

## **Rhetoric and Composition Scholars/Teachers/Administrators/Students for Palestine**

Original link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGMt9H-8HMPmeEmA-H7FMdqnyVsQ7-YcGTe46jylq3q6aeUQ/viewform>

Captured: 4/16/25

NOTE: This petition is added to AMCHA Initiative's [Academic BDS petitions](#) database because of the following sentence, "We endorse the statements issued by [Publishers for Palestine](#), [Writers Against the War in Gaza](#), [Academics Against the Assault on Gaza](#), and [A Liberatory Demand from Queers in Palestine](#), and join global solidarity efforts calling for the liberation of Palestine from a brutal occupation, now in its 75th year, and a lasting peace to Palestine and for Palestinians."

The petition, [Writers Against the War in Gaza](#), contains support for the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) campaign.

That statement is included below as well.

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## **Rhetoric and Composition Scholars/Teachers/Administrators/Students for Palestine**

Rhetoric and Composition Scholars/Teachers/Administrators/Students for Palestine

13 November 2023

We are concerned rhetoric and composition scholars/teachers/administrators/students witnessing with horror the unfolding of Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza. We come together to grieve the unfathomable loss of life and annihilation of the living. We condemn the ongoing genocide in Palestine unequivocally. We reject the racist rhetoric/language used to dehumanize Palestinians and to minimize Palestinian suffering. We refuse to minimize Palestinian suffering. We refuse to disregard the value of Palestinian lives. We cherish Palestinian lives. We insist on cherishing Palestinian lives. We refuse to censor Palestinian voices and/or our own voices in support of Palestinians and for a free Palestine. We uphold the rights of Palestinians, and all oppressed peoples everywhere, to fight for freedom and self-determination. We support their struggles to be free of colonization, of occupation, of annexation. We support and amplify the calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. We say no to this destructive war enabled by the US government and fueled by our tax dollars. We endorse the statements issued by [Publishers for Palestine](#), [Writers Against the War in Gaza](#), [Academics Against the Assault on Gaza](#), and [A Liberatory Demand from](#)

[Queers in Palestine](#), and join global solidarity efforts calling for the liberation of Palestine from a brutal occupation, now in its 75th year, and a lasting peace to Palestine and for Palestinians.

As scholars/teachers/administrators/students in a field attentive to the workings of language and power, we are outraged by the silence of professional organizations in our field that are typically quick to embrace discourses of justice, freedom, liberation, and decolonization in theory, but in practice are habitually silent on the question of Palestine and unwilling to support the decolonial struggles of indigenous Palestinians long under siege. Silence is complicity. We are aghast that our professional organizations are silent yet again, even now in the face of the unthinkable horrors being inflicted on the peoples of Palestine. At the same time as we condemn the genocide taking place in Palestine, call for an immediate permanent ceasefire in Gaza, demand that the US stop funding the Israeli genocidal apartheid project, denounce racist rhetoric/language dehumanizing Palestinians, reject the censoring/punishing of those who speak up for Palestine, support the decolonial freedom struggles for a liberated Palestine, we urge rhetoric and composition professional organizations such as the Conference on College Composition and Communication, Rhetoric Society of America, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, Council of Writing Program Administrators, and Modern Language Association to stand in solidarity with Palestine and Palestinians under occupation, speak up, take action.

Free Palestine!

*(Please sign by completing the information below and share widely. Names of new signatories will be added periodically.)*

*(Rhetoricians of Critical Conscience has issued the [Solidarity Statement: Who Has the Right to be Human? Everyone for Everyone](#) that is open for signatures.)*

