



**Public Service Alliance of Canada
Local 901**

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We write on behalf of the Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 901 Executive Council—representing over 2,000 teaching assistants, research assistants, and postdoctoral scholars at Queen's University—to express our firm solidarity with Concordia Student Union Campaigns Coordinator, and CUPE 4512 President Julianna Smith, who is currently facing repressive and racist allegations of harassment and an indefinite campus ban by the Concordia University administration and campus security officials in response to her political activism and role in the organization of demonstrations for justice, peace and an end to genocide in Gaza.

We unequivocally condemn the punitive and discriminatory actions of the Concordia University administration and campus security, and call for the immediate reversal of these violently repressive measures that are a clear demonstration of anti-Palestinian racism and the overt oppression of student activism. We furthermore, alongside the staff, students, alumni, members of the Concordia community, and other concerned allies, call for an immediate apology to be issued by the Concordia administration, the restoration of all students suspended from campus for their pro-Palestinian activism, and for the immediate implementation of measures to mitigate further instances of security and police violence against Concordia students and community members on campus.

These punitive actions form part of a larger pattern of institutionalized repression that attempts to silence student activism, and undermine the constitutional right of individuals to protest injustice, and in this case, call for an end to Canadian complicity in the Israeli genocide of the Palestinian peoples and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories.

We reaffirm our solidarity with all those fighting for the liberation of Palestine, especially those who are fighting to end the complicity of academic institutions [reference 1; reference 2], including Canadian universities [reference 1; reference 2] in Israeli genocide, and sever the material and ideological support of these institutions for military violence. It is our responsibility as workers and academics to vehemently oppose the oppression of all peoples everywhere, and hold our institutions accountable for their role in this oppression.

At Queen's University, ample evidence demonstrates the role of Queen's in facilitating genocide in Gaza [reference 1; reference 2]. Despite this glaring evidence, PSAC901 members, and other concerned students and staff speaking out against this complicity have faced intensifying surveillance, prosecution, and discrimination from the administration and campus security services for their activism. These actions are representative of the culture of anti-Palestinian racism that has come to define Queen's campus, and other campuses across the country [reference 1; reference 2; reference 3; reference 4; reference 5; reference 6].

Anti-Palestinian racism threatens our rights as both students and workers, and limits our ability to hold our institutions accountable for ending one of the most well-documented genocides in human history. Institutional and colloquial anti-Palestinian racism is a threat to our right as workers to safe and inclusive workplaces, and limits our ability to embody our activism in our work. While Israeli colonial violence has, and continues to perpetrate Scholasticide, defined by professor Karma Nabulsi as "a pattern of Israeli colonial attacks on Palestinian scholars, students, and educational institutions going back to the *Nakba* of 1948, and expanding after the 1967 war on Palestine and the 1982 invasion of Lebanon" in Gaza, our own institutions in the settler colonial state of Canada are using their power over students and labour forces in order to silence critics by weaponizing codes of conduct and statements of harassment as a cover for discrimination.

We condemn, in the strongest terms possible, this oppression, and reaffirm our solidarity with allies and people of consciousness across Turtle Island.

