

RWDSU Rank-and-file Statement

(For collective safety, signatures will **NOT** be visible to the public until a minimum of 100 signatures is reached. Please identify yourself in your signatures as much or little as you feel comfortable. Emails collected via the form will not be shared publicly and will only be used for future internal organizing and coalition building purposes.)

We, rank-and-file members of the RWDSU, stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and uphold the [call by the Palestinian Trade Unionists](#) to demand an immediate end to Israel's violent bombardment, occupation, and siege of Gaza. We object to [statements](#) made by RWDSU President Stuart Applebaum regarding his extension of unequivocal support for Israel's defense forces, especially without acknowledging the 75 years of occupation and subjugation of the Palestinian people which preceded the October 7th attack.

This reality of institutionalized violence serves as the root cause of the ongoing situation in Palestine, which has been recognized as apartheid by international human rights organizations. We recognize the distinct correlation between the profits of weapons manufacturers and the oppression of the workers of the world. We are outraged by the U.S.'s complicity and financial interest in the neglect and control of communities, and the continued role that racism plays in the displacement and destruction of communities, here and abroad.

The organized workers of RWDSU believe that everyone has the right to self-determination, and access to safe housing, food, water, and healthcare. We stand against racism, islamophobia and antisemitism in all of its forms. We join the history of [US and Canadian union members' in their consistent effort to oppose union leadership's financial and political support](#) of Israel.

We uplift the calls of fellow UFCW affiliate Local 3000, UAW International, UE, APWU and [other unions](#) for a ceasefire and support organizing to end colonialism, imperialism and oppression around the world.

We call on our union siblings throughout UFCW/RWDSU to see the union not merely as a contract servicer but as a site of social transformation and real, living democracy, that allows our collective power and voice to be heard not only in the workplace but in the whole of society.

We call on the RWDSU Executive Board to take the following actions and positions:

- Sign on to [the US Labor Movement Calls for Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine](#).
- Call for an immediate permanent ceasefire and the release of all hostages and Palestinian political prisoners



- We specifically call on Stuart Applebaum, in his role as Executive Council Member, to advocate for the AFL-CIO's divestment from Israel bonds that directly support the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people.
- Disclose all investments the RWDSU may have in both Israeli bonds and the weapons manufacturers that profit off the ongoing genocide in Palestine and conflict across the world, including investments held by pension funds.
- Use any and all available resources at their disposal to push for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the system of apartheid and occupation in Israel/Palestine.

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