

November 21, 2023

Seattle City Council  
600 4th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98104-1850

Via Email Only: [council@seattle.gov](mailto:council@seattle.gov)

RE: Support of Immediate, Long-Term Ceasefire Resolution

Dear Seattle Councilmembers:

We are among the **2,500+ individuals** who have signed on to the [Washington Solidarity Statement](#), which has also been endorsed by **over 150** organizations (full list below). This was an effort by a group of about a dozen individual Jews, Muslims and Christians seeking to recognize the humanity of, and horror experienced by, all peoples connected to Israel/Palestine right now. You can read more about the statement and some of the individuals involved in the press statement [here](#). Since release of the Solidarity Statement, a number of faith and community leaders of different (or no) religious backgrounds have joined the effort to drive this statement and the asks made in it.

The Washington Solidarity Statement calls for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, release of hostages, end to the occupation, and a stop to antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry here at home. **We strongly applaud Councilmembers Teresa Mosqueda, Tammy Morales, Lisa Herbold, and Dan Strauss** for having signed on to this statement, and Councilmembers Mosqueda, Morales and Herbold for having joined the press conference and multifaith solidarity gathering held on November 16.

At your meeting this afternoon, we understand you will consider two resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire in Israel/Palestine. This is an urgent and pressing matter, which thousands of people in Seattle, along with millions across the globe, have been calling for the past several weeks. The majority of Americans -- even of different political persuasions -- all support a ceasefire. We appreciate you hearing these growing voices by considering passing a ceasefire resolution in your Council meeting.

The call for a ceasefire is imperative at this time for many reasons, including to ensure:

1. The safety of Palestinian civilians (nearly half of whom are children) who have no safe harbor, having been bombed in hospitals, schools, refugee camps, their residential neighborhoods, on what they were told were safe roads to travel south, and now where many have taken refuge in the south;
2. The well-being of Israeli hostages held in Gaza who are at greater risk with this level of bombing, as many of their loved ones are echoing in their calls for a ceasefire;

3. The long-term safety of Israelis which history has shown—and numerous Israeli historians, leaders, and military experts have advocated—will never come through subjugation of Palestinians or through a strategy of military might and control which only breeds more violence; and
4. That the State of Israel does not continue to violate international law, using our U.S. tax dollars.

To be clear, calling for a ceasefire does **not** negate accountability for the attack on October 7. It's simply the humanitarian, legal, moral, and most strategic avenue of action to allow the possibility of securing a real lasting political solution for all.

As leaders and individuals committed to peace and justice, we welcome both the [resolution](#) by Councilmember Kshama Sawant, and the resolution to be introduced via amendment by Council President Debora Juarez, Councilmember Lisa Herbold, and Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda. Both resolutions call for an immediate ceasefire, humanitarian aid, release of all hostages, and combating antisemitism/Islamophobia. While we would love to see a resolution passed that further supports an end to the decades-long Israeli military occupation (as stated in the Washington Solidarity Statement) and a stop to U.S. military funding provided to the State of Israel (as stated in the Sawant resolution), **we join Palestinian and Jewish leaders in supporting the resolution via amendment by Juarez/Herbold/Mosqueda** as a way to pass something that focuses on the **immediate urgent needs** related to stopping the violence and bloodshed, including the killing of children and civilians. The amended resolution also uses the language of the Ceasefire Now Resolution led by Congresswomen Cori Bush and Rashida Tlaib, which is the bill before our Members of Congress

You may also be hearing from individuals sending messages through the action alert by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) criticizing the failure to engage “Jewish communal leadership” in the process around these resolutions. This is something we also heard, as an attempted critique of our Washington Solidarity Statement. However, such criticism is not valid. The JCRC, and many of the Jewish leaders and organizations associated with it, have made it clear that they oppose a ceasefire, which is the premise of our Solidarity Statement and the two resolutions before you. While the JCRC is a collective institutional voice, it is not the *sole* representation of Seattle’s diverse Jewish community, which does not always align with the JCRC’s institutional views and objectives. Other Jewish voices are in fact calling for a ceasefire based explicitly on their Jewish values.

