

Resolution for the Liberation of Palestine

WHEREAS, in Article II, Section 3 of the UAW Local 2320 (NOLSW) bylaws, we pledge “[t]o fight for the elimination of poverty and social injustice through our work,” and in Article II, Section 4, we pledge “[t]o win economic, social, and political rights for all workers without regard to criteria such as: race, gender, color, national origin, religious or political beliefs or associations, age, disability, sexual orientation, language differences, citizenship status, unfavorable military discharge, or criminal record.”

WHEREAS, we grieve the loss of life of all civilians, both Palestinian and Israeli, and feel grave concern for the safety of all Palestinian and Israeli hostages and prisoners.

WHEREAS, we recognize that the current crisis did not begin on 7 October 2023, but occurred in the context of a colonial project characterized by decades of mass displacement, including the expulsion by Israeli actors of [at least 700,000 Palestinian Arabs from their homes around the 1948 Nakba](#) and [another 300,000 in 1967](#); Israel’s annexation and ongoing [occupation](#) of Palestinian land [since 1967](#) and its continued [demolition of Palestinian homes and illegal settlement expansion](#); and an apartheid system of segregation and unequal rights, including a two-tier legal system whereby, since 1967, over [800,000 Palestinians](#) including children have been detained under authoritarian Israeli military rules [for acts that include expressing opinions](#).

WHEREAS, there are [over 5.9 million Palestinian refugees, including the descendants of those who fled or were expelled during the Nakba, and they have no legal right to return to Israel or the Occupied Palestinian Territory \(OPT\)](#). However, Jewish citizens of other countries, including those who never have been to Israel, can settle in Israel or the West Bank and become citizens.

WHEREAS, we recognize that occupation and apartheid, much like white supremacy, harms all peoples. Israel’s ongoing occupation of the OPT is [illegal under international law](#), and [experts](#) and human rights organizations—such as [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Al-Haq](#) and [B’Tselem](#)—agree that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians.

WHEREAS, [in 2007, Israel imposed a military siege and land, air, and sea blockade on Gaza. It controls the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza. Long before 7 October, Israel was limiting access to food and electricity in Gaza and access to clean water throughout the OPT. In 2018, one million Gazans did not have enough food to feed their families due to the blockade. Between 2008 and 7 October 2023, Israel launched 4 major assaults on Gaza which killed thousands. During 2018’s mostly peaceful Great March of Return, Israel killed 214 Gazans, including 46 children, and injured 36,100. A UN-appointed commission found reasonable grounds to believe that Israel unlawfully used live ammunition in all but two cases.](#)

WHEREAS, since 7 October 2023, Israeli leaders have espoused openly genocidal rhetoric against Palestinians, including the Prime Minister invoking [Amalek, a Biblical reference which many believe demonstrates genocidal intent](#); the President [suggesting that all Gazans are legitimate targets](#); the Defense Minister [vowing to “eliminate everything” in Gaza](#); the Finance Minister [denying the existence of innocent Gazans](#) and [calling for the replacement of Palestinians in Gaza by Israelis](#); the [deputy Knesset speaker calling for burning Gaza](#); Knesset members calling to [“eras\[e\] Gaza from the face of the Earth”](#) and to impose a [second Nakba](#); a [former minister suggesting that Gaza be nuked](#); and an [official calling](#)

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[Palestinian civilians subhuman and ants who should be buried alive](#). An Israeli think tank also wrote that the 7 October attack provided a “[unique and rare opportunity to evacuate the entire Gaza Strip](#).”

WHEREAS, from 7 October through 29 December, [Israel reportedly killed at least 21,507 Palestinians in Gaza, 70% of who are women and children; injured at least 55,915; and internally displaced 1.9 million, or nearly 85% of Gaza’s population. Many more are missing, presumably under rubble, and the spread of disease has intensified. Israel displaced 1,208 people in the West Bank, where Hamas does not govern, and Israeli forces and settlers killed at least 307 people](#). Israel is targeting [healthcare workers](#) and [journalists and their families](#).

WHEREAS, since 7 October, Israel has taken actions to collectively punish civilians in Gaza ([a war crime](#)), such as [cutting off food, water, aid, and electricity](#). [Oxfam International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) condemned weaponizing starvation as a war crime.

WHEREAS, [by 30 December, Israeli air strikes destroyed or damaged at least 70% of Gaza’s homes and half of its buildings](#). The [sophisticated, calculated bombing campaign](#) destroyed and damaged hospitals, ambulances, refugee camps, schools, mosques and churches, and other infrastructure. [As of 21 December, only 9 of Gaza’s 36 hospitals were partially functioning, and northern Gaza had no functioning hospital](#).

WHEREAS, since 7 October, hundreds of experts have warned of a [potential](#) or [actual/textbook case](#) of genocide in Gaza, [more than 100 scholar and organizations signed a letter urging the International Criminal Court to take action given the “Israeli intention to commit genocide clearly materializing,”](#) the [Center for Constitutional Rights filed a lawsuit against the President Biden, et. al, for their complicity in Israel’s genocide against the people of Gaza,](#) and [South Africa launched a case for genocide against Israel at the UN’s International Court of Justice](#).

