

RE: SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

Monday, October 16, 2023

Dear Members,

The Scarborough Campus Students' Union would like to express our deepest and most sincere condolences to the Palestinian community and all innocent Israeli lives lost in recent and decades-long events. The ongoing occupation of Palestine has caused great conflict and resulted in the unnecessary death of thousands of people across the 75-year apartheid regime. In alignment with our equity statement, the SCSU condemns all forms of oppression and discrimination, including Islamophobia, antisemitism, and colonization.

We recognize and applaud the statement posted on October 15th, by the 17 student groups who came together in solidarity with Palestine. We encourage all members to read their statement, and continue to educate themselves via their shared resources and beyond in an effort to develop a critical lens to combat the skewed rhetoric of mass media. It is essential that the global population gain historic insight into recent events; those triggered by the ongoing violation of Palestinian human rights — such as Israel's recent escalation of blocking Palestinian access to water, food, electricity, and medical aid. For decades, it has been a quietly violent colonization, and amidst a shift in media attention, it is critical that quick action be taken to avoid the further loss of innocent lives, while protecting the Indigenous Palestinian identity.

In addition to educating yourself, the SCSU encourages our members to vocalize support for the people of Palestine. The SCSU has heard the request of students on our campus, and we are currently working to coordinate a meeting with the University of Toronto Scarborough to discuss support measures for Palestinian students navigating loss within their community.

Lastly, we call for protection of those calling for a free Palestine. This fight has been inherently violent both through the physical occupation of land, and wider global political conflict. SCSU wants to reiterate that the call for a free Palestine is not conflated with antisemitism. We condemn any acts that seek to hold the Jewish community accountable for the actions of the Israeli government, and call for wider protection of both the Palestinian and Jewish communities throughout this difficult time.

We urge our members to follow the calls to action outlined in the joint student leader letter, through appealing to your federal and provincial members of government, checking in with your peers, and ensuring you are aware of the true narratives amidst this fight. We encourage anyone experiencing distress to utilize the on- and off- campus mental health resources.

In Solidarity,
Scarborough Campus Students' Union



Health and Wellness

<https://www.utoronto.ca/hwc/>

SCSU Compiled On- and Off- Campus Resources:

www.scsu.ca/index

U of T NAVI—helps students navigate U of T supports across the campus

<https://prod.virtualagent.utoronto.ca/>

[U of T Telus Health Student Support](#) provides all University of Toronto Scarborough students with immediate and/or ongoing confidential 24/7 counselling support for free in over 146 languages.

UTSC Mental Health Services

<https://www.utoronto.ca/hwc/mental-health-services-and-resources-utsc-students>