



Saturday, October 28th, 2023

UTSU Statement RE: *UTSU Statement Supporting Peace and Solidarity with Students*

The University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) affirms its solidarity with those affected by the ongoing events in Palestine and Israel. We want to express our unwavering support for all students who may be facing hate and discrimination on our campus or elsewhere. As an organization committed to upholding human rights, we firmly condemn the use of violence against civilians, regardless of the circumstances.

We know that for many on our campus, the conflict has taken family, friends, and loved ones, upended lives, and led to students feeling unsafe on campus. We stand with those who call for a ceasefire and the free flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza to build toward a future where life may continue unimpeded in the region.

Our goal in these troubling times is to make sure everyone who attends the University of Toronto feels safe and protected, no matter their race, religion, ethnicity, or any other personal characteristics. We acknowledge there has been a significant rise in hate towards Muslim and Jewish communities on campus. Islamophobia, antisemitism, and hatred of any kind have no place on our campus.

We recognize that a statement alone is not enough, which is why the UTSU will be donating \$10,000 to support humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza. These funds will go directly to the supply of food, water, and medical supplies for those who need them most.

We acknowledge the pain and suffering that many of you are experiencing, and we are dedicated to supporting students during this exceptionally sensitive and difficult period. If you are a student, staff, or faculty member who has been affected by this and would like support, we encourage you to make use of any of the resources below.

In service and solidarity,
The UTSU Executive Committee



Resources

<https://good2talk.ca/>

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/service/peer-support/>

Peer support is available at the UTSU Student Commons each Thursday, from 11am-4pm in Room 246.

<https://mcuoft.com/counselling/>

<https://www.chabad.org/jewish-centers/3134115/Toronto/Campus-Chabad-House/Chabad-of-Midtown-at-the-University-of-Toronto>

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/directory-of-chaplains/>

<https://www.rainbowrailroad.org/> (support for queer individuals escaping violence and persecution in their home countries)

<https://naseeha.org/> (anonymous and confidential hotline providing counseling, available in English, French, Urdu and Arabic)

<https://stellasplace.ca/> (free mental health services to young adults ages 16 to 29 in Toronto, including peer support, clinical, employment, wellness and recovery programs)

<https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/telus-health-student-support/>

Phone number: 1-844-451-9700

If you are in need of academic support, please contact your respective college/faculty registrar/academic advisor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact communications@utsu.ca