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## UCSC FACULTY FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

### UCSC FJP STATEMENT



### ABOUT UCSC FJP:

Following the urgent call to establish Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) groups across U.S. campuses to support students under increasing threats and attacks, we at UC Santa Cruz have formed our own FJP. Faculty, staff, and students who work on and/or organize for Palestine are under increasing censure and censorship across U.S. campuses, including

from their own administrations. We intend to protect our students—and each other—as we do this work. Our FJP work will include supporting Students for Justice in Palestine in their work, collaborating with students on direct actions, protecting faculty and graduate students under attack for making space to discuss Palestine in their classrooms, hosting events, and acting as liaisons for students experiencing harassment because they are perceived as Arab, Muslim, and/or pro-Palestinian. We will ensure the collective right to academic freedom for advocates of Palestine and combat attempts to equate the critique of the policies of a foreign state with antisemitism. We are inclusive of senate faculty, lecturers, staff, and graduate students and we look forward to organizing joint events and actions with other FJP groups across the Bay Area, California, and the country.

## **UCSC FJP STATEMENT**

We, the undersigned, acknowledge that we are witnessing U.S.-backed Israeli genocidal violence against a dispossessed population in

Gaza, escalating state-sponsored settler violence in the West Bank, heightened imprisonment and torture of Palestinians in Israeli prisons, and imprisonment of the state's own citizens, especially Palestinians, who have expressed concern or support for Palestinians in the other parts of Palestine. We watch in horror as Israeli bombs continue to rain down on Gaza, murdering over 11,000 Palestinians, including over 4,000 children: a bodycount that grows everyday. Following scholars of genocide, we note that Israeli War Minister Yoav Gallant has stated: "We are imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we will act accordingly." This dehumanization is meant to justify, in advance, the mass death—by bombing or by slowly ending life-giving sustenance—of 2.3 million Palestinians trapped in Gaza. Thus far, Israeli airstrikes have destroyed hospitals, targeted first responders, murdered journalists, eradicated entire families, leveled neighborhoods, and demolished "safe routes" on which Palestinians

were told to flee for their lives. It has been accompanied by Israel's denying Palestinians in Gaza water, medicine, food, electricity, and fuel and destroying water, power, and telecommunications infrastructure. This most recent attack is the fifth bombardment in 15 years, perpetrated by one of the world's most powerful militaries against a captive population, nearly half of whom are under eighteen, and the majority of whom are refugees from successive waves of displacement by Israeli settlement and ethnic cleansing since 1948. These war crimes are supported by U.S. tax dollars at the rate of \$3.8 billion per year. Outraged, we note that our representatives continue to ignore the 66% of constituents in the U.S. who support a ceasefire.

As scholars, we also note that this is a moment of rampant misinformation and racist warmongering, perpetrated by government officials, administrators, and mainstream media outlets. We hold our administrations—and similar messaging by the mainstream U.S.

media outlets—responsible for violence against protesters, teach-in attendees, and vigil participants in support of Palestinian freedom on campuses across the United States.

Following the University of California Ethnic Studies Faculty Council, we affirm that this rhetorical violence generated by administrative bodies across multiple universities fosters a hostile learning environment for Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students on our campuses who are reminded in these moments that the university does not protect them and cannot spare a word of care for their families under siege. As educators, following Birzeit University, we too call upon our academic communities to “fulfill their intellectual and academic duty of seeking truth, maintaining a critical distance from state-sponsored propaganda, and to hold the perpetrators of genocide and those complicit with them accountable.”

Finally, this is an urgent moment of dangerously shrinking space for freedom of speech on our campuses. Students, staff, and

faculty in support of Palestine at UCSC have long been subject to attacks disparaging our work. The scope and scale of intimidation and threats grow everyday. We are aware that universities are under immense pressure from trustees, alumni, and donors to be perceived as “pro-Israel,” even at the cost of violating academic freedom and free speech rights. Students nationwide are under increasing threats and attacks, including from university leaderships that refuse to protect them from harassment and instead actively punish them for speaking up; from employers that fire them or reverse decisions to hire them; and from the U.S. Senate, which has dangerously equated criticism of the state of Israel with antisemitism and called pro-Palestine students at NYU and other universities “morally repugnant.” As our own administration has recently censured the work of scholars committed to the study of Israel as a settler colonial state, we demand that UCSC ensure that all of its community members, including those who advocate for Palestinian rights, are able to produce knowledge with protection



and without interference. UCSC also must recognize the harms of Islamophobia and of the racism experienced by Arab and Arab-American colleagues and students, who are currently watching the U.S. media and their government officials encourage the annihilation of the Palestinian people.