WHEREAS, many US elected officials have encouraged Israel’s escalation of violence against Palestinians and have continued to silence those calling for Palestinian liberation. [President Biden continued to repeat debunked Israeli propaganda](#).

WHEREAS, the US provides Israel—a nuclear power with the [world’s fourth strongest military](#) and [an economy that experienced more growth than that of the US in 2022—close to \\$4 billion a year in unconditional military aid](#). The Biden administration, which blocked UN Security Council efforts to [call for a ceasefire](#), has resolved to send Israel [nearly \\$14.5 billion](#) in additional military aid and [twice bypassed Congress to rush it more military equipment](#).

WHEREAS, Israel provides Israelis with [universal health coverage](#), while US politicians consistently tell us that the US cannot afford to provide universal health coverage.

WHEREAS, working-class people bear the brunt of the harm of armed conflict, and the safety and livelihood of surviving workers throughout the region has been heavily impacted by the crisis. [As of 3 December, almost 400,000 Palestinians had lost their jobs due to the conflict](#).

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WHEREAS, [Palestinian trade unions have called on their “counterparts internationally and all people of good conscience to end all forms of complicity with Israel’s crimes – most urgently halting the arms trade with Israel, as well as all funding and military research.”](#)

WHEREAS, AFL-CIO consistently opposes and undermines acts of solidarity with Palestinian workers, including by [quashing an affiliate central labor council’s ceasefire resolution](#); [condemning the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement \(BDS\)](#); and [overturning or shutting down pro-BDS measures democratically adopted by central labor councils](#).

WHEREAS, however, [unions worldwide are standing in solidarity with Palestinians](#). In the US, many unions including NOLSW units such as the [Make the Road New York Union](#), [MFJ Union](#), [LSSA 2320](#), United Legal Service Workers of the Center for Constitutional Rights, Eviction Defense Collaborative Union, Legal Assistance to the Elderly Union, PLAWU, and BALAW have issued statements and/or passed or endorsed resolutions in support of the Palestinian people.

WHEREAS, NOLSW has demanded a ceasefire by endorsing the [Labor Movement Call for Ceasefire](#) signed by dozens of labor organizations including UAW International (UAW).

WHEREAS, NOLSW supports peaceful boycotts, such as that which helped end apartheid in South Africa, and we condemn all laws and mechanisms that impede engagement in [BDS](#).

RESOLVED, that NOLSW expresses our solidarity with the Palestinian people and their struggle for national liberation and self-determination.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW endorses the [the urgent call of Palestinian Trade Unions](#) and calls on UAW, [central labor councils with which we are associated \(CLCs\)](#), [state federations with which we are associated \(SFs\)](#), and AFL-CIO to do so, too.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW calls on AFL-CIO to [stop undermining efforts to stand in solidarity with Palestinians](#) and calls on UAW, CLCs, and SFs to make the same demand.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW calls on government officials to demand the following, and we also call on UAW, CLCs, SFs, and AFL-CIO to demand the same of them:

- An immediate end to the bombing and siege of Gaza, all Israeli hostilities and military actions, and all forms of settler violence being perpetrated on the Palestinian people;
- A full restoration of water, power, and humanitarian aid to Gaza;
- An end to all US aid and diplomatic cover to Israel;
- An end to Israel’s apartheid system and its colonization and occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including lifting the military siege and blockade of Gaza; and
- The realization of the right to return of Palestinian refugees to their historic homeland.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW endorses [BDS](#) and calls on UAW, CLCs, SFs, and AFL-CIO to endorse [BDS](#) and divest from all Israel bonds.

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FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW will:

- As a part of its next scheduled audit, investigate whether it holds any Israel bonds or has investments in companies or organizations with ties to Israel and inform NOLSW members of the outcome of this investigation;
- Divest from all Israel bonds and investments in entities with direct ties to Israel; and
- As part of regular audits, certify that it continues to not hold such bonds or investments.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW supports and calls on UAW, NY CLCs, NY State AFL-CIO, and national AFL-CIO to support [Not On Our Dime](#) legislation, which prohibits NY not-for-profit corporations from aiding or abetting activity in support of illegal Israeli settlements.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW will endorse and encourage members to attend actions and events in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW opposes Islamophobia, antisemitism, anti-Arab racism, and anti-Palestinian racism in all of their forms.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW opposes [conflating criticism of Israel](#) or Zionism with antisemitism.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW will publish a statement in support of Palestinian liberation consistent with this resolution, and we also will share the resolution with UAW, CLCs, SFs, and AFL-CIO and encourage them to adopt its pertinent mandates.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW will establish a working group or committee, initially to be convened by any national officer—including a Regional Vice President or Trustee—and to include rank-and-file NOLSW members, which will function to assist with the carrying out of the spirit and letter of this resolution and to provide continuing political education on this topic.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOLSW encourages other workers, unions, and worker organizations to join our call Palestine liberation and adopt the principles of this resolution.