

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Council on American-Islamic Relations
Community Toolkit:



WHEREAS, [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] embraces diversity, values and respects the rights of all its citizens;

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Palestinian hate crimes, including the rise within our country, posing a significant threat to the safety and security of our communities and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and condolences to the families and friends of the victims, including children and the elderly, in the terrorist attacks;

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the deaths of innocent civilians, including children and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate violence that has resulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian population;

WHEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary narrative is being used to rationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the deaths of innocent civilians; and

WHEREAS, [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] supports the principle that peace and diplomacy in every community regardless of what crimes any government has committed; and that diplomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to achieve lasting peace;

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of individuals based on ethnicity, or country of origin is a violation of International Law;

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 10, 2023, the lives of over 17,000 Palestinians in Gaza and thousands of Americans, and thousands more have been wounded;

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at risk in Gaza and continuous humanitarian aid is not being provided;

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government has a responsibility to provide diplomatic, military, and financial support to achieve peace, in our time.

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INTRODUCTION

The Gaza genocide is an urgent humanitarian disaster that requires immediate international attention. After enduring a 16-year economic blockade imposed by the Israeli government, the people of Gaza now face the open threat of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

As U.S. citizens and residents, our tax contributions fund this crisis, imparting upon us a direct responsibility to implore our elected officials to refrain from financing Israel's continuing pursuits of genocide, apartheid, and occupation. As global citizens, it remains our moral duty to consistently advocate for peace and justice wherever they are needed in the world.

This toolkit developed by CAIR is to equip you with comprehensive resources for engaging with local city, county, school board, and state legislative representatives. It aims to facilitate meetings where you can educate these officials about the violence against civilians in Gaza and advocate for adopting declaratory statements and resolutions promoting a permanent ceasefire and the pursuit of a just, lasting peace. Covering everything from understanding the roles and functions of state and local governments to offering practical tips for organizing meetings, attending town hall sessions, and effectively utilizing factsheets to support resolutions, this resource serves as a thorough guide for active civic engagement.

Participating in these local actions and dialogues ensures that our community's needs and values are being considered in decision-making processes, fostering a more responsive and accountable governance structure at the grassroots level.



Understanding State and Local Government

Gain insights into the intricate workings of state and local governments, exploring their roles, responsibilities, and impact on community life. This section equips you with the knowledge needed to understand the complexities of governance structures at the local level. **Page 3**



Requesting Meeting With State/District/County Representative

Describes how to initiate meaningful dialogue with your representatives. This section offers guidance on effectively requesting meetings, ensuring your voice is heard, and fostering direct communication channels with state, district, or county officials. **Page 5**



Sending Your Template Message to Your State/District/County Representative

This section outlines tips for sending messages to your state representative or elected officials, offering a step-by-step guide to streamline your communication process effectively. **Page 6**



Tips on Meeting with Members of State Legislature and Local Officials

Navigate meetings with state legislators and local officials effectively. This section offers practical tips on preparation, communication strategies, and engagement to maximize the impact of your interactions. **Page 8**



Attending Town Hall, Council, and School Board Meetings: Advocating for a Ceasefire in Israel-Gaza

Participate actively in civic discourse by attending town hall, council, and school board meetings. This section guides you on the essentials of attending these forums, making your voice heard, and contributing constructively to community discussions. **Page 9**



The Power of Resolutions: A Call for Ceasefire Now

Describes the role of resolutions in addressing the Israel-Palestine crisis. This section underscores the broader impact resolutions can have at different governance levels, emphasizing their significance in conveying unified stances, guiding actions, and fostering peace in local communities and beyond. **Page 11**



Factsheet for State/District/County Resolutions

A detailed factsheet covering State/District/County resolutions concerning the Palestine-Israel crisis offering crucial insights into the persistent conflict and its far-reaching implications. This resource includes sample resolutions, offering a practical blueprint for addressing this intricate issue on a local level. **Page 17**

Please also consider reaching out to CAIR or your local CAIR Chapter to help schedule legislative or council/committee meetings if there is one in your state or area. [Click here](#) to find your nearest CAIR chapter.

SECTION 1

UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The process of passing policies and resolutions at the local government level involves several key steps. While the specifics can vary based on the structure and regulations of each local government, the following is a general breakdown of the common stages:

Introduction or Proposal:

The process typically begins with introducing or proposing a policy or resolution. This can be initiated by elected officials, government staff, community members, or advocacy groups.

