

**U.S. EDUCATORS’
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION
PLEDGE TO END COMPLICITY
IN
GENOCIDE
&
APARTHEID**



Islamic University of Gaza, 2 August, 2014. Courtesy of Alamy.

As educators, we recognize our profound responsibility to seek and teach the truth, foster critical thought, build a more just world, and end complicity in all forms of oppression. We recognize our additional responsibility as educators in the U.S., which serves as the world's primary funder, enabler, and defender of Israeli violations of international law and human rights.

In this urgent moment, as the Palestinian people, mainly in Gaza but also across Palestine and in exile continue to endure immense suffering under Israeli colonization, occupation, apartheid, and genocide, we reaffirm these responsibilities.

Standing for equality, justice, and freedom for all people is a fundamental moral duty that none of us—especially those who teach—can ignore. We answer the call of Palestinian academics, educators, heads of academic institutions, and civil society in urging the international academic community to reject silence, racism, settler colonialism, and dehumanization, and to help end complicity in oppression.

Inspired by the historical precedent of the academic boycott against apartheid South Africa, and in solidarity with the 2004 call by the [Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel \(PACBI\)](#) and the 2005 Palestinian civil society call for the [Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions \(BDS\) of Israel](#):

We, the undersigned academics at U.S. academic institutions, and U.S. academics abroad, pledge, on grounds of conscience, not to engage in academic or cultural cooperation, collaboration, or joint projects with Israeli academic, cultural, state, or private entities that are complicit in the ongoing occupation, apartheid, genocide, or other violations of Palestinian rights as stipulated under international law. This includes, but is not limited to, participation in conferences, research collaborations, exchange programs, and institutional partnerships sponsored or organized by such institutions.

We support the following additional actions:

- o Advocate for a comprehensive boycott of such Israeli institutions at the local, national, and international levels, including the suspension of all forms of funding and subsidies to these institutions;
- o Promote strategic and targeted divestment from entities that enable Israel's atrocity crimes against Palestinians, by academic institutions and in our professional organizations and unions;
- o Press for non-cooperation boycott resolutions to be adopted by academic, professional, workers', and cultural associations and organizations, against the Israeli state, and against organizations that fund, enable, or advocate for Israeli violations of international law and human rights;
- o Support Palestinian academic and cultural institutions directly, without requiring them to partner with Israeli counterparts as a condition for such support.

We affirm that our boycott is institutional, not individual. We do not target individuals based on nationality, ethnicity, or beliefs, but focus on institutions and official

representatives implicated in supporting or justifying colonial violence, violations of international law, and human rights.

We commit to producing, fostering, and disseminating knowledge about the hundred-years' war on Palestine and the Israeli state's ongoing Nakba, and confronting the production of ignorance on Palestine.

We call upon our colleagues, students, staff, and administrators to join us in this pledge, and to support the right of educators and academic workers to speak out against injustice without fear of retaliation. We demand that educational institutions protect academic freedom and freedom of expression and stand in solidarity with those who advocate for justice and the liberation of all peoples.

While this pledge is primarily directed towards educators in U.S. higher education institutions, we invite all those who are in one way or another affiliated with any institution of learning to sign on in support.

We believe that educators possess the right and carry the responsibility to educate about matters of public import in the public sphere. We believe that it is of the utmost urgency to uphold this right and to enact this responsibility in the case of the unfolding genocide in Palestine. We are committed to using our expertise—where relevant—to analyze and deconstruct the language used in media, government, and public discourse, demonstrating how language can be either a tool for propaganda or a pathway toward restorative and transformative justice.

We invite all members of the academic community to join us in using our collective knowledge to build a just and liberated future for all.

In solidarity with all educators who speak out against injustice and in favor of the liberation of Palestine, we pledge to support them and their right to academic freedom and free expression.

Free Palestine.

Please fill in the form below to add yourself as a signatory to the pledge.

