

Approved - June 20, 2024
5 (Yes), 2 (No)

DLA Statement Calling for Ceasefire in Gaza

The Social Justice Committee of the Delaware Library Association (DLA) joins professional organizations in our field including the [ALA](#), [ALA SRRT](#), [APALA](#) (1), as well as our state legislature (2) in calling for an immediate ceasefire, delivery of immediate humanitarian aid to Gaza, and call for an end to the epistemicide being carried out through the destruction of libraries and archives in Palestine.

The Delaware Library Association stands in solidarity with oppressed people everywhere, including the Jewish people and the people of occupied Palestine. We grieve for all those killed and all those impacted by the violence that took place on October 7th and the violence which has escalated in its aftermath. We vehemently condemn antisemitism and Islamophobia, both of which have been widespread in the wake of this violence. We condemn these hateful acts here in Delaware, the United States, and abroad. We reject the idea of the Israeli government and its actions as representative of Judaism and the Jewish people; we likewise reject the idea that any criticism of Israel or condemnation of the violence in Palestine is inherently antisemitic. We reject authoritarianism in all its forms.

As information workers and per ALA Policy B.2.8, it is especially relevant for us to condemn the destruction of libraries, archives, schools, and other sites of information access and collective memory in Palestine due to Israel's assault on Gaza (3).

The current attacks have resulted in the destruction of many Palestinian libraries and archives (4), including but not limited to:

- [Gaza Municipal Library](#), Gaza's main public library;
- [Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center and Diana Tamari Sabbagh Library](#), a key historical site where in 1998, President Bill Clinton visited with Israeli and Palestinian leaders;
- [Central Archives of Gaza City](#), which contained documents integral to the cultural heritage of Palestine, dating back 100 years

In light of the losses documented above, in accordance with our fellow professional organizations and in line with ALA Policy B.2.8,

- We call for an immediate and lasting ceasefire and delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza;
- We call for an end to the destruction of libraries, archives, schools, and other sites of information access in Palestine;

- We condemn any and all antisemitism and Islamophobia in discussion of the events in Gaza;
 - We call upon our fellow state library associations to join us in calling for a ceasefire and condemning the destruction of libraries and archives in Palestine.
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Footnotes:

- 1: Additional professional librarian groups include the [Los Angeles Archivists Collective](#), the [Middle Eastern Librarians Association](#) and [Librarians and Archivists with Palestine](#).
- 2: Delaware Public Media: [Delaware House passes resolution supporting a permanent ceasefire in Gaza](#)
- 3: [ALA Policy B.2.8](#):
“The American Library Association deplores the destruction of libraries, library collections and property, and the disruption of the educational process by that act, whether it be done by individuals or groups of individuals and whether it be in the name of honest dissent, the desire to control or limit thought or ideas, or for any other purpose.”
- 4: Report on [Israeli Damage to Archives, Libraries, and Museums in Gaza](#) from Librarians and Archivists with Palestine.

Resources:

Donate to relief and medical organizations:

- [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#)
- [Gaza Urgent Relief Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund \(PCRF\)](#)
- [UNRWA Gaza Emergency Appeal](#)
- [United Palestinian Appeal](#)
- [Islamic Relief Worldwide: Palestine Emergency Appeal](#)
- [Anera: Where Hope Finds a Way](#)
- [Doctors Without Borders: Our Response to the Israel-Gaza War](#)

Calls to Action

- [URGENT: Stop genocide against Palestinians in Gaza \(email now\) - JVP](#) (Jewish Voice for Peace)
- [URGENT! Call Congress: CEASEFIRE NOW!](#) (US Campaign for Palestinian Rights)
- [2023 Statement on Gaza](#) - Librarians and Archivists with Palestine

Reading Lists

- [What to read right now on Gaza and the Hamas-Israel war](#) - Literary Hub
- [Readings and Resources – Librarians and Archivists with Palestine](#)
- [Free Palestine! A Reading List](#) - Haymarket
- [Our History of Popular Resistance: Palestine Reading List](#) - Palestinian Youth Movement
- [Israel/Palestine Reading List](#) - Pluto Press
- [Reading List: Palestinian Studies](#) - University of California Press