Now is the time for faculty, staff, and students to come together to protect our right to speak out and collectively demand an immediate end to the massive violence being inflicted on the people of Gaza. We must also rally, on campus and beyond, in support of our students and against the anti-Palestinian campaigns in the media and the political sphere. We envision Faculty for Justice in Palestine as a space that encourages radical care for each other and invites colleagues across the university to speak out at this critical moment.

As the newly formed Faculty for Justice in Palestine at UC Santa Cruz, we assert that while we are coming together in this moment of escalating genocide, that we know that the Nakba is ongoing and that our work does not

begin or end here. UCSC FJP will be an ongoing formation that will continue to implement its commitments and adjust them as needed in future moments until liberation of Palestinian land and people is actualized and the right of return is implemented, and our campus communities are free from racialized targeting and disregard.

Please add your name to our statement to oppose this genocidal attack on Gaza, the continuing occupation of Palestinians subject to Israeli control, and the threats to our students and colleagues who want to express their solidarity with the Palestinian people. Subsequently, we will ask if you wish to join our chapter.

**You can add your name to our statement [here](#).**

1. Javier Fernández Agüera, Lecturer,  
Languages and Applied Linguistics
2. Michelle Aguilera, Assistant Professor,  
Education



3. Jon Ayon Alonso, Assistant Professor,  
Film and Digital Media
4. David Anthony, Professor Emeritus,  
History Department
5. Amy Argenal, Assistant Teaching  
Professor, Sociology
6. Anjali Arondekar, Professor, Feminist  
Studies
7. Mai awad, PhD student in Sociology
8. Sophia Azeb, Assistant Professor, Critical  
Race & Ethnic Studies
9. Abdelkader Berrahmoun, Lecturer,  
Department of Languages and Applied  
Linguistics
10. Christina Blebea, PhD student,  
Environmental Studies
11. Courtney Bonam, Assistant Professor,  
Psychology & Critical Race and Ethnic  
Studies
12. Josh Brahinsky, lecturer, John R Lewis  
College
13. mattie brice, Assistant Professor;  
Performance, Play, & Design

14. Leonard Butingan, PhD Candidate, History
15. Em Butler, MFA Student, FDM
16. micha cardénas, Associate Professor, Critical Race & Ethnic Studies and Performance, Play & Design
17. J. Mijin Cha, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies
18. Susanna Collinson, PhD Candidate, History of Art and Visual Culture
19. Abby Cunniff, PhD Student, Environmental Studies
20. Daniel, PhD candidate, Psychology
21. Yasmeen Daifallah, Assistant Professor of Politics
22. Muriam Haleh Davis, Associate Professor, History
23. Roberto S. de Roock, Assistant Professor, Education
24. T. J. Demos, Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture
25. Tamara Duplantis, Lecturer, Performance, Play and Design
26. Alycia Ellington, PhD student, Sociology

27. ksenia fir, Ph.D. candidate, Film and Digital Media
28. Carolina Flores, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
29. Arlo Fosburg, PhD Candidate, FMST
30. Jess Fournier, PhD Candidate, Feminist Studies
31. Carla Freccero, Distinguished Professor, Literature & History of Consciousness
32. Robin Gabriel, Ph.D. Candidate in sociology and CRES
33. Tricia Gallagher-Geurtsen, Lecturer, Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
34. Yulia Gilichinskaya, lecturer, Film & Digital Media
35. Amy Mihyang Ginther, Associate Professor, Department of Performance, Play & Design
36. Julianne Foxworthy Gonzalez, PhD candidate, Education
37. Victoria Molero González, Staff/Director of Mentoring, Center for Reimagining Leadership