First Name

Last Name

Email Address (Non-Institutional Preferred)

Institution

Department

Position

Academic & Professional Association Membership(s)

Union Membership(s)

S I G N

R E S O U R C E S

F A Q

Initial Signatories

A. **Pollicino** (Rutgers University)

Aaron **Roussell** (Portland State University)

Abdel Razzaq **Takriti** (Rice University)

Adam **Rzepka** (Montclair State University)

Adit **Sabnis** (Brown University)

Ahlam **Muhtaseb** (California State University San Bernardino)

Al **Kagan** (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)

Alan **Wald** (University of Michigan)

Alessandro **Morosin** (University of La Verne)

Alexa **Firat** (Temple University)

Alexander **Elinson** (City University of New York Hunter College)

Alexandria **Hollett** (California State University, Northridge)

Alicia **Christoff** (Amherst College)

Amanda **Batarseh** (University of California, San Diego)

Amber **Hickey** (University of Tennessee at Chattanooga)

Ambereen **Dadabhoy** (Harvey Mudd College)

Amelia Simone **Herbert** (Columbia University Barnard College)

Amira **Jarmakani** (San Diego State University)

Amy **Hagopian** (University of Washington)

Ana Carolina **Díaz Beltrán** (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley)

Anand **Vaidya** (Reed College)

Andrea **Schmidt** (Temple University)

Andrea **Herrera** (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi and Missouri State University)

Andrea **Morrell** (City University of New York Guttman Community College)

Andrés Fabián **Henao Castro** (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Andrew **Ross** (New York University)

Anita **Sanyal** (University of Maryland)

Anna **Feder** (former Emerson College)

Annelise **Orleck** (Dartmouth College)

Anthony **Alessandrini** (Kingsborough Community College, CUNY Graduate Center)

Anton **Shammas** (University of Michigan)

Ara **Merjian** (New York University)

Ariana **Vigil** (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)

Ariella Aïsha **Azoulay** (Brown University)

Askold **Melnyczuk** (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Atalia **Omer** (University of Notre Dame)

Bahia **Munem** (Middlebury College)

Barbara **Foley** (Rutgers University)

Barbie **Wu** (Reed College)

Barry **Trachtenberg** (Wake Forest University)

Bassam **Bamieh** (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Bassam **Haddad** (George Mason University)

Begum **Adalet** (Cornell University)

Beth **Baker** (California State University Los Angeles)

Beth **Ribet** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Bethany **Letiecq** (George Mason University)
Bill **Mullen** (Emeritus, Purdue University)
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Bruce **Robbins** (Columbia University)
Caitlin **Schroering** (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)
Callen **Zimmerman** (State University of New York)
Candace **Fujikane** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Carol M. **Lang** (City University of New York Bronx Community College)
Catherine **Charrett** (University of Westminster)
Catia Cecilia **Confortini** (Wellesley College)
Cesare **Casarino** (University of Minnesota)
Charlotte **Karem Albrecht** (University of Michigan)
Chris **Tilly** (University of California Los Angeles)
Chris **Dole** (Amherst College)
Christa **Robbins** (University of Virginia)
Christine **Hong** (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Christopher **Stone** (City University of New York Hunter College)
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Corinna **Mullin** (The New School)
Cynthia **Franklin** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Dana **Miranda** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Daniel **Sidorcik** (Rutgers University)
Daniel **Segal** (Pitzer College)
Danielle **Purifoy** (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)
Dara **Orenstein** (The George Washington University)
Darlene **Lee** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Darrin **Hoop** (National Education Association)
Darryl **Li** (University of Chicago)
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David **Yaghoubian** (California State University San Bernardino)
David **Klein** (California State University Northridge)
David **Lloyd** (University of California, Riverside)
David **Letwin** (Rutgers University)

