

GEOGRAPHERS for JUSTICE In PALESTINE
2025 Pre-Conference
Accessibility Description, Space Needs, and COVID Policy

If you have accessibility needs not covered in this document, please contact organizers ASAP at geog4pal@gmail.com and we will do our best to accommodate them however we can.

Covid-19 Precautions

Policies and guidelines are subject to change.

The organizers will notify registered attendees of any changes.

Masks: Attendees, volunteers, organizers, and presenters are required to wear a mask (N95 or KN95) over their mouth and nose while indoors at the conference. Masks will be provided for those who do not have a mask. There will be large air purifiers located in each of the rooms where programming is happening. The mask policy applies to speakers, presenters, and attendees. There are sinks for handwashing, and we will have hand sanitizer on site.

Please note: Attendees may unmask while actively eating, drinking, or congregating in the outdoors. We encourage attendees to wear masks outdoors.

The pre-conference concludes with an evening Iftar (7:30pm-9:30 pm). Dinner and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. The Iftar will not have a mask requirement. We encourage attendees to mask when they are not eating or drinking, and to test for COVID prior to attending the event.

Testing: We encourage attendees to take a COVID test prior to the conference. There will be limited tests available for free at the conference. Attendees who test positive for COVID should isolate and contact the pre-conference organizers. Attendees who experience COVID-like symptoms should isolate and request a test from the organizers.

Social Distancing and Outdoor Space: The pre-conference venue has an outdoor courtyard space and the schedule will make room for attendees to go outdoors for breaks between sessions or during the Iftar portion of the event. We are hoping for good weather. Typically daytime weather in Detroit at the end of March would not be the most comfortable for pre-conference programming to be held outside, though we encourage attendees to socialize and take breaks outdoors in order to minimize the risk of infection from COVID-19. Although not required, attendees are encouraged to wear masks outdoors as well, particularly in larger/denser groups, since these increase the risk of transmission even while outside.

Potential access needs

Physical Description of Space:

Entering the building, there is a small threshold at the main front doors (approx. 1" high). There

is also a long ramp into the building (with no threshold). There is an accessible restroom. There will be tables and chairs set up throughout the day. The event location is located on an ADA accessible transit line within a 20 minute ride of the main AAG conference location.

Sounds/Noise:

The space will be filled with up to 250 conference attendees. The layout of the space means that multiple conversations and workshops will be happening in any given room at a time. This may create a situation in which there will be a lot of volume, multiple sources of sounds at once, and limited space for quiet conversations.

Scents:

Please limit or avoid wearing scents to the event.

Food:

Please do not bring nut products to the event. Nut-free food will be provided, including light snacks and drinks, as well as the Iftar meal at the end of the day.

Other needs in the space

Bathrooms: Two gender neutral accessible bathrooms will be available on the main floor of Jam Handy. Gender separated bathrooms will be available in the basement of Jam Handy, down a set of stairs.

Prayer space: There is a large room (separate from where event programming will be held and not open to all attendees) that will function as a multi-use space during the event. We are offering this room to be used as a prayer space for those who would like it for prayer times during conference programming. Conference organizers may occasionally go in and out of it for supplies, and part of the room will be set up for childcare and potentially also lactation. The room does not have physical barriers available for gender segregation. We do not have prayer mats on site. If you wish to make use of this prayer space, please let a conference organizer know at the event and we can direct you to the space. For Maghrib prayer a larger space will be available and we plan to make it a quiet semi-private space for prayer.

Lactation space: We are working on figuring out a private lactation space. As soon as we have more information, we will update this document.