We are concerned for the safety and well-being of ALL people in Israel/Palestine and refuse to accept that Israeli safety and well-being must come at the price of more Palestinian lives. Instead of listening to the voices of those who oppose the efforts to call for a ceasefire to stop the violence and bloodshed in Israel/Palestine, we urge you to listen to the voices of thousands of Palestinians, Jews and their allies in Seattle, including the many Jews who are leading, attending and supporting a variety of actions calling for a ceasefire, such as the one on Sunday, Nov. 19 at the Space Needle with over 1,000 Jews and allies. These voices are just as important as the voices of Jewish institutional leaders, and they unfortunately have been excluded from Jewish institutional messaging because they advocate for a ceasefire.

We firmly believe that the calls set forth in the resolution by Juarez/Herbold/Mosqueda help bring better safety and well-being for all peoples living in the region, Palestinians and Israelis alike. A ceasefire and the restoration of basic necessities along with humanitarian aid would enable the development of political solutions, including for the release and safe return of all hostages, rather than perpetuate violence through a military option. In addition, given the rise in antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Palestinian/anti-Arab bigotry, the language in the resolution helps make clear that the City of Seattle will not condone such hatred or divisiveness, regardless of where it occurs.

You have an opportunity to take a stand on the right side of history and help influence our Members of Congress to do what is decent, moral, and desperately needed in this critical and urgent moment. Thank you in advance for supporting an amendment to Sawant's resolution and passing (hopefully unanimously) the resolution by Juarez/Herbold/Mosqueda.

Signed by the following individuals:

1. Khalid Abu-Saleh, Palestinian activist and small business owner
2. Jawaher Aldhafer, Palestinian and lawyer
3. Rami Al-Kabra, only Palestinian elected official in Washington State
4. Ashraf Awad, Palestinian and business executive
5. Majd Baniodeh, Palestinian and social impact/social justice leader
6. Selwa Beard, Palestinian activist and small business owner
7. Ahmad Hamdan, Palestinian and co-founder of Baladna (Seattle-based Palestinian community organization)
8. Jamila Hussein, Palestinian, data and analytics consultant, Slalom Consulting
9. Hanan Judeh, Palestinian activist and paralegal
10. Inam Judeh, Palestinian activist and small business owner
11. Mohammad Kaddoura, local Palestinian peace advocate
12. Danah Marouf, Palestinian and college student
13. Eman Marouf, Palestinian peace advocate
14. Ghassan Marouf, Palestinian and software engineer
15. Husam Marouf, Palestinian and financial planner
16. Moneer Marouf, Palestinian and software engineer
17. Amin Odeh, Palestinian activist and founder of Voices of Palestine
18. Sabrene Odeh, Palestinian and co-founder of Baladna, Seattle-based Palestinian community organization
19. Belal Riyad, local Palestinian peace advocate
20. Liyan Salameh, Palestinian activist and public health student

21. Hala Saleh, Palestinian, VP Product - Creator Networks, co-founder of Seattle Tatreez group (Palestinian cultural heritage group)
22. Laila Saliba, BSN, MPH, Palestinian Community Organizer
23. Rana Sarhan, Palestinian and microbiologist
24. Neimeh Shalash, Palestinian and healthcare executive
25. Yasmeen Tropanets, Palestinian activist and stylist
26. Amjad Yousef, local Palestinian peace Advocate
  
27. Dana Barnett, Jewish human rights advocate
28. Rabbi David Basior, Kadima Reconstructionist Community
29. Dan Berger, PhD, Jewish scholar and grandchild of Holocaust survivors
30. Abby Brockman, Jewish trauma chaplain and spiritual caregiver at Seattle Children's Hospital?
31. Diana Dvora Falchuk, King County Jews Against Antisemitism
32. Rabbi Fern Feldman, Seattle Rabbi
33. Rae Levine, Jewish human rights advocate
34. Jen Marlowe, Founder, Donkeysaddle Projects
35. Monique Meissner, Managing Director, Washington Community Alliance
36. Adrienne Papermaster, Kadima Reconstructionist Community
37. Alice Rothchild, MD, member of Jewish Voice for Peace, mentor liaison for We Are Not Numbers, and board member of Gaza Mental Health Foundation
38. Rabbi C.B. Souther, Independent Seattle Rabbi
39. Randolph Urmston, Chair, Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land (Episcopal Diocese of Olympia)
40. Jamie Rose Waterstone, founder of Young Women Empowered, member of Kadima Reconstructionist Community
  