David **Palumbo-Liu** (Stanford University)
Deborah **Rosenfelt** (University of Maryland)
Devon **Clifton** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)
Diana **Gallo** (University of California Los Angeles)
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Elsa **Auerbach** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Elybeth Sofia **Alcantar** (University of Texas at Austin)
Elyse **Crystall** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)
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Emmaia **Gelman** (Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism)
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Ericka **Kimball** (Portland State University)
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Erin **Clancy** (University of Wisconsin Madison)
Erin **Pineda** (Smith College)
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Eve **Meltzer** (New York University)
Fawzia **Afzal-Khan** (Montclair State University)
Federico **Pérez Fernández** (Portland State University)
Fidelito **Cortes** (Hunter College)
Frank T. **Fitzgerald** (College of Saint Rose)
Fred **Rowland** (Temple University)
Gabi **Kirk** (California State Polytechnic University Humboldt)
Ganesh **Trichur** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Gina **Crandell** (Boston Architectural College)
Grace Kyungwon **Hong** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Hannah **Appel** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Hannah **Manshel** (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Heather **Ferguson** (Claremont McKenna College)
Heather **Dorfman** (Portland State University)
Heba **Gowayed** (City University of New York Hunter College)
Heidi **Morrison** (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse)
Heike **Schotten** (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Helen **DeVinney** (The George Washington University)
Hosu **Kim** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Howard **Winant** (University of California Santa Barbara)
Huda **Fakhreddine** (University of Pennsylvania)
Hussein **Rashid** (Columbia University Barnard College)
Ilham **Khuri-Makdisi** (Northeastern University)
Ira **Dworkin** (Texas A&M University)
Irene **Siegel** (City University of New York Hunter College)
Isabel **Ortiz** (Amherst College)
Isabella **Arzeno Soltero** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Ishad **Zaman** (City College of New York)
Isaac **Kamola** (Trinity College)
J. Kehaulani **Kauanui** (Princeton University)
Jacqueline **Siapno** (University of California San Diego)
Jairo I. **Fúnez-Flores** (Texas Tech University)
James **Hoff** (City University of New York Borough of Manhattan Community College)
Jamie **Jones** (Portland State University)
Jan **Haaken** (Portland State University)
Janet **Jakobsen** (Columbia University Barnard College)
Janet **Winston** (California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt)
Jay **Arena** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
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Jean **Beaman** (City University of New York)
Jean **Halley** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Jennifer **Ruth** (Portland State University)
Jessica **Pabón** (Indepent Scholar)
Jessica **Hardie** (City University of New York Hunter College)
Jodi **Dean** (Hobart and William Smith Colleges)
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John **Cox** (University of North Carolina at Charlotte)
John **Gianvito** (Emerson College)
John **Maerhofer** (Rutgers University)
Jolie **Chea** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Jonah **Rubin** (Jewish Voice for Peace)
Jonathan **Graubart** (San Diego State University)
Jorge **Coronado** (Northwestern University)
Judith **Butler** (University of California Berkeley)

Judith **Norman** (Trinity University)
Julia **Gettle** (Independent Scholar)
Julie **Diamond** (City College of New York)
Julie **Carlson** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Justin **Flatt** (Rutgers University)
K.D. **Thompson** (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
Kai **Bosworth** (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Karen **Suyemoto** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Karim **Mattar** (University of Colorado at Boulder)
Karla **Strand** (University of Wisconsin–Madison)
Karlyn **Koh** (City University of New York LaGuardia Community College)
Karma **Chavez** (University of Texas at Austin)
Katherine **Killmer** (Brescia University)
Katherine **Franke** (former Columbia University)
Kathryn **DePaolis** (Eastern Washington University)
Kevin **Winkler** (City University of New York)
Kevin **Bruyneel** (Babson College)
Key K. **Bird** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Khaled **Mattawa** (University of Michigan)
Kolson **Schlosser** (Temple University)
Kristen **Gillespie-Lynch** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Kristian **Contreras** (National Women's Studies Association)
Lara **Deeb** (Scripps College)
Laura **Tanenbaum** (City University of New York LaGuardia Community College)
Laura **Goldblatt** (University of Virginia)
Laura **Bray** (University of Oklahoma)
Leila **Mansouri** (Scripps College)
Leila **Kawar** (University of Michigan)
Lisa **Rofel** (University of California Santa Cruz)
Lisa **Hajjar** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Lizabeth **Roemer** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Loryn **Hilferty** (Temple University)
Loubna **Qutami** (University of California Los Angeles)
Louise **Penner** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Lucien **Baskin** (City University of New York)
Lynne **Layton** (Harvard Medical School)
Macy **Miller** (University of Illinois Chicago)