38. Rebecca Gross, Graduate Student  
Worker, Literature Department
39. Carrie Hamilton, PhD Student, Sociology
40. Lani Hanna, PhD candidate, Feminist  
Studies
41. Camilla Hawthorne, Associate Professor,  
Sociology and Critical Race & Ethnic  
Studies
42. Christine Hong, Professor, Critical Race  
and Ethnic Studies and Literature
43. Hyesung Grace Hwang, Assistant  
Professor, Psychology
44. Sintia Issa, PhD candidate, History of Art  
& Visual Culture
45. Reikia Jibrin, Assistant Professor,  
Education
46. Jenny Kelly, Associate Professor, Critical  
Race and Ethnic Studies and Feminist  
Studies
47. Ki'Amber, PhD student, Sociology
48. René Espinoza Kissell, Assistant  
Professor, Education Dept
49. Amy Krauss, Visiting Assistant Professor,  
Feminist Studies

50. Amanda Lashaw, Lecturer, Education Department
51. Marisol LeBrón, Associate Professor, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and Feminist Studies
52. Xavier Livermon, Associate Professor, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
53. Leslie McShane Lodwick, PhD Candidate, History of Art and Visual Culture
54. Alma Esperanza Villa Loma, Graduate Student, Sociology
55. Flora Lu, Professor, Environmental Studies
56. Marina Magalhães, Assistant Professor, Department of Performance, Play & Design
57. Nidhi Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
58. Bob Majzler, Lecturer, Psychology and John R. Lewis College
59. Marc Matera, Professor, History
60. Megan McNamara, Continuing Lecturer, Sociology

61. Nick Mitchell, Associate Professor,  
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
62. Cinthya Martinez, Postdoctoral Fellow,  
Latin American and Latino Studies
63. Devina Martinez, Undergraduate Advisor,  
Department of Performance, Play &  
Design
64. Jennifer Mogannam, Assistant Professor,  
Critical Race & Ethnic Studies
65. Anny L. Mogollón, PhD Candidate,  
Literature, Critical Race & Ethnic Studies,  
Feminist Studies
66. Maywa Montenegro, Assistant Professor,  
Environmental Studies
67. Aida Mukharesh, PhD Candidate,  
Sociology
68. Rosa Navarro, PhD Student, Sociology
69. Marcia Ochoa, Associate Professor,  
Performance, Play & Design
70. Brittani R. Orona (Hupa), UC President's  
and Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral  
Fellow, History
71. John Ortiz, Social Documentation MFA  
student, Film and Digital Media



72. Jamilli Pacheco-Urquiza, MFA Student,  
Film & Digital Media
73. A. Laurie Palmer, Professor, Art  
Department
74. Ariella Patchen, PhD student, History of  
Consciousness Department
75. Kailani Polzak, Assistant Professor,  
History of Art and Visual Culture
76. Rowan Powell, PhD student, Politics
77. Fatima Raja, PhD Candidate, Education
78. Martin Rizzo-Martinez, Assistant  
Professor, Film and Digital Media
79. Josephine Pham, Assistant Professor,  
Education
80. Delaney Pues, PhD student,  
Environmental Studies
81. Kaylee-Allyssa Roberts, PhD Candidate,  
Sociology
82. Pamela Rodriguez-Montero, Assistant  
Professor, PPD
83. Dorothy R. Santos, Visiting Assistant  
Professor, Sociology
84. Felicity Amaya Schaeffer, Chair of  
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies

85. Thomas Serres, Assistant Professor, Politics
86. Vanita Seth, Associate Professor, Politics
87. Huzaifa Shahbaz, Ph.D. Student, Politics
88. Kriti Sharma, Assistant Professor, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies
89. Amanda Smith, Associate Professor, Literature
90. Wesley Somers, PhD Student and Teaching Assistant, Music Department
91. Summer Sullivan, PhD student, Environmental Studies
92. Megan Thomas, Associate Professor, Politics
93. Tara Thomas, Lecturer, Literature
94. Karen Crespo Triveño (reconnecting Quechua), PhD Student, Environmental Studies Department
95. Tashina Vavuris, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental Studies
96. Logan Walker, Lecturer, Film and Digital Media
97. Hannah Waterhouse, Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies

98. Marianne Weems, Performance, Play & Design and Digital Arts & New Media
99. Alice Yang, Associate Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies and History
100. Zoe Zhao, Assistant Professor, Sociology

You can follow us on Instagram at @fjpucsc

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**PALESTINE WILL BE FREE**