

Subject: Urgent Appeal to the CSULB Administration

Dear President Conoley,

We are Jewish faculty at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) who hold diverse attitudes and beliefs. We are writing to you today with a sense of urgency and concern. The ongoing Israeli attack on Gaza has resulted in immense suffering, loss of life, and displacement of innocent civilians. As educators and scholars, we believe it is our duty to advocate for peace, justice, and transparency.

These are declarations to which we all agree:

1. **Freedom from harassment:** All CSULB faculty and students have a right to peacefully express themselves without fear of intimidation, attack, or retribution from police, security staff, faculty and staff, the university administration, other students, or outside community members.
2. **CSULB Student activism for Palestine:** We strongly encourage CSULB's administration to seriously consider the demands of pro-Palestinian student protestors, including divestment. Further, student protestors should not de facto be considered a threat to other members of the CSULB community.
3. **Criticism of the Israeli government and military – even harsh ones – are not inherently antisemitic:** The Israeli government is like any other government and is therefore open to critique. While the signatories may have different opinions about the State of Israel, we agree it is dangerous and anti-intellectual to frame all critiques of the state or government of Israel, or all critiques of Zionism, as antisemitic.
4. **Transparency Regarding Investments:** It is essential that CSULB provide transparency regarding any investments it may have in Israel. As responsible stewards of public funds, we believe that the university community has a right to know where its financial resources are allocated. Disclosing any investments related to Israel will foster trust and accountability.
5. **Immediate Ceasefire:** We support an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza and implore CSULB's administration to do the same. The indiscriminate destruction of civilian areas, including universities, hospitals, and residential neighborhoods, has caused immense human suffering to Gaza's civilians and has further endangered the Israeli hostages. A ceasefire, accompanied by unimpeded humanitarian aid, is the only way forward.

In Conclusion: Jewish faculty at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) express deep concern about the ongoing Israeli attacks on Gaza. We urge you to come out with a written letter publicly supporting our declarations about freedom from harassment for faculty and students, support for student activism, recognition that criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently antisemitic, a call for investment transparency, and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Sam Coleman, Lecturer, Department of Asian & Asian American Studies
Barbara Grossman-Thompson, Associate Professor, International Studies Department
Lily House-Peters, Associate Professor, Department of Geography
Wendy Klein, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Dennis Kortheuer, Lecturer, Department of History
Sasha Kuczynski, Lecturer, Department of Communication Studies
Ron Loewe, Professor, Department of Anthropology
Carie Rael, Assistant Professor, Department of History
Steven Rousso-Schindler, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology
Gwen Schaefer, Professor, Department of Journalism
Nizan Shaked, Professor, School of Art, College of the Arts
Joanne Tortorici Luna, Professor, College of Education