

Berkeley Federation of Teachers Resolution in Support of an Immediate Ceasefire and Protection of Academic Freedom

Whereas, The Berkeley Federation of Teachers as educators fight against antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Arab hate and violence of all kinds.

Whereas, the Berkeley Federation of Teachers is saddened by the ongoing violence in Israel and Palestine and mourns the lives of all Palestinian and Israeli lives that have been lost in this conflict.

Whereas, every day this war continues will only make it more difficult to achieve peace and justice.

Whereas, we believe that our students should be learning about global events and engaging in deep thoughtful discussion about the world around them.

Whereas, we respect the diversity of opinions of our students and staff and aim to create spaces in our classrooms where this diversity can flourish.

There Be It Resolved That, BFT release the following statement:

The Berkeley Federation of Teachers denounces the violence inflicted upon both Palestinian and Israeli civilians. We condemn antisemitism, Islamophobia, anti-Arab hate and discrimination. We call for increased humanitarian aid to Gaza and the release of all hostages. Our commitment is to education and advocating for a just and lasting peace in the region, urging our government to redirect foreign aid towards that purpose. BFT strongly supports a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

And Be It Further Resolved, we call on our elected leaders locally and nationally to join us in calling for an immediate permanent ceasefire between the Israeli government and Hamas.

And Be It Further Resolved, we call on Berkeley Unified School District to support the teaching of controversial topics including the teaching of this conflict in line with our previous resolution on Academic Freedom passed in March 2023.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the Berkeley Federation of Teachers condemns attacks on our educators over their personal political beliefs.

And Be It Further Resolved, that BFT calls on our community to respect academic freedom, to condemn racially, politically and religiously motivated attacks and to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Passed by the BFT Executive Board on Dec 14th, 2023