

# PSAC 901

## Statement: Immediate Ceasefire and Aid for Gaza

October 25, 2023 – PSAC 901 Social Justice Committee calls for an immediate ceasefire in the Middle East. We reaffirm our position for an end to the occupation of Palestinian territories, mass displacement of Palestinian people and the ongoing Israeli state violence against the people in Gaza. We also further call on the Canadian government to supply humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people to help offset the crisis that continues in Gaza.

We are particularly concerned about apathy demonstrated by Queen's University toward Palestinian students' grief in the light of Israel's genocidal war and apartheid on Gaza. Unlike [previous occasions upon which the University has financially divested from countries in protest of their actions](#), Queen's has not financially divested Israel from its endowment portfolio. [Principal Patrick Deane's anodyne statements](#) do not address the seriousness of the situation. It is high time that the university community take a decisive stand in support of the Palestinian people.

We additionally condemn federal, provincial and municipal politicians who are using the crisis in the Middle East to smear and slander those who speak out in defense of Palestinian human rights as being pro-terrorist as a way to undermine freedom of expression and democratic rights. PSAC 901 stands in solidarity with those union leaders, politicians, labour bodies, and activists, who take a public position in defense of Palestinian human rights (in particular, Fred Hahn, the President of CUPE Ontario and the MPP Sarah Jama from Hamilton) and denounce the attacks they are facing.

The horrific bombing of the al Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza, [which reportedly killed 500 people on October 17th](#), should be seen as a call to the Canadian labour movement to mobilize unions in support of the Palestinian people by being more vocal in their condemnation and more active in the demonstrations that take place in almost all the major cities, including Kingston.

The PSAC 901 Social Justice Committee shares this statement to encourage other academic labour unions both provincially and nationally to publicly adopt similar positions. We call for an immediate ceasefire and action to prevent further deaths of Palestinians and all violence perpetrated by genocidal states.

In solidarity,

The PSAC 901 Social Justice Committee  
The PSAC 901 Executive Committee