



Psychologists in Solidarity with Palestine

We, as psychologists, and human beings, declare our unequivocal solidarity with the anti colonial liberation struggle and resistance of the Palestinian people. We affirm this during the most recent escalation in the 73 year-long brutal military violence and ethnic cleansing committed by the settler colonial state of Israel.

We reject the racist ideology of Zionism. We refuse to be silent as Israel continues its project of genocide against Indigenous Palestinian peoples: the ongoing theft of Palestinian lives and land, the demolition of Palestinian homes, the mass incarceration of Palestinian people, restrictions to water and food, healthcare, education, and sources of livelihood (including uprooting of Palestinian ancestral olive trees). We express our solidarity with Palestinian and global communities speaking up against Israeli settler colonialism and apartheid.

We recognize the attempted theft of land in Sheikh Jarrah as a microcosm of Israel's ethnic cleansing operation. We are together with the families in Sheikh Jarrah in their rightful protest and resistance against their displacement. We condemn the state sanctioned brutal attacks against Palestinian worshippers in the Al-Aqsa mosque, as well as against protestors, journalists and medics. We condemn the escalation in brutal killing and attempts of genocidal erasure of Palestinians in the Gaza strip, acknowledging that it is perpetuated within the larger context of the ongoing Palestinian Nakba.

We refuse the language of Israeli and US politicians, as well as that of mainstream media (controlled by corporations that have vested interest in maintaining settler colonial imperialism) that is entrenched in white supremacy and neoliberalism. We reject the rhetoric of "conflict," "eviction," and "both sides" that utterly fails to portray the egregiously disproportionate power imbalance between the colonizer and colonized. We commit to using language that accurately describes the situation for what it is: apartheid, settler colonialism, occupation, and ethnic cleansing. We commit to amplifying the voices of Palestinians in their struggle for liberation.

We denounce Israel's violations of international human rights laws and heinous war crimes against Palestinians, understanding that it is able to act with impunity due to the full backing and support of the settler colonial empire of the United States. We strongly oppose the use of our tax dollars to fund genocide and the complicity of our industry in carrying it out. We condemn the United States' diplomatic, political, and financial support for the settler colonial state of Israel, including the extreme funding of its military at \$3.8 billion per year. We denounce the

U.S.'s blocking the United Nation's call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

As Palestinians have reminded us, every present-day Israeli neighborhood was once a Sheikh Jarrah. Not only this, but every neighborhood in any settler colonial nation-state came about under comparable circumstances. We understand that the brutal realities of settler colonialism, genocide, slavery, imperialism, theft of lands and extraction of resources have been and continue to be instrumental forms of violence that enable the Global North and other nation-states to attain "prosperity" and dominate others. In this sense, pro-Palestinian solidarity is deeply connected to resisting colonization/coloniality in all its forms; it is connected to supporting and participating in Indigenous-led decolonization efforts wherever we are situated.

We understand that solidarity, like decolonization, is not a performance or a metaphor. It requires concrete action. To that end, [we reiterate our unwavering commitment and support for the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions \(BDS\) movement](#). The BDS movement calls on global civil society to organize for the withdrawal of any political, economic, military, cultural, and academic support of the apartheid state of Israel. Aligned with the BDS movement, we must confront and end psychology's complicity in decades of genocidal violence toward Palestinians. We must interrogate and resist the various ways that our disciplines and institutions profit from maintaining the Israeli occupation and other forms of colonial domination worldwide. From tactics of psychological warfare, to manipulation of public discourse, to regimes of repression used against Palestinian activists, we are complicit. By perpetuating depoliticized frameworks of trauma and resilience, we fail to engage with Israeli settler colonial violence as the primary root cause of Palestinian peoples' suffering, and fail to uplift Palestinian collective resistance and sumud as sources of strength and wellbeing.

We continue to call on all peoples and organizations everywhere—particularly within the health professions and social sciences—to investigate the ways they can move in solidarity and support of Palestinian liberation. In doing so, it is crucial that we support, uplift, and learn from the work of our Palestinian colleagues who critique, deconstruct and resist the various genocidal tactics in which our fields participate. Further, we call on others to publicly endorse BDS, and take decisive action aligned with its platform. In doing so, we move ourselves into alignment with collectives and struggles who are together fighting for the only viable future there is: one of accountability, healing, self-determination and sovereignty for all peoples.

For additional Information/Resources on BDS and frequently asked questions:

- [BDS](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Academic & Cultural BDS](#)
- [PsySR Teach-in Recording](#)