

Moved by McLean, seconded by _____ that the Student Representative Assembly adopt and release the following resolution in support of students' demands for McMaster University's divestment from stakeholders partaking in human rights violations, as noted:

Whereas, McMaster University should be a community free from hate-speech, harassment, and racism, wherein dialogue, events, protests, and discussion should be lawfully protected and peacefully undertaken; and

Whereas, the government of Canada recognizes the Palestinian right to self-determination and sovereignty; and expresses support for a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, this statement comes in light of the worsening severity and scope of attacks against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, and the continued perpetration of systematically oppressive practices against the Palestinian people, including the 1.9 million Palestinians internally displaced and the 38,000 Palestinians murdered or wilfully killed in Gaza since October 2023 according to the United Nations' Independent Commission at time of writing; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#) and

Whereas, the UN recognizes a famine occurring within Gaza; the decimation of healthcare infrastructure in Gaza with over 440 attacks on healthcare facilities and 480 healthcare workers killed since October 2023 at time of writing; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#) and

Whereas, the International Court of Justice has issued an interim ruling in January 2024 finding plausible risk of genocidal acts in the Gaza strip; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, a coalition of 60+ McMaster-affiliated groups and student clubs, many operating within MSU, have signed on to an agreement under the name McMaster Apartheid Divest (MacAD) Coalition urging McMaster University engage in a full academic boycott and divest from the State of Israel's practices implicated in human rights violations by the United Nations' Independent Commission; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, student groups established a peaceful encampment on campus during May 2024 calling for McMaster University to divest from and end partnerships with companies involved in the State of Israel's practices implicated in human rights violations by the United Nations' Independent Commission, including but not limited to L3 Harris Wescam; call upon Investment Managers to undergo an external auditing process to assess University financial involvement in corporations profiting from human

rights violations; condemn the ongoing genocide against the people of Palestine; terminate research collaborations and partnerships with institutions implicated in human rights violations; place the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association (ACLA) definition of anti-Palestinian racism within its institutional framework to support Palestinian students and their allies in their identities and advocacy; and to not only reject the attempt suppression of pro-Palestinian speech and narratives but to provide moral, financial, and academic support to Palestinian students via the provision of scholarships, hardship funds, fellowships, and placements; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, 122 faculty signatories of McMaster University consequently urge the administration to agree to above demands; and

Whereas, at time of writing, 16 encampments in protest have been initiated on Canadian post-secondary campuses beginning May 2024, including McMaster University, joining the international chorus of student protests;

Be it resolved that the SRA will continue to support all students in the MSU community while amplifying their voices; be it further

Resolved, the SRA extends its support for the students peacefully protesting and their legal right to do so as they call for McMaster University's disclosure of and divestment from all corporations funding oppressive structures in the Middle East; be it further

Resolved, the right to protest, which is safeguarded by the fundamental freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, enshrined in the Charter of Rights and in many of Canada's binding international human rights obligations, is an essential human right and a cornerstone to a healthy democracy. McMaster University students shall be unabridged in this right and free from all forms of retribution; be it further

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Arab, anti-Palestinian, and antisemitic hatred, as well as all forms of Islamophobia and hate speech, and continues to endorse a campus culture of inclusion and safety; be it further

Resolved, the SRA recognizes the protestors' demand for transparency around the university's investments in and financial ties to banks and companies, including arms manufacturers, that may be linked to the State of Israel's practices satisfying the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid as eminently reasonable; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#) be it further

Resolved, the SRA recognizes the protestors' demand for divestment from investments and relations that sustain the State of Israel's practices satisfying the prevailing evidentiary standard for the existence of apartheid around the university's investments in and financial ties to banks and companies, including arms manufacturers, that may be linked to the State of Israel's practices implicated in human rights violations by the United Nations' Independent Commission, as eminently reasonable; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#), [source #3](#)] be it further

Resolved, the SRA recognizes the protestors' demands for divestment from global exchanges and partnerships with academic institutions who operate in illegal settlements or those that sustain practices carrying out human rights violations against Palestinian peoples according to the United Nations' Independent Commission as eminently reasonable; [[source #1](#)] be it further

Resolved, the SRA urges McMaster University to engage in good faith dialogue with the protesters about the demands they have brought forward.