



## **Letter Condemning All On-Campus Harassment or Discrimination Towards Students Affected by the Israel-Palestine Violence**

*Sponsored by Senator Li, Senator Mercado, Senator Leung, Senator Limon, Senator Blackwell, Senator Hovland*

The Associated Students of UC San Diego, hereinafter ASUCSD, was founded “as an autonomous constituency of the university community” aimed at “promot[ing] the welfare of students,” “protect[ing] full freedom of assembly and expression in the university community,” and “articulat[ing] and represent[ing] the student interest in the meaningful governance of the campus and university.”<sup>1</sup> In this spirit, ASUCSD remains fully committed to its founding mission of advocating for all undergraduate students, regardless of age, ethnicity, race, gender, or background. One of the core responsibilities of ASUCSD has been, and continues to be, amplifying student voices, especially those from marginalized and underrepresented groups, providing a platform to better connect the needs of the students with University administration. In light of the ongoing violence in the Middle East, we find it imperative, now more than ever, to maintain this open channel of communication between the University and its student population.

We, ASUCSD, acknowledge the violence happening in the Middle East and mourn the innocent lives lost in all communities. The murder of civilians is never justified and the Associated Students maintains condemnation of both the initial attack on October 7th and the subsequent military action. We recognize the loss of life in the Israeli and Palestinian communities and send our sincerest condolences and support to all impacted students, offering any resources needed to aid these communities in these times of hardship.

By not making a clear distinction between the Israeli government and Israeli and Jewish citizens and students, we acknowledge that ASUCSD’s endorsement of the Statement Release<sup>2</sup> may have unintentionally tied innocent individuals to the blame, opening the door for acts of Antisemitism. Similarly, the actions of Hamas should never be tied to the collective community of Palestinians, enabling Islamophobia, as was done in Chancellor Khosla’s email<sup>3</sup> in response to the October 7th attack, which equivocated a condonation of the violence and death of innocent lives. As the voice of

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<sup>1</sup> [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gq8RPny-2ScWz4tGjFX235RJ\\_4s5WxOi5hC1pz2W0ZE/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gq8RPny-2ScWz4tGjFX235RJ_4s5WxOi5hC1pz2W0ZE/edit)

<sup>2</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uqo7-zSPyREdNO5oUdZVwmqpL4TWMHlh/view>

<sup>3</sup> <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s22FWT3IPc4vDQgEUTNzkMLQ3ZaNzKZ00cKxq2dZmts/edit?usp=sharing>



undergraduate students at UC San Diego, especially those directly affected by this violence, we cannot let this stand.

On this note, we are incredibly saddened to hear of malicious acts, discrimination, harassment, and intolerance occurring on our campus as a result of this recent violence. **We, ASUCSD, unequivocally condemn all acts of Islamophobia, acts of Antisemitism, and acts of Jew-hate, as well as ethnic and religious-based discrimination or violence of any kind towards students and are committed to upholding all students' safety.** ASUCSD is strongly committed to the protection and well-being of all students affected by the Israel-Palestine violence. As noted in the University of California President and Campus Chancellors Joint Statement on Intolerance of Campus Bigotry<sup>4</sup>, there is a clear distinction between freedom of speech and harassment, and discriminating against individuals based on their background constitutes said harassment.

We urge the university to take effective and immediate action to enforce the UCSD Principles of Community<sup>5</sup> and protect Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, Muslim, and all affected students from being harassed or discriminated against as a result of the violence abroad. We will, in all our capacity, be in contact with University administrators to ensure proper action is taken. Our hearts go out to the students who have faced harassment and discrimination; we thereby reassure the UC San Diego student body of ASUCSD's commitment to advocate and provide all students a voice, continuing to use our platform to ensure the security and welfare of all students.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/166NDOM0Gf-4kBtMbgwE2PZ110-wvDSrg/view?usp=sharing>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ucsd.edu/about/principles.html>