Committee Review:

Many local governments have committees or subcommittees responsible for reviewing proposed policies and resolutions. These committees conduct a detailed examination, gather information, and may make recommendations or modifications.

Public Input:

Public input is a crucial part of the process. Local governments often hold public hearings or meetings to allow community members to express their opinions, voice concerns, and provide feedback on the proposed policy or resolution.

Revisions and Amendments:

Based on committee reviews and public input, the proposed policy or resolution may undergo revisions or amendments. Elected officials or committee members may modify the content to address concerns, improve clarity, or incorporate new information.



Committee Approval:

After revisions, the policy or resolution returns to the relevant committee for approval. The committee evaluates the changes and decides whether to recommend it for further consideration by the full legislative body.

Full Legislative Body Consideration:

The proposed policy or resolution is presented to the full legislative body (city council, county board, etc.) for consideration. Elected officials discuss, debate, and vote on whether to adopt the proposal.

Voting:

A formal vote is taken by the legislative body. The policy or resolution may require a simple majority or a supermajority to be adopted, depending on local rules.

Implementation and Enforcement:

Once adopted, the policy or resolution enters the implementation phase. Government agencies or departments responsible for enforcement begin incorporating the new rules into their operations.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Local governments often establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented policies or resolutions. This includes assessing whether the intended goals are being achieved and making adjustments if necessary.

NOTE: Specific steps and requirements can vary widely between different local governments, and the level of public involvement and transparency can also differ. The structure and hierarchy of local governments can also vary depending on the state.



SECTION 2

REQUESTING MEETING WITH STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

The process of passing policies and resolutions at the local government level involves several key steps. While the specifics can vary based on the structure and regulations of each local government, the following is a general breakdown of the common stages:

[Find and contact elected officials | USAGov](#)

Obtaining Local Office Contact Information

1. Visit the Official USA Government Website: Navigate to the “Find and contact elected officials” page on the official USA Government website.
2. Locate Your State and County Elected Officials’ Contact Information: Based on your address, the website provides contact information for your State and Local officials.
3. Contact Your School Board Members: Visit your school district’s official website or the school board section to find the names and contact information of the board members. Usually, the board has a dedicated section with their contact details.

Contacting the State Legislature or Local Government Office

4. Dial the Phone Number Provided: Call the phone number provided for your State/ District/County office.
5. Request Email Addresses: Politely inquire about the email addresses of the office scheduler and foreign affairs staffer, who can facilitate your meeting request to “discuss on discussing the crisis in Gaza.”
6. Clarify Your Purpose: Explain that you wish to request a meeting to discuss the ongoing crisis in Gaza and believe an email would be the most effective way to make the request.

Maintaining Courtesy and Respect

7. Be Respectful: Maintain a respectful tone throughout the conversation.
8. Accept Limitations: If the staff member is unable to provide you with the specific email address of a staff member, express gratitude for their assistance and proceed with the general email address if available or an online form.

Taking Notes and Following Up

9. Note Down Email Addresses: If you obtain the email addresses, ensure that you accurately transcribe them.
10. Send a Follow-Up Email: Subsequently, dispatch an email to the provided email addresses, adhering to the template message and guidelines provided in this toolkit.

Persistence and Demeanor

11. Be Persistent: Offices receive a high volume of requests. Persistence and a courteous demeanor can significantly increase your chances of securing a meeting.



SECTION 3

SENDING YOUR TEMPLATE MESSAGE TO YOUR STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

Once you've secured the necessary information to request your congressional meetings, it's crucial to send your email meeting request effectively. In addition to drawing from CAIR's template congressional meeting request below, follow these instructions for sending the template message:

- **Personalize the Template Message:** Before sending the message, ensure it is personalized with the recipient's name and the specific office you are addressing. Research to see if a resolution has already been introduced in your state/district/county.
- **Email Subject Line:** When sending an email, craft a concise and informative subject line. For example, " Meeting Request to Discuss Gaza Crisis' Impact on Our Community."
- **Proofread Your Message:** Ensure your message is free from typos, grammatical errors, and other issues. A well-written message demonstrates professionalism and commitment.
- **Send the Message:** Click the "Send" button on your email platform or send the physical letter via mail, following any guidelines provided by the congressional office for physical correspondence.
- **Keep a Record:** Maintain a record of the date and time you sent your message and any responses you receive. This will help you stay organized and follow up effectively.
- **Follow Up:** If you don't receive a response within a reasonable timeframe, consider sending a polite follow-up email or making a courteous phone call to inquire about the status of your meeting request.

