



MEMO

From the offices of the...

President & Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly
FROM: Jovan Popovic & Adam F. El-Kadi
SUBJECT: Motion in support of McMaster students and student groups affected by Middle East violence
DATE: November 7th, 2023

Dear Student Representative Assembly,

I write this memo to help convey the deep concern that President Jovan Popovic and I share regarding the violence in the Middle East. Since Hamas' horrifying terrorist attacks on October 7, and the beginning of this latest siege of Gaza, our campus has been united in its grief and despair.

Our students are in pain. Many have lost family members and friends in Palestine and in Israel, and many continue to view the future grimly. Students have noted a rise of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, as well as anti-Palestinian and anti-Israeli racism, at McMaster University and internationally.

Over the past several weeks, the President and I have actively met with multiple student groups, including McMaster Muslim Students Association, Hillel McMaster, and Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights. In addition, we have engaged with numerous email and social media communications from students who have voiced their concerns to us. These interactions have helped us gain a better understanding of what our students are going through at this time. It became abundantly clear that this issue holds immense significance for people on campus. We recognize that many students are telling us they are feeling unheard and marginalized. Their voices, experiences, and perspectives deserve our attention and empathy as well.

The motion we present today was not drafted in isolation. Rather, it was the result of multiple rounds of consultation with student groups from various backgrounds and outlooks. We have actively sought input from our diverse student body, in advance of offering a resolution to define the sentiment of student government at McMaster University.

We believe that passing this motion will help our students feel heard and would demonstrate our dedication to diversity and representation. In doing so, we empower our students to look at their union as a true representative of their diverse

voices and lived experiences. I urge you all to consider the significance of the situation and the importance of this resolution.

Thank you for your time in advance.

Sincerely,



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President & CEO
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