Books/eBooks

- [Free Ebooks for a Free Palestine!](#) - Haymarket Books (links to free downloads)
- [Solidarity with Palestine: Free Resources and Further Reading | Verso Books](#)
- On Palestine - Noam Chomsky (available on Hoopla)
- [Except for Palestine: the Limits of Progressive Politics - Marc Lamont Hill](#) (also available on Hoopla)
- [Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine - Ilan Pappé](#) (available through Delaware Libraries)
- [Blaming the Victims : Spurious Scholarship and the Palestinian Question](#) - Edward Said (available through Delaware Libraries)
- [The Hundred Years' War on Palestine](#) - Rashid Khalidi

Articles & Websites

- [Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#) - Global Conflict Tracker (Council on Foreign Relations)
- [Israel must comply with key ICJ ruling ordering it do all in its power to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza - Amnesty International](#) - Amnesty International
- [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel - reported impact | Day 130 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory](#) - United Nations
- [Israel/Palestine News and Reports](#) - Human Rights Watch
- [Gaza Strip in maps: Life in Gaza under siege](#) - BBC
- [Israel-Palestine conflict: A brief history in maps and charts](#) - Al Jazeera
- ["We Cannot Cross Until We Carry Each Other"](#) - Jewish Currents
- [Dispatches from Gaza](#) - Jewish Currents
- [The Hamas Attacks and Israeli Response: An Explainer](#) - Jewish Currents
- [America Is a Root Cause of Israel and Palestine's Latest War](#) - Foreign Policy
- [Jewish Grief Must Not Be Used as a Weapon of War](#) - The Nation
- [Opinion | Even Before the Israel-Hamas War, Being Palestinian Was Controversial](#) - The New York Times
- [Gaza explained: What to know about the enclave](#) - CNN
- [What is Hamas and why is it fighting with Israel in Gaza?](#) - BBC
- [War on Gaza 2023: The Formidable Human Suffering](#) - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

- [Everything You Need to Know About Israel-Palestine](#) - Vox
- [CIA Factbook - Gaza Strip](#)
- [CIA Factbook - Israel](#)
- [CIA Factbook - West Bank](#)
- [PBS Newshour - Israeli-Palestinian Conflict](#)
- [RAND Corporation - Lessons from Israel's Wars in Gaza](#)
- [U.S. Department of State - Israel](#)
- [U.S. Department of State - Palestinian Territories](#)
- [Brookings Institution - War in Israel and Gaza](#)
- [Al-Arabiya.net - Explainer: Israel-Palestinian dispute hinges on statehood, land, Jerusalem, refugees](#)
- [Gaza's main public library has been destroyed by Israeli bombing.](#) < Literary Hub
- [A legal battle is set to open at the top UN court over an allegation of Israeli genocide in Gaza](#) - ABC News

Collections & Toolkits

- [Nakba Archive](#)
- [Decolonize Palestine](#)
- [Project 48](#)
- [Gaza Under Attack Toolkit](#) - Jewish Voice for Peace
- [Gaza 2023 Action Toolkit](#) - Librarians & Archivists with Palestine (LAP)
- [All Out for Palestine](#), Palestine Digital Action Toolkit by Palestinian Feminist Collective
- [Palestine Program Toolkit for Librarians 2023](#)
- [Grassroots Advocacy Toolkit: Taking Your People Power to Congress](#), US Campaign for Palestinian Rights ([USCPR](#))

Podcasts

- [2023 War – UNSETTLED Podcast](#)
- [Diaspora Podcast - Jewish Voice for Peace](#)
- [Israel's Tools of Occupation Are Tested on Palestine and Exported Globally | Truthout](#) - interview with Anthony Loewenstein
- [Vox podcasts tackle the Israel-Hamas war](#) - curated list of episodes of *Today Explained* that cover the conflict

Videos/Film

- [Ten films to watch about the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict](#)
- [The Great Book Robbery](#) - the story of 70,000 Palestinian books that were looted by the newly created State of Israel in 1948
- [History of the Question of Palestine](#) (video and timeline) - United Nations

News Literacy

- [News Literacy Project: Sanitize before you share](#)
- [Six Tropes to Look Out for That Distort Israel/Palestine Coverage](#) - FAIR
- [Misinformation about the Israel-Hamas war is flooding social media. Here are the facts](#) - AP Fact Check