Again, persistence and respectful communication can be key in ensuring your message is heard and acted upon by your elected representatives.

TEMPLATE MESSAGE

Subject: Meeting Request to Discuss Gaza Crisis' Impact on Our Community

Dear **[State/District/County Official]**,

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the ongoing violence in Israel and Palestine and my conviction that the United States has a critical role to play in promoting peace and justice in the region. Given the urgency of the situation, I kindly request an in-person or virtual meeting with **[Name of Representative or Elected Official]** and interested staff in the coming days to address the concerns of **[State/District/County]** residents.

During our meeting, I hope we can discuss the following three crucial topics:

- **[IF NO RESOLUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED]** Introducing a permanent Ceasefire Resolution for the State/District/County (See Sample Resolutions Below)
- **[IF THERE IS ALREADY A PROPOSED RESOLUTION]** Supporting the proposed resolution already introduced in the State/District/County
- Acknowledging the loss of lives and recognizing humanity on both sides.
- Urging the United States to reassert its leadership role as a negotiator, addressing the root causes of violence, and ending Israel's occupation and apartheid policies.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to these critical matters and look forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can work together for a just and lasting peace.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



SECTION 4

TIPS ON MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF STATE LEGISLATURE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

By following these tips, you can increase your chances of having a successful congressional meeting and making a positive impact.

Be prepared and on time:

- Research the member of the State Legislature or elected official you are meeting with. This includes knowing their background, role in your state/district/county, and position on the issues you want to discuss.
- Prepare talking points for your meeting. This will help you stay focused on the message.
- Arrive for your meeting on time or a few minutes early.

State the issue and the solution:

- Be clear and concise about the issue you want to discuss and the solution you are proposing.
- Use personal stories and real-life examples to illustrate your points.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your proposal.

Be polite and listen carefully:

- Be respectful of the official or staffer's time.
- Be open to hearing their views on the issue, even if they differ from your own.
- Ask clarifying questions and take notes to ensure that you understand their position.

Additional tips:

- Be professional and courteous.
- Dress appropriately.
- Be yourself and be genuine.
- Thank the official or staffer for their time.

Follow up after the meeting:

- Within a few days of your meeting, send a thank-you note to the official or staffer.
- If you promised to provide any additional information, like any data or factsheet, promptly follow through on that promise.
- Stay in touch with the official or office by attending events, sending emails, and making phone calls.

By following these tips, you can increase the chances of having a successful meeting with a local official.



SECTION 5

ATTENDING TOWN HALL, COUNCIL, AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS: ADVOCATING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL-GAZA

A town hall, city/county council, or school board meeting, organized by local government officials, community leaders, or elected representatives, serves as a powerful platform for advocating for a ceasefire in Israel-Gaza. These gatherings provide an opportunity for community members to:

- **Voice their opinions about the conflict and urge elected officials to take action.**
- **Ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of the situation and the potential role of local government.**
- **Directly express their concerns to those in positions of influence and demand action for peace.**

This guide outlines how to prepare for and actively participate in a town hall, council, or school board meeting to advocate for a ceasefire resolution.

1. Research and Prepare:

- Gather information about the agenda, topics to be discussed, and public comment procedures.
- Research the current situation in Israel-Gaza, including the humanitarian toll of the conflict.
- Review the ceasefire resolution provided in this toolkit and prepare key points to emphasize.
- Identify your local representatives and any relevant committees focused on foreign affairs or human rights.

2. Craft Your Message:

- Develop concise and impactful statements urging your elected officials to introduce or support a resolution calling for a ceasefire.
- Focus on the human cost of the conflict and the importance of international pressure for peace.
- Share personal stories or experiences to personalize the issue and connect with the audience.
- Practice your delivery beforehand to ensure clarity and confidence.