Mahruq **Khan** (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)
Malek **Abisaab** (McGill University)
Manijeh **Moradian** (Columbia University Barnard College)
Manisha **Desai** (Stony Brook University)
Manzar **Foroohar** (Emerita, California State University, Polytechnic)
Mar **Golub** (Scripps College)
Marcy **Newman** (Independent Scholar)
Margot **Weiss** (Wesleyan University)
María Regina **Firmino-Castillo** (University of California Riverside)
Mark **Rifkin** (University of Buffalo)
Mark **Driscoll** (University of North Carolina Chapel Hill)
Mark **LeVine** (University of California Irvine)
Marlon **Bailey** (Washington University in St. Louis)
Martin **Vega** (Scripps College)
Mary **Stricker** (Temple University)
Matt **Chorpenning** (Portland State University)
Matthew Thomas **Miller** (University of Maryland)
Maura **Finkelstein** (former Muhlenberg College)
Max **Weiss** (Princeton University)
Maya **Mikdashi** (Rutgers University)
Mayida **Zaal** (Montclair State University)
Meital **Yaniv** (University of California Riverside and Chaffey College)
Melanie **Bush** (Adelphi University)
Melissa **Levy** (University of Virginia)
Melissa **Weiner** (College of the Holy Cross)
Merrill **Cole** (Western Illinois University)
Michael **Loeb** (City University of New York)
Michael **Drexler** (Bucknell University)
Michel **DeGraff** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Michelle **Fine** (City University of New York)
Miguel **Valerio** (University of Maryland)
Mita **Banerjee** (Pitzer College)
Momodou **Taal** (Cornell University)
Monica **Morosin** (Los Altos Elementary School District)
Monica **Parmley-Frutiger** (Portland State University)
Muhammad Ali **Khalidi** (City University of New York)
Nada **Elia** (Western Washington University)

Nadia **Yaqub** (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Nadine **Sahyoun** (University of Maryland)

Nadine **Naber** (University of Illinois Chicago)

Nadja **Eisenberg-Guyot** (Trinity College)

Nancy **Khalil**

Nandini **Sikand** (Lafayette College)

Naomi **Schiller** (City University of New York)

Naomi **Braine** (City University of New York Brooklyn College)

Navid **Farnia** (Wayne State University)

Neferti **Tadiar** (Barnard College)

Nerissa **Balce** (State University of New York at Stony Brook)

Ngo **Nhan** (Temple University)

Nic **Francisco** (former Portland State University)

Nicholas **Mirzoeff** (New York University)

Nichole **Shippen** (City University of New York LaGuardia Community College)

Nicole **Lopez-Jantzen** (City University of New York Borough of Manhattan Community College)

Nicole **Simek** (Whitman College)

Nicole **Morse** (University of Maryland Baltimore County)

Nina **Silber** (Boston University)

Noelle **Mapes** (City University of New York)

Nour **Joudah** (University of California, Los Angeles)

Noura **Erakat** (Rutgers University)

Nouri **Gana** (University of California, Los Angeles)

Omnia **El Shakry** (Yale University)

Oscar Fabian **Soto** (California State University San Marcos)

Oumar **Ba** (Cornell University)

Pam **Butler** (University of Notre Dame)

Paul **Kohlbray** (University of California Santa Barbara)

Paul **Sawyer** (Cornell University)

Rabab **Abdulhadi** (San Francisco State University)

Rachel **Rosenbloom** (Northeastern University)

Rachel **Lockart** (Augustana College)

Ralph **Ghoche** (Columbia University Barnard College)

Rana **Jaleel** (University of California, Davis)

Rana **Sharif** (University of California, Berkeley)

Randa **Tawil** (University of Washington)

Ranjani **Srinivasan** (Columbia University)

Rashid **Khalidi** (Columbia University)

Rebecca **Jordan-Young** (Columbia University Barnard College)

Rebecca **Karl** (New York University)

Rebecca **Alpert** (Temple University)

Richard **Shin** (University of Maryland)

Robert **Warrior** (University of Kansas)

Robin D. G. **Kelley** (University of California, Los Angeles)

Ron **Hayduk** (San Francisco State University)

Rosalind **Petchesky** (Emerita, Hunter College)

Rosemari **Mealy** (City College of New York)

Roshanak **Kheshti** (University of California, Berkeley)

Ruha **Benjamin** (Princeton University)

Rula **Jurdi** (McGill University)

Rupal **Oza** (City University of New York)

Russell **Rickford** (Cornell University)

Saadia **Toor** (City University of New York)

Sam **Anderson** (City University of New York Medgar Evers College)

Sam **Malabre** (University of California Los Angeles)