**Signatories** (in alphabetical order):

1. Abdirahman Hussein, Research Scholar, University of Hargeisa
2. Aja Y. Martinez, Associate Professor, University of North Texas
3. Alex Evans, Graduate Student
4. Alex Helberg, Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Writing, Trinity College
5. Alex Holguin, PhD Student, Communication, University of Pittsburgh
6. Alexis Romero Walker, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, Manhattanville College
7. Aline Nguyen, Student
8. Amber Kidd, PhD Candidate, Case Western Reserve University
9. Amy Garrett Brown, PhD Student, Rhetoric, Composition, and the Teaching of English, University of Arizona
10. Amy Hodges, Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Arlington
11. Ana Milena Ribero, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University
12. Andrea Efthymiou, Associate Professor of English, Queens College, CUNY
13. Andrea Olinger, Associate Professor of English, University of Louisville
14. Aneil Rallin, Unaffiliated Scholar
15. Angela Rounsaville, Associate Professor, University of Central Florida
16. Anna Sophia Habib, Term Full Professor, George Mason University
17. Anna D. Orazio, Graduate Student
18. Anna Zeemont, Assistant Professor of English, SUNY Buffalo State
19. Anthony Alessandrini, Professor, Kingsborough Community College
20. Ashanka Kumari, Assistant Professor and Administrator
21. Atacan Atakan, Lecturer, History, Sabanci University
22. Ben Bishop, PhD Student, Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh
23. Bernadette Calafell, Professor, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gonzaga University
24. Bibhushana Poudyal, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Washington State University

25. Brian Cope, Associate Professor
26. Brooke Boling, Graduate Candidate, English Department, University of Cincinnati
27. Brooke Hotez, Assistant Professor of English in Rhetoric and Composition, Utah Tech University
28. Cana Uluak Itchuaqiyag, Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech
29. Cara Marta Messina, Assistant Professor of English, Marist College
30. Carrie Murawski, Assistant Professor, Department of English and Communication Studies, Roanoke College
31. Carmen Kynard, Professor, Department of English, Texas Christian University
32. Charles McMartin, Graduate Student
33. Cheyanne Lozano, Graduate Student, Assistant Professor, Rhetoric, University of Texas at El Paso
34. Chloe de los Reyes, Associate Professor, CHC
35. Christie Toth, Associate Professor, University of Utah
36. Christina V. Cedillo, Associate Professor, Communication and Studio Arts, University of Houston, Clear-Lake
37. Clancy Ratliff, Professor, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
38. Conor Klerekoper, JD Candidate, University of Arizona
39. Damián Baca, Associate Professor, Department of Mexican American Studies, University of Arizona
40. Dan Libertz, Assistant Professor of English, Baruch College, CUNY
41. David Palumbo-Liu, Louise Hewlett Nixon Professor and Professor of Comparative Literature, Stanford University
42. Deanna Tomasin McCormick, Lecturer, Purdue University
43. Derek M Sparby, Associate Professor, Illinois State University
44. Desireé Thorpe, Graduate Student
45. Dewi Azizah, Graduate Student
46. Diana Hamilton, Director of the Writing Center, Baruch College, CUNY

47. Dominic DelliCarpini, Past President, Council of Writing Program Administrators
48. Elia Newsom, Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Boulder
49. Elizabeth McNeil, Emerita Instructor, Languages and Cultures, Arizona State University
50. Emad Hakim, Graduate PhD Student, Illinois State University
51. Emily Pollard, Graduate Student, University of New Mexico
52. Eric Baker, Graduate Student, University of Arizona
53. Eric Darnell Pritchard, Associate Professor, University of Arkansas
54. Erin Workman, Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse, DePaul University
55. Ethan Trejo, Graduate Student, Department of English, University of Southern California
56. Eunjeong Lee, Assistant Professor
57. Eurydice Dye, Lecturer, Department of English, Chapman University
58. Faryha Salim, Student
59. Francisco Tamayo, Professor, Chicana/o/x Studies, California State University, Northridge
60. Frankie Condon, Associate Professor
61. Gabriella Wilson, Graduate Student, Syracuse University
62. Gavin Doyle, Graduate Student, English, Rhetoric and Composition, Washington State University
63. Ghada Mourad, Lecturer
64. Grace Von Lehman, Graduate Student, DePaul University
65. Hamza Ahmad, Graduate Student, University of Washington
66. Hana Masri, Lecturer, Marquette University
67. Harriet Malinowitz, Retired Professor of English, Long Island University, Brooklyn
68. Huma Iqbal, PhD Student, University of Arizona

