

NOT IN OUR NAME: NEVER AGAIN IS NOW

A Statement by Jewish Members of the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys–UAW Local 2325

February 8, 2024

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“To be a Jew means always being with the oppressed, never with the oppressors.”

–Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

In light of Israel’s ongoing genocide in Gaza which has murdered 27,000 Palestinians and counting, we the undersigned Jewish members of UAW Local 2325 ALAA state the following:

- 1. We stand with the Palestinian people because of our Jewish values, not despite them.** Many of us believe that traditional Jewish values speak to the supreme sanctity of all life— that every human being is created *b’tselem Elohim*, in the image of God. For many of us, too, a core tenet of Judaism is that it encourages questioning and debate, and guides us towards a universal vision of peace, justice, and freedom from oppression.
- 2. We reject any notion that Jews are a monolith.** We represent a diversity of Jewish identity— religious and secular, raised with and without Zionism, from different parts of the world, some who have Israeli family members, and some who have never set foot there. By contrast, Zionism has suppressed diasporic Jewish cultures that don’t conform to its goal of a monolithic, hebraized, Jewish-supremacist ethnostate^{1,2,3}. Zionists claim to speak for all Jews– we do not.
- 3. We condemn antisemitism.** Antisemitic attacks in the United States and around the world have increased, predominantly from white nationalists⁴. We recognize that white nationalists are exploiting Israel’s ongoing violence to recruit to their antisemitic and racist cause⁵. We condemn organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League⁶, that conflate pro-Palestine speech with antisemitism, and in doing so distract from real violence and discrimination.
- 4. We decry the smear that Jews who oppose Israel’s racist, apartheid state are somehow “self-hating”.** We are united in our opposition to Zionism, which values a Jewish

¹ Theodor Herzl, Volume 1 of *Zionist Writings: Essays and Addresses*, Translated by Harry Zohn (January 1896-June 1898), 163-168 (Herzl Press 1973), [Link](#).

² Judy Maltz, *When Speaking Yiddish Could Get You Beaten Up By Jews in Tel Aviv*, Haaretz (Sept. 7, 2023), [Link](#).

³ Edo Konrad, *The roots of anti-Mizrahi racism in Israel*, 972 Magazine (Dec. 1, 2015), [Link](#).

⁴ Lois Beckett, *Pittsburgh synagogue shooter was fringe figure in online world of white supremacist rage*, The Guardian (Oct. 30, 2018), [Link](#).

⁵ Tatyana Tandanpolie, *“Capitalizing on conflict”: How white nationalists are exploiting Israel-Gaza tensions to push hate*, Salon (Dec. 2, 2023), [Link](#).

⁶ Jonathan Guyer, Tom Perkins, *Anti-Defamation League staff decry ‘dishonest’ ADL campaign against Israel critics*, The Guardian (Jan. 5, 2024), [Link](#).

ethnostate more than Jewish life^{7,8}, and exploits Jewish death and trauma to garner support⁹. Anti-Zionist Jews, both religious¹⁰ and secular¹¹, have existed in the Jewish community for as long as Zionism.

5. **We categorically reject the dishonest conflation of antisemitism and anti-Zionism** that has been used for decades to shield Israel from any and all criticism. We will not allow our Palestinian and other non-Jewish comrades to be falsely charged with antisemitism for simply advancing the rights of Palestinians to live in peace and freedom in their own land.
6. **We reject any notion that Jewish safety requires the murder and displacement of millions of Palestinians.** As long as Palestinians are oppressed, no one can live in safety and peace. The only way forward is a free Palestine, from the river to the sea, with democracy and equal rights for all¹².
7. **We condemn Christian Evangelical Zionism, which prays for the ultimate destruction of Judaism through conversion and massacre^{13,14}.** Christian Evangelical Zionism is antisemitic and a key force for US support of Israel.
8. **We condemn Zionism's embrace of antisemites such as Wilhelm Marr¹⁵, Arthur Balfour¹⁶, Steve Bannon¹⁷, Viktor Orban¹⁸, and John Hagee¹⁹.** Antisemites throughout history have falsely claimed that Jews cannot live alongside others, and should emigrate to Palestine. Zionism promotes this same antisemitic claim²⁰.
9. **The Holocaust taught us to “never again” allow the world to stand by and do nothing while genocide and ethnic cleansing are taking place.** We will not be silent and watch as Gaza is decimated before our eyes, armed and funded by the United States government, and purportedly in our name. One holocaust does not justify another.
10. **We will not cower in the face of a new McCarthyism that attacks all who speak out against the current atrocity in Gaza and throughout historic Palestine.** We proudly stand

