



Student Association Senate

SENATE BILL EO-F24-01

“A bill to create two special councils to advocate for Jewish and Muslim students on GW campus.”

SHORT TITLE: Justice at GW Initiative

SPONSOR: President Arielle Geismar,
Sen. Ethan FITZGERALD (CCAS-U, Co-Chair of Mental
Health Support Assembly)

CO-SPONSOR: Vice President Demetrius Apostolis
(Presiding Officer of the Senate)

ENDORSER: Sen. Biyang Soh (CCAS-U, Chair of Physical
Facilities and Urban Affairs Committee)

Sen. Noah Jordan (CCAS-U, Vice Chair of
Physical Facilities and Urban Affairs Committee)
Sen. Emmy Ly (GWSB-U, Chair of Undergraduate Student
Life)

Sen. Anika GUPTA (GWSB-U, Chair of the Undergraduate
Education Policy Committee)

Sen. Adriana SANDOVAL (CPS-G) Chair of the Education
Policy Committee.)

Sen. Izzy BROPHY (CCAS-U, Chair of the Special
Committee on Dining)

Sen. Daniel S. SALEEM
(CCAS-U) Chair of Sustainability Committee, Vice-Chair of
Governance and Nominations, Vice-Chair of Community,
Advocacy and Inclusion Committee, Vice-Chair of the Special
Committee on Dining)

Sen. Jonesy STRELL (CCAS-U, Chair of Community,
Advocacy & Inclusion Committee and Vice-Chair of Finance
& Allocations Committee)

Rishabh Singh (SEAS-G)

COMMITTEE: Community, Advocacy, and Inclusion
Committee



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PURPOSE: To create two special councils to advocate for Jewish and Muslim students on GW campus and for other purposes.

Whereas, under her powers enshrined in the Charter and Constitution of the Student Association and the statutes and laws approved thereunder, the President of the Student Association will make this Executive Order to create two special councils to address, uphold, and advocate for Jewish and Muslim representation in light of recent events in the world and ensure the safety of all students within the George Washington University, and;

Whereas, ~~recent events in the Middle East~~ **Violence and bombing of Palestine in the Gaza Strip and terrorist attacks and violence in Israel have spurred** Antisemitism and Islamophobia on campus threatening students' safety and their right to advocacy. Both Jewish and Muslim students deserve an academic, professional, student life, and social space that celebrates and uplifts their identities;

WHEREAS, we would like to provide recognition to the pain of Palestinian students on campus who are battling anti-Arab and Anti-Palestinian discrimination, pain of communicating with family back home, balancing school and class, being doxxed in person and online, verbal harassment and the disenfranchisement of Palestinian voices.

WHEREAS, we would like to provide recognition to the pain of Jewish and Israeli students on campus who are battling antisemitism, discrimination, hate symbols, academic discrimination, doxxing, antisemitic attacks around the world and erasure of Jewish identity and cultural values.

Whereas, George Washington University has room to grow to provide Jewish and Muslim students support in academic, professional, student life, and social spaces;

Whereas, such concerns deserve the proper representation and acknowledgement by the Student Association, as representatives of the George Washington University's approximated 26,000-person student body that has the primary responsibility to ensure all students feel safe and heard within campus walls;

Whereas, advocating for the safety for both Jewish and Muslim students on campus is a necessary component of the battle against hate on campus and in our student community.

