6th, 2024

## Statement condemning UofT's latest restrictions on protests

As we return to school this fall, we must remember that there are no Palestinian students, scholars, or academics in Gaza returning to their classrooms, for their universities now cease to exist. Every single university in Gaza has been destroyed by bombs dropped by the Israeli government and paid for using the tuition dollars of students here at the University of Toronto. Even now, amidst escalating attacks by settlers and the Israeli military in the West Bank, our University chooses to remain willing collaborators in the actions of a settler-colonial apartheid state.

Instead of ending its complicity in the ongoing genocide in Palestine, the University of Toronto has chosen to unilaterally adopt a slew of new sweeping and repressive [regulations regarding on-campus protests](#) in a clear attempt to stifle Palestine solidarity protests and calls for the University to disclose its investments, divest its endowment, and cut ties with Israeli academic institutions. **We, the signatories, are outraged, appalled, and disgusted by U of T's decision to adopt these regulations and call on the University to rescind this policy immediately and commit to divestment from weapons manufacturers and companies complicit in Israeli apartheid.**

The effects of this policy go further than just the Palestinian Solidarity movement by effectively preventing any meaningful form of on-campus organizing and protest, further criminalizing students, and violating our fundamental right to free speech and protected expression. Specifically, new restrictions include:

- Preventing "the use of amplifiers, megaphones, microphones," which have been used regularly at on-campus protests for decades.
- "Blocking doorways to buildings or roadways into campus," a common occurrence during any demonstration, rally, or union picket.
- Disrupting "meetings of University governance," which have historically been a site of protest and a way to access decision-makers within our University.
- "Affixing signs, posters, or flyers (including the use of chalk, marker, paint, and projections)," designating them a form of vandalism.

Simply put, our administration permits protests as long as they remain unheard, unseen, and unfelt by the halls of power at our University. But we know that change doesn't happen through polite interaction – It happens through mass mobilization that challenges authority and demonstrates our collective power.

We see this move as part of a larger plan to make the temporary powers granted to the University and Toronto Police by their injunction into a permanent new status quo, allowing Campus Safety to call on TPS whenever they want, and granting them sweeping powers to criminalize any expression on campus they don't like. We're watching closely to see how the university administration and police choose to enforce these regulations and against whom. It is clear that these regulations are in response to the massive power the Pro-Palestinian movement has gained on campus and will be used to target and silence students who oppose UofT's complicity in genocide and occupation of Palestine.

These kinds of regulations are not limited to U of T. Several university administrations, including but not limited to [Waterloo](#), [Western](#), are passing regulations like these in a clear and coordinated attempt to stifle Palestine solidarity protests across so-called Canada.

As signatories representing the U of T community, we will not be silenced. We will continue to loudly criticize the University for profiting off of genocide and for violating our fundamental rights to free speech by adopting these new repressive regulations.

### **Signed,**

Tkarón:to Students in Solidarity with Palestine	Independent Jewish Voices for Peace (U of T Chapter)
Occupy U of T	U of T Students for Choice
U of T Graduate Students Union	Pears Project
Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU)	Dig-in U of T
University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU)	Black Students Association UofT
U of T Graduate Students Union (GSU)	NEWPride
CUPE3902	Communist Party of Canada (U of T Chapter)
CUPE 3902 BDS Caucus	Climate Justice UofT
Indigenous Students Association	UTM Charity Fashion Show Club
Association of Palestinian Students at the University of Toronto Mississauga	OPIRG Toronto
U of T Muslim Students Association (St. George Campus)	Students on Seven
UTSC Muslim Students Association	UTM Health Law and Business Association
Diaspora and Transnational Studies Student Union	
UTM Pakistani Students Association	
Factor-Inwetaash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) for Palestine	
U of T Public Health for Palestine (UTPH4P)	

Scholar Strike Canada  
Faculty for Palestine U of T