69. Ian Barnard, Professor of Rhetoric and Composition, Department of English, Chapman University
70. Ira Shor, Professor Emeritus, CUNY
71. Iris Ruiz, Lecturer, UC Merced
72. James Daniel, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Seton Hall University
73. Jan Osborn, Associate Professor of Rhetoric and Composition, Department of English, Chapman University
74. Jason Helms, Associate Professor, English, TCU
75. Jay Jordan, Professor of Writing and Rhetoric Studies, University of Utah
76. Jennifer Nish, Associate Professor, Humanities, Michigan Technological University
77. Jesse Rice-Evans, Doctoral Candidate, CUNY
78. Jessica McDermott, Associate Faculty, Riverside City College
79. Jessica Shumake, Assistant Teaching Professor, University Writing Program and Gender Studies Program, Notre Dame University
80. Jessie Male, Postdoctoral Associate in Disability Studies, University of Pittsburgh
81. Joanne Robielos, Unaffiliated Scholar/Writer
82. John Trimbur, Emeritus Professor of Rhetoric and Writing Studies, Emerson University
83. Jonathan Rosa, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University
84. Josh Barrows, Graduate Student
85. Josh Miller, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies
86. Karma R. Chávez, Professor, Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, University of Texas at Austin
87. Karriann Soto Vega, Assistant Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, University of Kentucky
88. Katerina Zakonova, Student
89. Kelli R Gill, PhD Candidate, Texas Christian University

90. Kelsey Hawkins, Graduate Student
91. Kendra Atkin, Lecturer
92. Kimberly Drake, Professor of Writing and Rhetoric, Scripps College
93. Kirk Branch, Professor of English, Montana State University
94. Kristi Wilson
95. Kyllikki Rytov, Adjunct Professor, Northern Kentucky University
96. Larry Morgan, Graduate Student, Syracuse University
97. Lauren Brentnell, Assistant Director of the University Writing Center, Texas State University
98. Lee Artz, Professor, Communication, Purdue University Northwest
99. Liahna Stanley, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies and Indigenous Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
100. Logan Middleton, Teaching Assistant Professor, University of Denver
101. Logan Smilges, Assistant Professor, English Language and Literatures, University of British Columbia
102. Lou Maraj, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, Writing, and Media, University of British Columbia
103. Lourdes Silva, Associate Professor of Writing, Ithaca College
104. Lucie Heron, Graduate Student and Instructor, English Department, North Carolina State University
105. Maggie Fernandes, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas
106. Mandy Penney, Educational Developer
107. Marissa Juarez, English Faculty, Central New Mexico Community College
108. Matthew Abraham, University of Arizona
109. Matthew Homer, English, Allen University
110. Matthew Houdek, Senior Lecturer and First Year Writing Coordinator
111. Matthew Parnell, Graduate Student, Penn State

112. Megan McIntyre, Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas
113. Miles Enriquez-Morales, Graduate Student
114. Mina Farooqi, Graduate Student
115. Mohamed Yacoub, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of English, Florida International University
116. Montèz Jennings, PhD Student and Assistant Instructor in Rhetoric and Writing, University of Texas at Austin
117. Morgan Banville, Assistant Professor of Humanities
118. Morgan Carter, Graduate Student and Instructor, English Department, UNC Greensboro
119. Nancy Welch, Professor Emerita of English, University of Vermont
120. Nora Rivera, Assistant Professor, Chapman University
121. Odin McDermott, Student, Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse, Whitman College
122. Olivia Rowland, PhD Student, Ohio State University
123. Olivia Wood, Lecturer, City College of New York, CUNY
124. Patty Wilde, Associate Professor of English, Washington State University Tri-Cities
125. Paul Cook, Professor of English, Indiana University Kokomo
126. Philip Choong, Assistant Professor, Department of Rhetoric and Language, University of San Francisco
127. Pramila Ventakeswaran, Professor, English Department, Nassau Community College
128. Pritha Prasad, Assistant Professor, English, University of Kansas
129. Pritisha Shrestha, Student, Syracuse University
130. Rachel Rys, Associate Director of the Writing Center, Baruch College
131. Reina Ashley Nomura, Graduate Student, Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse, DePaul University