Whereas, the George Washington University Student Association by the authority of the President creates two special councils: Council of Jewish and Israeli student experience and Council of Palestinian and Muslim student experience, to be governed by the rules enumerated below and the governing documents of the Student Association and the Executive and Legislative Branches,



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Whereas, be it known that the President submits [EO-24-01], in bill form, to the Senate for approval by a two thirds majority of Senators Present. (See. Appendix No. 1)

BE IT ENACTED by the George Washington University Student Association Senate by The George Washington University Student Association Senate (two-thirds of the members present concurring therein), that

Section One: Special Councils

Part 1

1. Composition

The Justice at GW Initiative shall allow the creation of;

- i. The Council of Jewish and Israeli student experience
 - ii. The Council of Palestinian and Muslim student experience,
 - iii. Two Commissioners per Council
 - a. One member nominated from the Executive Branch
 - b. One member nominated from the Legislative Branch
 - iv. No less than 10 but no more than 18 total members of each council.
2. Alongside the Councils, the Student Association at the George Washington University will meet with representatives from the George Washington University Administration including but not limited to:
- i. University President Ellen Granberg
 - ii. Vice Provost Colette Coleman
 - iii. Representative leader from the Multicultural Student Service Center (MSSC)
3. Both Councils will regularly communicate and work in tandem with the Student Association's Deputy Secretary of Faith and Religious Justice to ensure a wide variety of student voices are represented and heard on campus. The councils, Co-Commissioners, and all who are involved in this project agree to uphold the Executive and Legislative Branch's community agreements and workflow guidelines.

Part 2. Appointment

1. The President and Vice President will work with the Deputy Secretary of Faith and Religious Justice and release an application to the student body for potential commissioners and council members to apply. The Executive branch will select one Co-Commissioner for each council. The application will then be shared with the Vice President, and the Senate will then select one Co-Commissioner for each council. In accordance with precedent, all four commissioners will be Senate approved. Once each Council has commissioners, each Council will review the



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applications already submitted for general council members and work with the Deputy Secretary of Faith and Religious Justice to select council members.

Section Two: Mission and Operation

Part 1. The Justice at GW Initiative will allow both Councils to enable various programming, tasks, and advocacy efforts to create a platform for students to voice their opinions in a safe space and engage in thoughtful discussions. Each council may, independent of one another:

- a. Serve as an advocacy and cultural celebratory entity for each community, highlighting traditions, customs, and values.
- b. Conduct a survey of students on campus to gather data on student life, opinions, and desires. They may create a research report on the findings.
- c. Host a culture celebration event during the duration of the council, no later than March 01, 2024
- d. Host a professional or academic event about their community's history, practices, or other commentary. This can be in the form of a panel, keynote speaker, or other format as approved by the President.
- e. The councils may communicate with the President and Vice President on how to expand and implement new ideas to enrich student experience on campus. Other and alternate programming may be suggested to and approved by the President of the Student Association.
- f. The Commissioner of the both Councils shall provide an update to the President, Vice President, and Executive Secretary of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion detailing the activity of the task force and their progress once every 30-day period.
- g. The Councils will meet at least bi-weekly at a time specified by the Co-Commissioners.

Part 2. Operational Composition

- I. Structure for duties and responsibilities (i.e. specific roles) shall be determined by the President of the Student Association, Vice President of the Student Association, the Deputy Secretary for Faith and Religious Justice, and the Co-commissioners of both Councils.

Article III: Funding



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Part 1: Executive Branch Operational Budget Funds

- I. Each Council will receive \$1,000.00 from the Executive Branch funds. There will be an initial total allocation of \$2,000.00 for this project.
- II. For any additional funds, the Commissioners can request funds and the President shall assemble the Executive Cabinet to vote by simple majority on the disbursement of funds from the Executive Operational Budget.

Article IV: Membership Term

Part 1: Membership Length

- I. Each Council's membership shall last until the end of each Student Association academic term

Article V: Enactment

Part 1. Approval, Effect, and Amendment;

- I. This Charter shall be considered approved by the affixing of the signature of the President to [EO-24-01] "*Justice at GW Initiative*". At that time the Charter will take immediate effect until the dissolution of the Task Force (*see. art. IV §1(I)(II)(III)*).
- II. This Charter is subject to amendment by Executive Order of the President.

Demetrius APOSTOLIS, *Vice President*

Date

ATTEST:

Jacob SCHWARTZ, *Secretary of the Senate*

Date



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Arielle GEISMAR, *President*

Date