

FSDC Statement on the Conflict in Israel and Palestine

The Faculty Senate Diversity Committee at the University of Alaska Anchorage stands united in its commitment to fostering a caring and respectful campus environment where diversity, equity, and inclusion are celebrated and upheld as core values. Like many members of our campus community, we are heartbroken by the violent conflict unfolding in Israel and Palestine. We mourn the loss of every life that has been lost in Gaza and Israel, and we understand that the ferocity and duration of this conflict is affecting students, staff, and faculty members across UAA.

To our Israeli and Jewish community members, we say: we recognize the sense of shock and grief that you may be feeling at the events of October 7th, 2023, and we categorically denounce the anti-Semitism that has exploded in the United States in the aftermath of this attack. To our Palestinian and Muslim community members, we say: we acknowledge the agony you must be feeling as you watch the ongoing violence in Gaza and the devastation and loss experienced by its civilian population. We categorically denounce the Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian sentiment that have intensified in the United States since October 7th, 2023.

We are not experts on this conflict, merely pained observers. We recognize the right of both Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace, security, and dignity. It is our earnest hope that all stakeholders involved, including those in the United States and its government, will regard the horrors of the current conflict as proof of the need for a fair and equitable resolution that respects the right to self-determination for both Palestinians and Israelis.

In advocating for a just and lasting peace, it is essential to promote open dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for human rights. To that end, FSDC plans to dedicate its Spring Diversity Dialogue to a conversation on the conflict, one that includes voices from the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities on our campus and across Anchorage. Should you have an interest in participating in this conversation, please contact FSDC leadership.