3. During the Meeting:

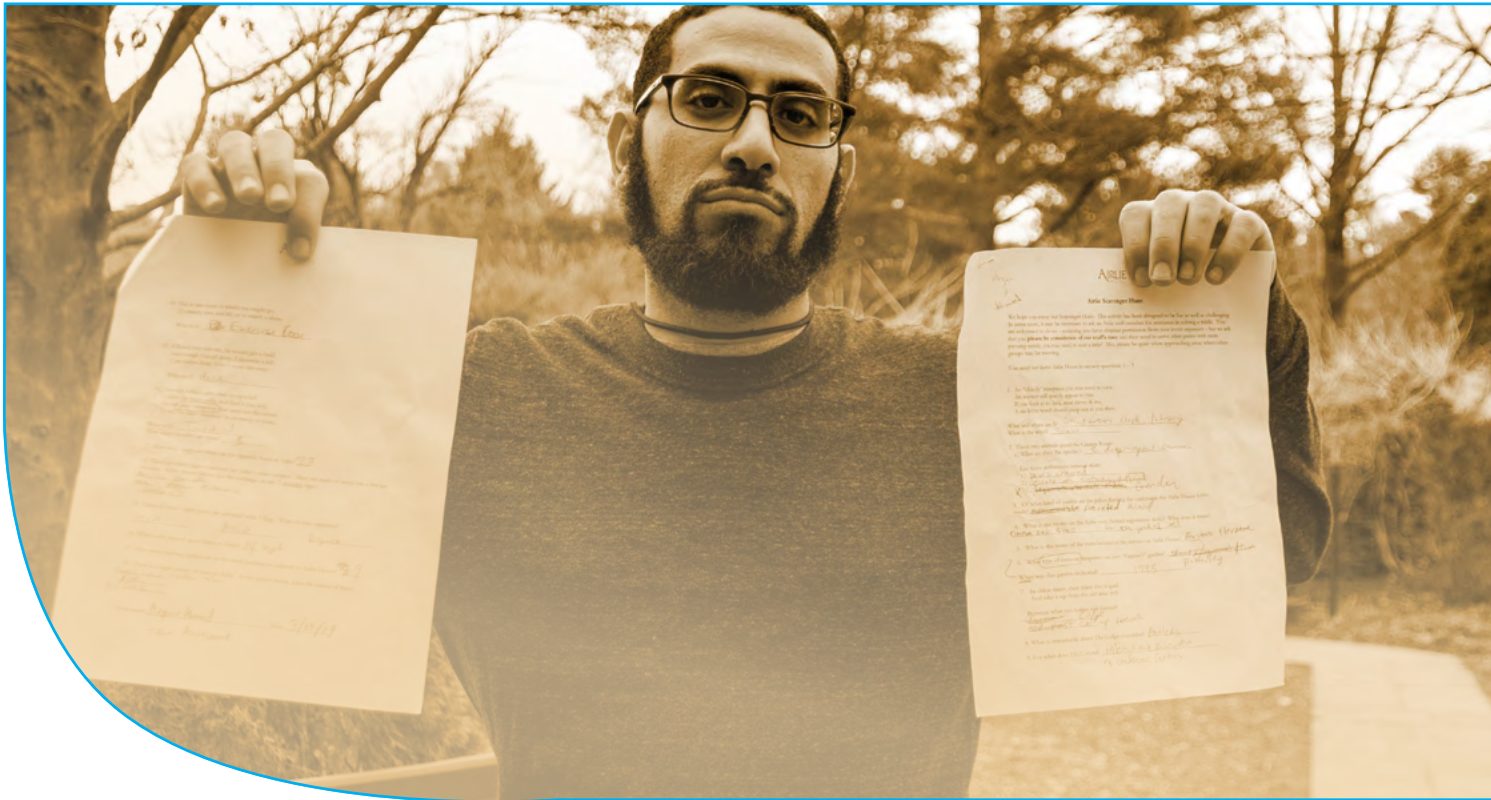
- Follow established procedures for public comment and be respectful to all attendees.
- Clearly state your name and address the officials present.
- Deliver your prepared statement concisely and emphasize key points.
- Offer a copy of CAIR's sample ceasefire resolution included in this toolkit.
- Respond to any questions posed by officials respectfully and stay focused on your message.

4. Additional Strategies:

- Present a petition signed by community members supporting the ceasefire resolution.
- Organize other attendees to speak out on the issue.
- Share your message on social media using relevant hashtags and tagging local officials.
- Follow up with your representatives after the meeting to express continued support and track progress.

By attending town hall, council, and school board meetings and speaking out, you can make a significant impact in urging your local government to take a stand for peace in Israel-Gaza.