Samah **Selim** (Rutgers University)

Sameer Ud Dowla **Khan** (Reed College)

Samer **Alatout** (University of Wisconsin–Madison)

Samer M. **Ali** (University of Michigan)

Samera **Esmeir** (University of California, Berkeley)

Sang **Kil** (former San Jose State University)

Sangeeta **Ray** (University of Maryland)

Sanghyuk **Shin** (University of California Irvine)

Sara **Pursley** (New York University)

Sarah **Horsley** (University of Massachusetts Boston)

Sarah **Katz** (Temple University)

Sarah **Combellick-Bidney** (Augsburg University)

Saulo **Colón** (Connecticut State Community College)

Sean **Malloy** (University of California, Merced)

Setsu **Shigematsu** (University of California, Riverside)

Shahinaz **Geneid** (former Northeastern University & Harvard University)

Sherena **Razek** (University of California, Los Angeles)

Sherene **Razack** (University of California Los Angeles)

Sherene **Seikaly** (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Sherry **Millner** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Shireen **Soliman** (The New School and Pratt Institute)
Sid **Jordan** (Portland State University)
Sofya **Aptekar** (City University of New York)
Sonali **Gulati** (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Sophia **Azeb** (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Sophia **Taborski** (Cornell University)
Stacy **Fahrenhold** (University of California, Davis)
Stéphanie **Wahab** (Portland State University)
Stephen **Sheehi** (College of William & Mary)
Steve **Roddy** (University of San Francisco)
Steven **Jordan** (McGill University)
Stuart **Chen-Hayes** (City University of New York Lehman College)
Stuart **Parker** (Kingsborough Community College)
Summer **Kim Lee** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Surya Teja **Gavva** (Rutgers University)
Susan **Slyomovics** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Susie **Pak** (St. John's University)
Sut **Jhally** (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Terri **Ginsberg** (Rutgers University)
Thomas **Van Riet** (Leuven University)
Thomas **Volscho** (City University of New York College of Staten Island)
Timothy **Seidel** (Eastern Mennonite University)
Tom **Alter** (former Texas State University)
Tomomi **Kinukawa** (San Francisco State University)
Ujju **Aggarwal** (The New School)
Urmitapa **Dutta** (University of Massachusetts Lowell)
Victor **Silverman** (Pomona College)
Victoria **Baena** (University of Virginia)
Vinicius **Navarro** (Emerson College)
William **Robinson** (University of California Santa Barbara)
Yannis **Hamilakis** (Brown University)
Yasser **Munif** (Emerson College)
Yogita **Goyal** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Zahi **Zalloua** (Whitman College)

Zayde **Antrim** (Trinity College)
Zeynep **Celik** (New Jersey Institute of Technology)
Zeynep **Korkman** (University of California, Los Angeles)
Zillah **Eisenstein** (Ithaca College)

Additional Signatories

Ali **Watts** (Bowling Green State University)
Allen **Zanca** (Harvard University)
Anne **Erde** (University of Massachusetts Boston)
Annie **Menzel** (University of Wisconsin Madison)
Anthony **O'Brien** (Queens College)
Audrey **Wycks** (Suffolk University)
Benjamin **Robinson** (Indiana University Bloomington)
Bryan **Sacks** (Drexel University)
Ednie **Kaeh** (California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo)
Elana **Wolkoff** (William James College)
Ferit **Güven** (Earlham College)
Fida **Adely** (Georgetown University)
Gerry **Yokota** (University of Osaka)
Guru Sahai Rae **Khalsa** (Earlham College)
Hasham **Khan** (Independent Scholar)
John **Cox** (University of North Carolina Charlotte)
Joseph **Howley** (Columbia University)
Kathy **Roberts**
Kristin **Koptiuch** (Arizona State University)
Lisa **Rofel** (University of California Santa Cruz)
Matthew **Katz-Bohen** (Marymount Manhattan College)
Maya **Wind** (University of California Riverside)
Naomi **Imbrogno** (Independent Scholar)
Richard **Solomon** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Rosalind **Petchesky** (City University of New York Hunter College)
Sami **Hermez** (Northwestern University in Qatar)
Sandra **Smith** (Harvard University)
Theodora **Dryer** (New York University)
Timothy **Kaufman-Osborn** (Whitman College)

