

FREE GAZA SOLIDARITY PROTEST ENCAMPMENT:

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND DEMANDS

From Dickinson College *Coalition For Mutual Liberation*

This **protest encampment** is taking place to bring attention to the ongoing US-endorsed genocide enacted by the Israeli military and government on the people of Palestine. **We stand in solidarity** with other encampments started by college students across the United States and around the world. **We call on the Dickinson College administration** to explicitly stand against the oppression of and violence against Palestinians. **We condemn** the police violence and mass arrests in response to this movement at other collegiate institutions. **We invite** Dickinson College faculty, students, and staff to join our encampment at any point and for however long to **publicly educate, grieve, and support** each other about what is happening in Gaza.

We make space for Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, Jewish and all students. We oppose wrongful conflation between various identities, political stances, and denials of human rights. **We do not support Arabophobia, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian sentiment, antisemitism, or any form of hate speech within this space.** Our criticisms of the Israeli State do not express any hate towards Judaism; Jewish Dickinson students, faculty, or staff; or Jewish people in general.

We commit to remaining peaceful and nonviolent regardless of possible hateful responses to this protest.

Freedom of Speech - Protect the Protest

We are committed to respecting the Dickinson College Student Handbook and we call on the College to do the same. We maintain the right to peacefully protest as the Handbook states:

- a. “Dickinson College respects the needs for all students and student groups to express themselves publicly. Whether advertising an event or supporting a community issue, we want our students to feel that they can share their views.”
- b. “Although the expression of an idea or point of view may be offensive or inflammatory to some, it is not necessarily a violation of our Community Standards or law. Dickinson embraces the free exchange of ideas essential to an academic community of inquiry.”

Our Demands

2024 Commencement Speaker

1. **We demand that Dickinson College change the commencement speaker for the class of 2024, Michael Smerconish.** Smerconish has publicly written about his support for racial profiling and his alignment of Islam and Arab identity with terrorism, which reinforces dangerous stereotypes and bigotry. It is unacceptable for Dickinson College to invite someone who fuels these hateful views to our campus and subject students to sharing a stage with him, especially given the current Gazan genocide.

Scholarship Fund for Palestinian Students

2. **We demand that Dickinson College establish a scholarship fund for Palestinian students to compensate for the genocide in Gaza.** There are no more universities left in Gaza; all of them have been destroyed by Israeli weapons and bombs: Al-Aqsa University, Al-Azhar University-Gaza, Al-Quds Open University, Gaza University, Islamic University of Gaza, Israa University, Palestine Technical College, University College of Applied Sciences, University of Palestine, Gaza Community/Training Center, and Hasan University.

Financial Transparency and Divestment

3. **We demand that Dickinson College disclose their investments** to ensure there is transparency of any financial support of Israeli institutions, specifically the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Israeli corporations identified as contributors to systems of human rights abuse. We urge that Dickinson divest from these companies.

Co-Signed and Co-Written by Dickinson College students, together in solidarity and love.