41. Aneelah Afzali, Esq., community advocate and interfaith leader; Executive Director of MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
42. Raima Amin, MD, President, Muslim Health Professionals
43. Aretha Basu, Political Director of Puget Sound Sage
44. Rev. Kevin Bechtold, Plymouth Church UCC
45. Rev Paul Benz, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
46. Rev. Donene Blair, Plymouth Church UCC
47. Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, Senior Pastor, Plymouth Church UCC
48. Samuel Chesneau, Interim Matrix Manager, Wasat

49. Rev. Beth Chronister, Minister of Justice and Care, University Unitarian Church
50. Cari Conklin, community organizer and partner of Peace Catalyst International
51. Martha Durkee-Neuman, Intern Minister, Unitarian Universalist
52. Elisabeth Geschiere, Chaplain & UU Candidate Minister
53. Sheikh Adam Jamal, Imam and Director of Education at Muslim Association of Puget Sound
54. Sheikh Mohamed Joban, Imam, Muslim Association of Puget Sound
55. Murtaza Junejo, President of Muslim Association of NW Board
56. Sarah Karim, Board President, Wasat
57. Rev. Cecilia Kingman, Unitarian Universalist Minister
58. Rev. Andrew Larsen, Program Director for Peace Catalyst International and Liaison to The Evangelical Covenant Church on Peacemaking
59. Joey Lopez, Co-Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle
60. Genjo Marinello, Abbot, Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Temple
61. Tara Miller, Co-Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle
62. Rev. Priscilla Paris-Austin, Immanuel Lutheran Church (ELCA)
63. Rev. Osagyefo Sekou, Valley and Mountain Fellowship UMC
64. Christina Shimizu, Executive Director of Puget Sound Sage
65. Jafar Siddiqui, American Muslims of Puget Sound
66. Dr. DeAnza Spaulding, Pastor at Valley & Mountain Fellowship
67. Simon Tropanets, human rights activist and production plant manager
68. Rev. Dr. Harriett G. Walden, Mothers for Police Accountability

### **Organizations Endorsing Washington Solidarity Statement**

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|---|--|
| 1. 350 Seattle                            | 11. Asians for Collective Liberation in Spokane  |
| 2. Abubakr Islamic Center Of WA           | 12. Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce Co  |
| 3. Access to Our Community                | 13. Basic Elements Therapy, PLLC   |
| 4. Afghan Health Initiative               | 14. Bellingham Deaf and Disability Justice Collective  |
| 5. Afghans of Seattle                     | 15. Belong International   |
| 6. Al-Barr Foundation                     | 16. Birchwood Food Desert Fighters   |
| 7. Alternatives to Military Service       | 17. Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land (Episcopal Diocese of Olympia) |
| 8. Americans for Refugees and Immigrants  |  |
| 9. An-Nisa Network                        |  |
| 10. Asian Counseling and Referral Service |  |