⁷ Partners for Progressive Israel, *Ben-Gurion's Notorious Quotes: Their Polemical Uses & Abuses* (last accessed: February 8, 2024), [Link](#) (“If I knew that it was possible to save all the children of Germany by transporting them to England, and only half by transferring them to the Land of Israel, I would choose the latter.”).

⁸ Michael Bachner, *IDF officer recounts ordering tank fire on Be’eri home during hostage standoff on Oct. 7*, Times of Israel (Dec. 23, 2023), [Link](#).

⁹ Norman Finkelstein, *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*, (Verso 2000), [Link](#) (archived).

¹⁰ JTA, *Thousands of NY ultra-Orthodox Jews rally against IDF conscription*, Times of Israel (June 12, 2017), [Link](#).

¹¹ Daniel Blatman, *The Jewish Labor Bund*, YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe (July 30, 2010), [Link](#).

¹² Edward Said, *The One-State Solution*, New York Times Magazine (Jan. 10, 1999), [Link](#) (archived).

¹³ Philip Bump, *Half of evangelicals support Israel because they believe it is important for fulfilling end-times prophecy*, Washington Post (May 14, 2018), [Link](#).

¹⁴ Thomas D. Ice, *God's Purpose for Israel During the Tribulation*, Article Archives (May 2009), [Link](#).

¹⁵ Helmut Reinalter, *Handbuch der Verschwörungstheorien*, 284 (Salier Verlag, 2018) [Link](#).

¹⁶ Yusef Munayyer, *It's time to admit that Arthur Balfour was a white supremacist — and an anti-Semite, too*, Forward (Nov. 1, 2017), [Link](#).

¹⁷ Ben Sales, *Stephen Bannon tells ZOA he's 'proud to be a Christian Zionist'*, Times of Israel (Nov. 13, 2017), [Link](#).

¹⁸ Ilan Ben Zion, *Netanyahu greets Hungary's Orban as 'true friend of Israel'*, AP News (July 19, 2018), [Link](#).

¹⁹ Erik Ortiz, *Divisive megachurch pastor draws criticism for role at March for Israel*, NBC News (Nov. 15, 2023), [Link](#).

²⁰ Theodor Herzl, *Volumes 1-4: The Complete Diaries Of Theodor Herzl*, 84 (Herzl Press 1960), [Link](#) (“The anti-Semites will become our most dependable friends, the anti-Semitic countries our allies.”).

by the ALAA-UAW 2325 Ceasefire Resolution²¹ which was passed by a membership vote of **1067-570**. Despite attacks on our union from bosses²², right-wing press²³, and US Congressional Representative Virginia Foxx^{24,25}, Jews and our allies will not remain silent for fear of name-calling and doxing. As Jewish people, we have faced far worse, and we do not scare so easily. Our numbers are only growing.

11. **Our work is indelibly intertwined with our demands.** As legal aid workers, we defend our clients and communities against state violence in all its forms, including mass incarceration, family separation, deportation, surveillance, and eviction. Injustice knows no borders— our fight for humanity does not stop at the courtroom door.

12. **Therefore, we demand:**

- a. That Congress overturn House Resolution 894, which states that anti-Zionism is antisemitism²⁶.
- b. An immediate permanent ceasefire.
- c. An end to all military, economic, and diplomatic aid to Israel.
- d. One democratic Palestine, from the river to the sea, with freedom and equal rights for all.
- e. Right of return for all Palestinian refugees.