132. Reslie Cortés, Assistant Professor, School of Communication, James Madison University
133. Robert Eddy, Professor of English
134. Romeo Garcia, Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric Studies, University of Utah
135. Ruth Osorio, Assistant Professor, English and Women's and Gender Studies, Old Dominion University
136. Sara Baugh-Harris, Assistant Professor, Communication Studies, Davidson College
137. Sara Doan, Assistant Professor of Experience Architecture, Writing, Rhetoric, and Cultures, Michigan State University
138. Sarah Dweik, Graduate Student
139. Sarah Moon, Assistant Professor
140. Sarah Stanley, Associate Professor of English, University of Alaska Fairbanks
141. Sethunya Mokoko, Assistant Professor, Writing and Rhetoric, University of Virginia
142. Shui-yin Sharon Yam, Associate Professor, Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies, University of Kentucky
143. Shyam Sharma, Associate Professor, Stony Brook University
144. Silvia Ferreira, Associate Teaching Professor, University of Washington Bothell
145. Sisanda Nkoala, Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication Science, University of South Africa
146. Siskanna Naynaha, Associate Professor, Department of English, California State University, Dominguez Hills
147. Soha Youssef, Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric, Thomas Jefferson University
148. Sophia Greco, Unaffiliated Teacher/Student
149. Spencer Cooke, Assistant Director of Technical Writing and Communication, PhD Candidate, University of Oklahoma

150. Stephanie Wade, Lecturer, Stony Brook University
151. Suresh Canagarajah, Professor
152. Susan Jarratt, Professor Emerita, Department of Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine
153. Tayva Anderson, Student, Rhetoric, Writing, and Public Discourse, Whitman College
154. Thais Rodrigues, Graduate Student
155. Tiffany Wong, Continuing Lecturer, Writing Program, University of California Santa Cruz
156. Timothy Brennan, Professor, Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
157. Timothy Oleksiak, Associate Professor, English, University of Massachusetts Boston
158. Toqa Hassan, Assistant Professor, Communication and Creative Arts, Purdue University Northwest
159. Tom William, PhD, English Faculty
160. Vanni Kannan, Associate Teaching Professor, Emory University
161. Victor Villanueva, Retired Regents Professor
162. Victoria Bello, Student, Communication Studies, Louisiana State University
163. Vyshali Manivannan, Assistant Professor, Writing and Cultural Studies, Pace University, Pleasantville
164. Walker Smith, Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition, Goucher College
165. Walter Lucken IV, Assistant Professor of English, Queens College, CUNY
166. William Thelin, Professor of English, University of Akron
167. Xiaobo Wang, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Sam Houston State University
168. Yanira Rodriguez, Associate Professor of Writing and Journalism, West Chester University

*(Update, 8 December 2023: This statement was emailed on 27 November 2023 to the 2023 Conference on College Composition and Communication Officers, Rhetoric Society of America Leadership and Board of Directors, Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition Executive Board Officers, Council of Writing Program Administrators Executive Board Members, and Modern Language Association Officers and Members of the Executive Council calling on these professional organizations to stand in solidarity with Palestine and Palestinians under occupation, speak up, take action.*

- *CFSHRC President responded on 27 November 2023: “Thank you for this email. I appreciate you reaching out. The Executive Board has drafted an email that we've sent to the Advisory Board for their consideration and then will be shared if/as appropriate.”*
- *RSA Executive Director responded on 27 November 2023: “Thank you for your email. RSA acknowledges receipt and the Board will discuss.”*
- *MLA Executive Director responded on 27 November 2023: “Thank you for writing...As a policy, the MLA's Executive Council does not make statements about international political conflicts, including the war in Ukraine, the Hamas attack in Israel, the Israeli bombings in Gaza, or any of the many other areas of conflict in the world. Individual members of the Executive Council are free, of course, to respond in their individual capacity to your petition. MLA staff members are continuing to compile resources on how to defend students' and faculty members' right to free speech and protest on our campuses, and we will share them with members soon. We have, as you probably know, shared material on US legislative attempts to interfere on campuses and in syllabi. These are indeed very difficult times, in US higher education and around the world.”*
- *No response from CCCC and CWPA.)*

*(Update, 13 December 2023: RSA Executive Director sent an email: “The RSA Executive Committee conferred, and consulted with the full board. RSA will not be producing a statement at this time.”)*

