

November 3, 2023

As we continue to witness the horrific and ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and parts of the West Bank, Queer Crescent is urging LGBTQI+ organizations and leaders to join us in calling for a **ceasefire now**, and furthermore, to demand an end to the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip.

As U.S.-based organizations and leaders, we have a moral obligation to use our collective power to interrupt the flow of resources and support of Israel's ongoing war on Palestine.

The United States is the Israeli military's greatest funder and enabler. Every year, the U.S. government writes Israel a blank check for at least \$3.8 billion to fund Israel's violence against the Palestinian people. Rather than using those funds to provide for communities in need here, our government uses taxpayer dollars to enable the Israeli military to kill Palestinians, destroy their homes, and steal their native land. US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

<u>The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement</u> works to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law by calling for a boycott of Israeli products from illegal settlements, divesting from ongoing aid and support of Israel, and creating accountability measures through sanctions.

As trans, queer and non-binary people we understand too well what is at stake when our self-determination and sovereignty are removed. Palestine is a queer issue, and it is our duty to listen and learn from queer Palestinians who are living under Israeli occupation, and in the imposed Diaspora. We are urgently calling upon queer organizations and leaders to speak up, take action, and demand a ceasefire.

A ceasefire is an urgent measure to stop the active massacre in Gaza. But we know that this is only a first step, and it is essential that we move together to name and resist the violence of settler colonialism and Israel's racist apartheid regime. From the outset, the Zionist colonial project of creating Israel was built on the erasure, violence, and ethnic cleansing of Palestine and the Palestinian people.

Gendered violence has always been used as a tool of settler colonization. Israel has directly targeted our queer communities through "Pinkwashing".

A strategy of neo-fascism and colonization that directly targets our queer communities, pinkwashing is propaganda used by Israel and Zionists globally in their ongoing campaign to dehumanize the Palestinian people. They propel a narrative that Israel is "pro-queer," and reinforce orientalist and racist tropes about Arabs, Muslims, and Middle Eastern (SWANA) people being "backwards" and inherently homophobic. This propaganda serves to justify Israel's continued murder, displacement, and occupation of the Palestinian people, including queer Palestinians, by appealing to liberal sensibilities and individualism.

Through pinkwashing strategies, Israel intentionally distracts the public from their racist and violent actions by projecting an image of freedom and safety for queer people. Pinkwashing erases the existence of queer Palestinians who have been entrapped by the IDF, who are living under occupation, who are dying at the hands of Israel. A country can not be a safe refuge for LGBTQI+ communities and simultaneously commit genocide, mass displacement and ongoing dispossession of the Palestinian people.

Pinkwashing is one of many violent strategies that attacks the sovereignty of Palestine. Our struggles and our humanity are bound together.

Queer and trans liberation can never come at the expense of the Palestinian people.

We, the undersigned queer organizations and leaders, are in solidarity with Palestinians resisting occupation and fighting for their right to self-determination. We commit to using our platforms to call for ceasefire now, and take up learning about and challenging Pinkwashing in particular and Zionism generally, and all forms of anti-Palestinian, anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism. We dedicate ourselves to being in solidarity with the Palestinian people, and we understand that our role as allies witnessing genocide is to commit to solidarity with Palestine today, and until liberation.

Ceasefire Now! Free Palestine!

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Signed,

ORGANIZATIONS

Accountability Mapping
Adler University
Alianza Trans Latin X
Alliance of South Asians
Taking Action (ASATA)
Alyssa Rodriguez Center

for Gender Justice

Antonieta

Gimeno/IMAGINArte
API Equality-LA
Atlanta Unity Mosque

Atlanta Unity Mosque

Autistic Nature
Basically Wonderful

Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant

Project (BLMP)

Boundary Span, LLC Boundless Awareness Brown Boi Project Center for Embodied Pedagogy and Action El/La Para TransLatinas

Endeavoring Wellness

LLC

Evolve Ames

Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement

Fat Rose
Folsom Street

Freedom Oklahoma
GALAS LGBTQ+
Armenian Society
GSA Network

Hate Free Outagamie

HEART

Heartmind Teaching Hussain Collective Inclusive Muslims of Central Virginia

Indigenous Idaho Alliance

Indigenous Justice

Intransitive Jummah 4 All

Kaleidoscope Youth

Center

Lavender Phoenix

Lead to Life / bakiné Lyon-Martin Community

Health Services

Marigold Seeds Collective

Mew

Mirror Memoirs Muruna Healing LLC Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity

(MASGD)

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse

(NAPAFASA)

National Queer and Trans

Therapists of Color

Network

National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance

Neem Institute

Nikkei4Palestine (N4P)