18. Broadview Community United Church of Christ
19. CAIR-WA
20. Casa Latina
21. Central Washington Justice for Our Neighbors
22. Ceu das Divinas Aguas, a Santo Daime church of Bremerton, WA
23. Cham Refugees Community of Seattle
24. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
25. Coalition for Investing in Washington Jobs
26. Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites (CARW)
27. Coalition of Seattle Indian Americans (CSIA)
28. Columbia City Church of Hope
29. Community Acupuncture Project
30. Community Alliance for Global Justice
31. Dai Bai Zan Cho Bo Zen Temple
32. Democracy Works
33. Donkeysaddle Projects
34. Earth Care Not Warfare
35. Eastside For All
36. El Centro de la Raza
37. FCNL Seattle Advocacy Team
38. Front and Centered
39. Global Social Business Partners (GSBP)
40. Holy Wisdom Inclusive Catholic Community
41. Husaynia Islamic Society of Seattle
42. If Not Now, Seattle
43. Imams Council of Washington State
44. Immanuel Seattle (ELCA)
45. Indian American Community Services IACS WA
46. Indivisible Eastside-WA
47. Indivisible Kirkland
48. Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
49. Interfaith Community Sanctuary
50. Iraqi/Arab Health Board
51. Islamic Center of Monroe
52. Islamic Center of Mukilteo
53. Islamic Center of Olympia
54. Islamic Center of Redmond
55. Islamic Circle of North America, Washington (ICNA-WA)
56. Ithna-asheri Muslim Association of the Northwest ("IMAN")
57. Jewish Voice for Peace, Seattle
58. Jewish Voice for Peace, Tacoma/Pierce County
59. Kadima Reconstructionist Community
60. Kairos Puget Sound Coalition
61. Khalsa Gurmat Center
62. King County Jews Against Antisemitism
63. Kitsap Women In Black
64. L.A.W. - Housing Providers
65. Latino Community Fund of WA
66. Love and Justice Committee of University Congregational United Church of Christ
67. MAPS-AMEN (American Muslim Empowerment Network)
68. Masjid Alfurqan
69. Masjid Umar Al-Farooq
70. Mothers for Police Accountability
71. Muslim American Youth Foundation
72. Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS)
73. Muslim Association of Snoqualmie Ridge
74. Muslim Forum of the Pacific Northwest
75. Muslim Health Professionals of Greater Puget Sound
76. Muslims for Community Action and Support
77. Neem Institute
78. Nipponzan Myohoji Sanhga
79. Normandy Park United Church of Christ
80. Northshore Social Justice Action Group
81. Northwest Harvest
82. Olympia SURJ Showing Up for Racial Justice
83. OneAmerica
84. OneWorld Now

85. Orcas Island Worship Group (Quaker)
86. Palestine Information Project
87. Palestine Israel Network of Puget Sound
88. Papaya Project
89. Passionist Solidarity Network
90. Pax Christi Pacific Northwest
91. Peace Camp International at Interfaith Community Sanctuary
92. Peace Catalyst International
93. People of Color Community Coalition
94. PNW Muslim Mamas
95. Puget Sound Sage
96. Puyallup Islamic Community Center
97. Quest Church
98. Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Social Justice Council
99. Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice
100. RAÍCES
101. Real Change
102. Sage Leaders
103. Salaam C. Center
104. Salaam USA
105. SCM Medical Missions
106. Seattle Anti-War Coalition
107. Seattle Displacement Coalition
108. Seattle East Timor Relief Association
109. Seattle First Baptist Church
110. Seattle Indivisible
111. Seattle Mission Centre of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary
112. Seattle's Middle East Peace Camp Leadership
113. Sisters of St Joseph of Peace
114. Snohomish County Mutual Aid
115. Social Justice Fund NW
116. South Seattle Climate Action Network
117. Spiritual Care Institute
118. Spokane Veterans For Peace Chapter 35
119. St. Joseph Parish Faith Justice Commission
120. Stillpoint at Becksides Spirituality Center
121. Students for a Democratic Society at UW
122. Sustainability in Actions-Sustainability Concepts
123. SYL Foundation
124. Tacoma Dominican Sisters and Associates
125. Tacoma Urban League
126. Tasveer
127. The Cherry Street Mosque
128. The Cherry Street Village
129. The Church Council of Greater Seattle
130. The Vera Project Board of Directors
131. Traditions Fair Trade
132. Unidos of Snohomish County
133. Valley and Mountain Fellowship
134. Vashon Green School
135. Veterans for Peace
136. Veterans for Peace Chapter 111
137. Veterans for Peace Chapter 35
138. Veterans for Peace Rachel Corrie Chapter 109
139. Veterans Suicide Prevention Project
140. Wasat
141. WA People's Privacy
142. Washington Advocates for Palestinian Rights
143. Washington Against Nuclear Weapons
144. Washington Community Alliance
145. Washington for Black Lives
146. Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN)
147. West African Community Council
148. Western WA Fellowship of Reconciliation Seattle Chapter
149. Whatcom Families for Justice in Palestine
150. Whatcom Peace and Justice Center
151. World Without Hate
152. Yemen Relief and Reconstruction Foundation