

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 has expressed its commitment to the goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, and acknowledges the criticality of affording all communities security, dignity, and the opportunity to thrive, of which cannot be achieved without that recognizing the humanity of Israeli and Palestinian communities; [[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 41,000 Palestinians, including militants, 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 SRA acknowledges the breaches of international law and human rights violations perpetrated by Hamas, in which an estimated 1,200 civilians were murdered or wilfully killed in October 2023 and saw the taking of an estimated 240 individuals hostage from Israeli and various national backgrounds, and recognizes the humanitarian concerns raised by their captivity; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#)] and

Whereas, the UN recognizes a threat of famine occurring within Gaza and the decimation of healthcare infrastructure in Gaza with over 440 attacks on healthcare facilities and over 480 healthcare workers killed since October 2023 at time of writing. McMaster University serves as a leader in health and medicine research, and commits itself to creating a brighter world focused on advancing human and societal health and well-being in the local community and around the world; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#), [source #3](#), [source #4](#)] and

Whereas, the International Court of Justice has issued an interim ruling in January 2024 finding it plausible that irreparable prejudice will be caused to the rights of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, namely the right to be protected from acts of genocide and related

prohibited acts, unless the State of Israel acts in accordance with its obligations under the Genocide Convention; [\[source\]](#) and

Whereas, a coalition of 70+ McMaster-affiliated groups and student clubs are signatories to a petitionary 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 an 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 perpetration of human rights violations and actions violating the Genocide Convention 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; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#) and

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

Whereas, at time of writing, 16 pro-Palestinian protest encampments demanding divestment from the State of Israel's practices implicated in human rights violations according to the United Nations' Independent Commission were initiated on Canadian post-secondary campuses beginning April 2024, including McMaster University, joining the international chorus of student protests. Groups have raised concerns over the safety and rights of the broader community and protestors, alleging instances of antisemitism, vandalism, and security concerns at or around these protests, as well as instances of mass arrest, forcible disbandments, administrative discipline including suspensions, police violence, and other forms of repression and restrictions deployed on protestors; [\[source #1\]](#), [\[source #2\]](#), [\[source #3\]](#), [\[source #4\]](#).

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 locally and abroad; 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 the lawful form of this right and free from all forms of retribution; be it further

Resolved, that the Student Representative Assembly unequivocally condemns all forms of hatred, including but not limited to anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism, as well as all forms of Islamophobia, antisemitism 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 alleged 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 alleged 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 and others' practices implicated in human rights violations by the United Nations' Independent Commission, as eminently reasonable, and the SRA urges the University to review and adhere to its Social Responsibility and Investment Policy; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#), [source #3](#), [source #4](#)] 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 and all communities impacted by the University's international activities according to the United Nations' Independent Commission as eminently

reasonable, and the SRA urges the University to review and adhere to its Human Rights and International Activities policy; [[source #1](#), [source #2](#)] 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.