**REMEMBER, YOUR VOICE MATTERS. USE IT TO ADVOCATE FOR A CEASEFIRE
AND HELP END THE SUFFERING.**



THE POWER OF RESOLUTIONS: A CALL FOR CEASEFIRE NOW

In the face of the ongoing crisis in Israel and occupied Palestine, the Ceasefire Now Resolution (H.Res.786) introduced in US Congress offers a beacon of hope. This resolution urges an immediate ceasefire and essential humanitarian aid, paving the way towards de-escalation and peace.

Yet, the call for peace must transcend the confines of congressional chambers. A powerful amplification lies within local governance, communities, and their leaders through the medium of resolutions at various echelons. Delve deeper into the resolution process:

State Legislative Resolutions:

- Purpose: These mirror city council resolutions but resonate with the voice of entire state legislatures, championing the interests of the entire state.
- Content: They encompass statewide concerns, advocating federal actions, endorsing state policies, commemorating significant events or figures, and expressing support or opposition on national issues.
- Examples: From urging Congress toward specific actions to honoring remarkable figures, establishing recognition days, or addressing pivotal statewide policy concerns, the breadth of these resolutions is expansive.

City and County Council Resolutions:

- Purpose: Formally encapsulating the council's stance on multifarious issues impacting the municipality.
- Content: Ranging from local policies, regulations, budget allocations, proclamations, to actionable requests, these resolutions reflect a wide spectrum of local governance.
- Examples: They might extend support for community events, allocate funds for new projects, endorse policy reforms, commend outstanding individuals, or vocally oppose state or federal actions.

While not legally binding, both city council and state legislative resolutions embody the unified position or sentiment of the governing body, serving as authoritative statements guiding actions or indicating the official stance of the local or state government.

School District Resolutions:

- **Purpose:** Essential in formalizing decisions, articulating positions, and instituting policies to steer the district's trajectory and commitments.
- **Content:** These encompass declarations of intent, policy assertions, budgetary allocations, and strategic plans, constituting a holistic framework addressing pertinent issues and steering the district's course.
- **Example:** A school resolution might herald the district's unwavering dedication to nurturing diversity, delineate specific policies targeting disparities, and earmark funds for training initiatives.

Resolutions wield a subtle yet compelling force, encapsulating the collective voice of governance at various levels. They not only voice opinion but guide the trajectory of action, serving as pivotal instruments in steering communities, states, and institutions toward harmony and progress. The Ceasefire Now Resolution is a clarion call — its echo must resound through resolutions at every level, resonating the urgency for peace and humanitarian aid amidst turmoil.

SAMPLE STATE/COUNTY/CITY RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

WHEREAS, [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] is dedicated to fostering a community that embraces diversity, values all life, and upholds the principles of equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic bigotry and violence are on the rise within our country, posing a significant threat to the well-being and safety of our diverse communities and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and condemnation for the tragic loss of Israeli civilians, including children and the elderly, in the terrorist attack on October 7th by Hamas; and

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the loss of innocent Palestinian lives including children and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel, which has resulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian population of Gaza; and

WHEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary narrative and dehumanization is being used to rationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the death of civilians, within this ongoing conflict; and

WHEREAS, [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] supports the dignity and safety of residents in every community regardless of what crimes any government may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to achieve these permanent goals; and

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, or country of origin is a violation of International humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 10, 2023 war and armed violence have claimed the lives of over 17,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and 1,200 Israelis, including Americans, and thousands more have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at imminent risk if a permanent cease-fire is not achieved and continuous humanitarian aid is not assured; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government and Members of Congress hold immense diplomatic, military, and financial power to save Palestinian and Israeli lives, and seek a lasting peace, in our time and for all time; and

SAMPLE STATE/COUNTY/CITY RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] calls for the

United States Federal Government to facilitate and demand:

- (1) an immediate permanent cease-fire to urgently end the current violence; and
- (2) the immediate release of all hostages and political prisoners; and
- (3) an immediate end to the blockade and siege of Gaza; and
- (4) the prompt provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza including supplying food, water, fuel, and medical supplies which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population of Gaza; and
- (5) all parties to fully comply with their obligations under international law; and
- (6) continue to condemn the rising antisemitism and Islamophobia that has been seen in the United States and worldwide.

ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION

The language for this resolution is derived from the resolution introduced by Commissioner Ted Terry of DeKalb County, GA.