Signed as Jewish members of ALAA:

[Add your name](#)

1. Navruz Baum
2. Diane Akerman
3. Dina Ginzburg
4. Julia Geiger
5. Michael Letwin
6. Alexi Shalom
7. Jeremy Montano
8. Naomi Schachter
9. Daniella Korotzer
10. Emma Hochfelder
11. Emily Herzfeld
12. Max Baumbach
13. Rebecca Heinegg

²¹ Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA) - UAW 2325, *Resolution Calling for a Ceasefire in Gaza, an End to the Israeli Occupation of Palestine, and Support for Workers' Political Speech*, ALAA.org (Dec. 19, 2023), [Link](#).

²² See Press Release, The Legal Aid Society Statement on Resolution from Association of Legal Aid Attorneys (ALAA), UAW Local 2325 (Nov. 15, 2023), [Link](#); see also Press Release, New York Legal Assistance Group (Nov. 17, 2023), [Link](#); see also Press Release, The Bronx Defenders Response to its union's October 20 Statement (Nov. 15, 2023), [Link](#).

²³ Jorge Fitz-Gibbon, *Meet the NYC lawyers blasting legal aid union's anti-Israel stance*, NY Post (Jan. 8, 2024), [Link](#).

²⁴ Press Release, U.S. Congress, Committee on Education and the Workplace, *Local 2325 Attracts Congressional Probe After Passing Divisive, Antisemitic Resolution* (Jan. 29, 2024), [Link](#).

²⁵ Pro-Israel Recipients: Representative Virginia Foxx, OpenSecrets.org, [Link](#) (demonstrating that Virginia Foxx has received \$65,600 from pro-Israel interest groups).

²⁶ Text - H.Res.894 - 118th Congress (2023-2024): Strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world, H.Res.894, 118th Cong. (2023), [Link](#).

14. Stephanie Salomon
15. Jack Einstein
16. Jeremy Bunyaner
17. Jesse McGleughlin
18. Perri Fagin
19. Samuel Steinbock-Pratt
20. Alec Jessar
21. Liora Cohen-Fraade
22. Isadora Jaffee
23. Sean Fabi
24. Sadie Miner
25. Hannah Rosner
26. Sonia Roubini
27. Andie Markowitz
28. Rebecca Schectman
29. Julie Fry
30. Ariana Brill
31. Aviva Galpert
32. Lara Russo
33. Adina Marx-Arpadi
34. Leib Leaderman
35. Anna Belkin
36. Lindsey Rosenthal
37. Shayna Medley
38. Cole Bodell
39. Rachel Lindy
40. Zoe Zakin
41. Jane Fox
42. Adena Wayne
43. Maya Adelman Cabral
44. Karen Brill
45. Diana Rosen
46. Dany Greene
47. Claire Glass
48. Yaniv Kot
49. Miriam Schachter
50. Andrew Reisman
51. Steve Demarest
52. Rebecca Orleans
53. Meg Smithson
54. Daniel Ashworth
55. Talia Gruber
56. Emma Mendelson
57. Jeremy Ravinsky
58. Claudia Pepe

59. Jenny Friedman
60. Ivy Bernstein
61. Rachel M. Patterson
62. Ethan Chiel
63. Elliot Porcher
64. Whitney Braunstein
65. Shana Knizhnik
66. Kenna Capalbo
67. Rachel Goldman
68. Allie Goodman
69. Steve Terry
70. Rachel Holtzman
71. Steven Wasserman
72. Mimi Rosenberg
73. Heather Stoloff
74. Jenna Hymowitz
75. Rachel Lee Pincus
76. Zoni Rockoff
77. Alex Cohen-Price
78. Xander Roos
79. Chelsey Amelkin
80. Sarah Shuster
81. Jesse Nagin
82. Jake Ridout
83. Hannah Lieberman
84. Lily Stadler
85. Lisa Ledvora
86. Elon Harpaz
87. Taylor Schlussel
88. Ellyn Kessler
89. Stephanie Pope
90. Emily Friedman
91. Mariel Stein
92. Marco Balestri
93. Richard Blum
94. Leah Mack
95. Alexa Askari
96. Hannah Tuschman

Signed as Jewish members of SEIU 1199 at LAS in solidarity with ALAA:

[Add your name](#)

1. Veronica Leventhal
2. Rebecca Kurti
3. Haley Pessin

4. Pilar Karlin
5. Asaf Calderon