*(Update, 22 December 2023: CFSHRC President on behalf of The Coalition Advisory Board shared the [Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition Statement about Gaza and Israel](#) on 19 December 2023.)*

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## Writers Against the War in Gaza

### *Statement of Solidarity*

Read in: [বাংলা](#) | [Català](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [日本語](#) | [조선말](#) | [Português](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#)

**October 26, 2023**

Israel's war against Gaza is an attempt to conduct genocide against the Palestinian people. This war did not begin on October 7th. However, in the last 19 days, the Israeli military has killed over 6,500 Palestinians, including more than 2,500 children, and wounded over 17,000. Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison: its 2 million residents—a majority of whom are refugees, descendants of those whose land was stolen in 1948—have been deprived of basic human rights since the blockade in 2006. We share the assertions of [human rights groups](#), [scholars](#), and, above all, [everyday Palestinians](#): Israel is an apartheid state, designed to privilege Jewish citizens at the expense of Palestinians, heedless of the many Jewish people, both in Israel and across the diaspora, who oppose their own conscription in an ethno-nationalist project.

We come together as writers, journalists, academics, artists, and other culture workers to express our solidarity with the people of Palestine. We stand with their anticolonial struggle for freedom and for self-determination, and with their right to resist occupation. We stand firmly by Gaza's people, victims of a genocidal war the United States government continues to fund and arm with military aid—a crisis compounded by the illegal [settlement and dispossession](#) of the West Bank and the subjugation of [Palestinians within the state of Israel](#).

We stand in opposition to the silencing of dissent and to racist and revisionist media cycles, further perpetuated by Israel's attempts to bar reporting in Gaza, where journalists have been both denied entry and targeted by Israeli forces. [At least](#) 24 journalists in Gaza have now been killed. Internationally, writers and cultural workers [have faced severe harassment](#), workplace retribution, and job loss for expressing solidarity with Palestine, whether by stating facts about their continued occupation, or for amplifying the voices of others. These are instances that mark severe incursions against supposed speech protections. Specious charges of antisemitism are leveled against Zionism's critics; political repression has been particularly aggressive against the free speech of Muslim, Arab, and Black people living in the US and across the globe. As was the case following the September 11th attacks, Islamophobic political fervor and the widespread circulation of

unsubstantiated claims has galvanized a US-led coalition of military support for a brutal campaign of violence.

What can we do to intervene against Israel's eliminationist assault on the Palestinian people? Words alone cannot stop the onslaught of devastation of Palestinian homes and lives, backed shamelessly and without hesitation by the entire axis of Western power. At the same time, we must reckon with the role words and images play in the war on Gaza and the ferocious support they have engendered: Israel's defense minister announced the siege as a fight against "[human animals](#)"; even as we learned that Israel had rained bombs down on densely populated urban neighborhoods and deployed [white phosphorus](#) in Gaza City, the *New York Times* editorial board [wrote](#) that "what Israel is fighting to defend is a society that values human life and the rule of law"; establishment media outlets continue to describe Hamas's attack on Israel as "[unprovoked](#)." Writers Against the War on Gaza rejects this perversion of meaning, wherein a nuclear state can declare itself a victim in perpetuity while openly enacting genocide. We condemn those in our industries who continue to enable apartheid and genocide. We cannot write a free Palestine into existence, but together we must do all we possibly can to reject narratives that soothe Western complicity in ethnic cleansing.

We act alongside other [writers](#), [scholars](#), and [artists](#) who have expressed solidarity with the Palestinian cause, drawing inspiration from the Palestinian spirit of [sumud](#), steadfastness, and resistance. Since 2004, the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel ([PACBI](#)) has advocated for organizations to [join a boycott](#) of institutions representing the Israeli state or cultural institutions complicit with its apartheid regime. We call on all our colleagues working in cultural institutions to endorse that boycott. And we invite writers, editors, journalists, scholars, artists, musicians, actors, and anyone in creative and academic work to sign this statement. Join us in building a new cultural front for a free Palestine.

**For a full list of signatories, [click here](#).**

**To sign the letter, in solidarity, [click here](#).**