The resolution was revised to incorporate the updated death toll and other pertinent figures from the timeline of events provided by Al Jazeera on the Israel-Hamas war.

Al Jazeera English: The 'collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north of Gaza' is delaying the Palestinian Ministry of Health from updating the latest numbers of people injured and killed, says UN report. Link: <https://twitter.com/AJEnglish/status/1723552937602158834>

SAMPLE RESOLUTION: SCHOOL DISTRICT/BOARD

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA, UPHOLDING FREE SPEECH

WHEREAS, the **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** expresses profound concern about the escalating incidents of Islamophobia, violence and anti-Palestinian racism, particularly in schools and among students, leading to targeted harassment and violent attacks against Muslim students nationwide; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the fundamental importance of free speech at **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]**, ensuring a campus/school environment that fosters open discourse and diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with this commitment, **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** upholds the principle that the free exchange of ideas should not be suppressed, even when opinions are considered offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed, as outlined in **[Name of School District]**'s Campus/school Free Speech Policy; and

WHEREAS, **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** acknowledges the imperative to distinguish between protected free expression and harassment, as per the **[SCHOOL POLICY ON HARASSMENT]**, defining harassment as conduct and/or expression that is **[FOR EXAMPLE: unwelcome, severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, thus denying an individual equal access to their education program or activity]**; and

WHEREAS, it is affirmed that open criticism of any government, including the government of Israel, does not violate **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]**'s **[FOR EXAMPLE: Campus/School Free Speech Policy or Policy on Harassment]**; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to emphasize that criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently anti-Jewish or antisemitic, and it is imperative to maintain a clear distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Jewish sentiments; and

WHEREAS, conflating critique of Israel with antisemitism can have detrimental effects on the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities within **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** and can delegitimize individuals, including Jewish advocates, who express concerns about Israeli policies; and

WHEREAS, international humanitarian law recognizes the rights of all people, including Palestinians, to life, security, and political and economic self-determination; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that Israel has been recognized as an occupying power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, since 1967; and

SAMPLE RESOLUTION: SCHOOL DISTRICT/BOARD

WHEREAS, the official policy of the United States and international law acknowledges that the Israeli government is the occupying power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza due to its blockade; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to avoid punishing free speech based on false claims that criticism of the Israeli government or disagreement with Zionism are inherently antisemitic; and

WHEREAS, a historical record indicates that Israel has voted against numerous peace settlements with Palestine in the United Nations General Assembly since 1947; and

WHEREAS, the Students and Parents of [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT] recognizes the need for an accurate understanding that Hamas does not represent the entirety of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, grave concerns are raised regarding reported violations of international laws by Israel, including but not limited to collective punishment, use of prohibited weapons, displacement of populations, and imposition of blockades; and

WHEREAS, expressing deep distress over the reported civilian casualties, particularly among children, women, men, and the elderly, resulting from ongoing conflicts; and

BE IT RESOLVED that [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT] expresses:

- (1) Concern about reported actions and policies contributing to the suffering of innocent civilians and calls for an immediate ceasefire, urging all parties involved to pursue diplomatic and peaceful resolutions to conflicts.
- (2) Full support for the First Amendment rights to free speech for all students and faculty, both on and off campus.

ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION

Some of the language in this sample resolution was adapted from a resolution previously passed by the University of Cincinnati. CAIR has made additional modifications and introduced new language tailored to better align with the context and needs of school districts.

Fuller, C. (2023, November 17). UC student government votes to advance controversial resolution. WLWT. <https://www.wlwt.com/article/university-cincinnati-student-government-middle-east/45867478>

NOTE: Feel free to make adjustments that suit the specific needs and requirements of your state, district, or county while ensuring the overarching message remains focused on advocating for a permanent ceasefire as a unified stance.



SECTION 7

FACTSHEET FOR STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

Fact sheets are powerful tools that provide concise and well-organized information about proposed legislation, current issues, or policy matters. They serve as essential resources for individuals and advocacy groups seeking to engage with their elected representatives during local, state, and federal meetings on policies with elected officials. Fact sheets offer a comprehensive overview of the key points, supporting data, and recommended actions related to specific bills or resolutions, helping you to navigate and guide your discussions effectively.