Collective NQTTCN

OPAWL-Building AAPI Feminist Leadership Our Family Coalition Pacifica Social Justice Peacock Rebellion

PFLAG

Pyaar To The People Queer Art Night Austin Queer Film Theory 101 Queer Mango Collective Queer Rebels Production Queer Shia Collective

Queer the Land

Queers for Palestine -

Winnipeg

Queers' Gambit QueerTrans.Events QUIT! Queers

QUIT: QUEEIS

Undermining Israeli

Terrorism Radically Fit Rainbow Chrysalis

Coaching

Rooted Respite

Rosen Creative House

Sabian Arte Sad Francisco Sadhana Support Collective + Yoga with

Avery

Savage Daughters

SeritaYoga

South Asian SOAR South Bay Youth Changemakers StaceyFest

TACT (Trans Advocacy &

Care Team)

Teaching Palestine:
Pedagogical Praxis and
the Indivisibility of Justicer
Scholar, Arab and Muslim
Ethnicities and Diasporas
Studies, San Francisco

State University &
Feminists for Justice in
and for Palestine
Texas Trans Futures
Thank God for Abortion

The City School
The Feminist Front
The Queer Choir

(Oakland)

The Queer Palestinian
Empowerment Network
The Worm Farm Project
Transgender Law Center

US Campaign for Palestinian Rights

Viet Rainbow of Orange

County
Vigilant Love
Vocal AF

We Rise Production

Zapatista Assembly of Transnational Liberation (EZLTN)

INDIVIDUALS

Ash López Dan Paz a.t. Furuya Aashish Jethra Asher McClain Dani Pacey Adaku Utah Asher McClain Danica Sapit Adam Jude Breaux Daniel G ashley lugo Avery Janeczek Kalapa Aditi Lappathi Danny Brown Baharak Aditi Varshneya Dante Fuoco Aen Xmas Beatrice McGeoch Daria Lee aian mendoza Beck DeTrempe Debo Aileen Eagleton Bèr Kim Deeg Gold

AJ Schaerer Bethany A Defines hamidah amatullah

Akoth Ombaka Beven Kersaint wadud Fineout
Alex Marterre Beven Kersaint Delphia
Alex Skinner Blaise Deni Asnis

Alex Skinner Blaise Deni Asnis
Alexandra Bradley Blanca Sepulveda Devi Peacock

Alexandra Smith Blanca Ulloa Diana Venegas Hernandez

Ali Murat Gali Blue Murov Dina

Ali S. Bowie Winnike Divine Cade
Alicia Hurtado Bre Porter Dolores Tejada
Alima Chowdhury Brenda Salas Neves Dominique

Alisa Sikelianos-Carter Briana McDowell Donna Murillo
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Anisa Mustafa Milton Erin Upchurch
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Anush Gandra Clarke latta Henry III Francisco echo Eraso

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Arianna Harrison Cristina Aguilar Gabriel Quigley
Ariel Pinchot D Philip Gabriela van Veen
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Hyunhee Shin Laura Ostrow Mayra Jimenez

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Imam LaTrina Jackson Lauren Gaunt Megan Ai

Irma Shauf-BajarLaurie WagerMegan FeatherstoneIsabel YannatosLaurie WagerMeghna ShankarIsabelle T.Leah Rotkin-EllmanMehak Anwar (but VL is

Jac Jaconetta

Lean Rotkin-Ellman

Menak Anwar (but VL is hoping to sign on as an iack barry

LeTania Severe

org!)

jack barry Lia Dun Mel Thomas
Jacob Yoss Liam Shipston Melinda Rice

Jaden BarneyLianna G.Melissa RosarioJae LinLilyMelvin Escobar

Jam ChenLily WoodruffMewJames HixonLindsey HewittMewJasmin HLinton FreundMew

Jasmine GoldmanLis RegulaMicah Bazantjazmín calderón torresLoganmicha cárdenasJD DoyleLogan EvansMimi DemissewJenn BiehnLuca YacónMinahil Akbar Khan

Jenn Biehn Luca Yacón Minahil Akbar Khan
Jennicet Gutiérrez Luna Merbruja Miriam Rocek

Jessica Disney lush horizon Moira Meltzer-Cohen

Jessica Koehler M R Monica Allen

Jessica Schelz M. Beau Beckham-Shirey Mubaadarat Collective

Jimmy Su Madalyn drewno Nada Raslan

jo'kai bath madhvi trivedi-pathak Nader
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Ryan Fitzgibbon

Svati Shah

Taj M. Smith

Tamiko Beyer

Nora Sabian Marrero

Nikkita Oliver

Ning Wan

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Center sanjana sandhu Tünde Paule

Phoebe Sanders
Sanjana sandnu
Tunde Paule

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