

HOOS FOR ISRAEL
STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

May 14, 2021

To the University Community:

Over the past week, we have been following the current situation in Israel and the Gaza Strip, as well as reactions within our own community and social media. Foremost, we realize that many members of our community have loved ones both in Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and we sincerely wish for their safety and a prompt de-escalation of violence.

Hoos for Israel recognizes the deep complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict and that both Israelis and Palestinians have legitimate and long-standing ties to the land. As such, we are deeply concerned about the widespread misinformation and oversimplification of the conflict that we have seen on social media, and would like to use this space to remind the community about the IHRA definition of antisemitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Under the IHRA definition, criticism of Israel under the same standards held to any other country cannot be considered antisemitic. **However, attacks leveled against Israel that hold the state to a different standard based on its Jewish identity are manifestations of antisemitism. We believe that this includes:**

- **Denying Israel the right to self-defense against the thousands of rockets fired into Israel by Hamas, a right afforded without question to every other country.**
- **Denying the Jewish State’s legitimate ties to the land and the right of the Jewish people to self-determination—also known as Zionism.**

This conflict cannot be summed up in an infographic, and we urge members of the community to inform themselves about the history and complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict before sharing false narratives that do more harm than good. We believe that peace comes through respect and understanding, not hatred.

Respectfully,

The Executive Board