As an example, we have included below **CAIR's Ceasefire Now Factsheet**, which supports the introduction of cease resolutions at the local, state, and federal level. This fact sheet outlines the critical details of the resolution and the actions being requested from members of city and council councils, school boards, and state legislatures.

Using legislative fact sheets during meetings with elected officials and policymakers can be a game-changer. They enable you to present complex issues in a clear and organized manner, making it easier for you to convey your concerns and recommendations to your elected representatives. These fact sheets offer a structured framework for discussing key points, supporting data, and suggested actions, ensuring that you stay focused and articulate during your interactions with policymakers.

In the context of the CAIR fact sheet supporting ceasefire resolutions, you can see how it addresses the ongoing crisis in Israel and Palestine and outlines specific actions, such as introducing such resolutions, supporting humanitarian aid, and demanding U.S. leadership in pursuit of a lasting peace. This format helps ensure that your discussions are well-informed, concise, and impactful.



SUPPORTING A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

What We Are Asking State Representatives or Elected Officials to Do:

- 1. Introduce local and state versions of the Ceasefire Now Resolution (Sample resolutions provided on page 12)**
 - a. All State/District/County representatives are encouraged to support the introduction of a permanent Ceasefire Now Resolution.
 - b. If a "Ceasefire Now" resolution is already proposed in your State/District/County, raise awareness and support for it.
- 2. Send and Facilitate the Entry of Humanitarian Assistance into Gaza**
 - a. This resolution plays a pivotal role in ending the violence and urges the Biden Administration to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, ensuring the preservation of countless lives.
 - b. The humanitarian situation in Gaza necessitates immediate and substantial assistance. The existing aid flow through Egypt's border is insufficient to address the ongoing crisis.
 - c. As per the United Nations, approximately 35% of Gaza's agricultural land and 85% of its fishing areas are either entirely or partially unreachable due to actions taken by the Israeli military. Furthermore, over 90% of the water sourced from the Gaza aquifer is unsuitable for consumption.
 - d. Since the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine, CAIR received a total of 2,171 requests for help and reports of bias from states, counties, and districts across America between October 7 and December 8, 2023. It shows a 172 percent increase over the previous year. These incidents span a

broad spectrum of hostility, including harassment, discrimination, and threats, affecting students who are visibly Muslim or who have spoken up for protecting civilians in Gaza.

3. Acknowledge the Loss of Lives and Recognize the Humanity on Both Sides

- a. It is imperative to acknowledge the tragic loss of lives and recognize the humanity on both sides of the conflict, encompassing Israelis and Palestinians.
- b. The death toll in Gaza has tragically surpassed 27,000, a harrowing number that includes nearly 11,000 innocent children, making it a heart-wrenching and urgent concern.
- c. In the face of this escalating crisis and a deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, Congress should unequivocally condemn Israeli attacks on Gaza, which many scholars constitute war crimes and violations of international law and genocide.

4. Demand U.S. Leadership in Pursuit of a Lasting Peace

- a. The United States must reassume its leadership role as a mediator in pursuing lasting peace in the region.
- b. This endeavor must encompass addressing the root causes of violence, including Israel's decades-long illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the denial of Palestinian human rights. The only way to permanently stop the violence is to end the occupation and dismantle systemic, racist oppression.

5. Understanding the Core Issue: Israel's Occupation and Denial of Palestinian Rights

- a. Acknowledge that the central cause of recent violence is Israel's decades-long illegal occupation of Palestinian land, expansion of illegal settlements, and the discriminatory system of apartheid that denies Palestinian human and legal rights.
- b. The only way to permanently stop the violence is to end the occupation, which kills hundreds of Palestinian civilians every year and subjects millions more men, women, and children to systemic, racist oppression.

6. Similar to Ukraine, Americans Should Be Siding with The Oppressed, Not the Oppressor

- a. More and more Israeli leaders and advocates acknowledge Israel's occupation is like South African apartheid.
- b. The former head of Mossad said recently: "There is an apartheid state here... In a territory where two people are judged under two legal systems, that is an apartheid state."
- c. In July, South Africa's Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, asserted that the United Nations General Assembly should establish a committee to assess Israel's compliance with the necessary criteria to be designated an apartheid state. She stated, "The Palestinian narrative resonates with the historical experiences of racial segregation and oppression in South Africa."
- d. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and Presbyterian Church USA have labeled Israel an apartheid state. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing also recognized that Israel is committing apartheid against Palestinians.