



Cátedra UNESCO de Educación para la Paz
Universidad de Puerto Rico

Manifiesto for an Urgent Peace for the Palestinian People

March 27, 2024

*No more prisoners of the past. No more spilt blood.
No more robbery of heritage. No more displaced on sacred land.
No more pain inflicted with impunity. No more blatant discrimination.
No more lies that take lives. No more welcomes to the wall of tears.
Only freedom from fear. Only radical love.
Only good news to all... NOW!*

(Anaida Pascual Morán, excerpt from the prayer-poem
"Images of Palestine, Images of God", 2010.)

The University of Puerto Rico's UNESCO Chair on Education for Peace, reaffirms its commitment to education and to action that promotes a culture of peace and human rights. In accordance with this goal, we express our solidarity with the Palestinian people and our desire for peace with justice between all peoples. We support calls by the United Nations (UN), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Amnesty International, Doctors Without Borders, and many other international human rights organizations and humanitarian agencies for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip to halt the current catastrophe caused by the State of Israel's massive military attack against the vulnerable Palestinian people, who are hostages of this raging armed conflict.

The conflict between the State of Israel and Palestine has a long history dating back to 1948, the year of the *Nakba* exodus ("the great catastrophe") when the Palestinians were forced to abandon their homes and move primarily to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The establishment of the State of Israel through the progressive, violent, and unpunished occupation of Palestinian territory has since resulted in the dispossession, dehumanization, displacement, suffering, and deaths of thousands of Palestinian citizens.

Almost six months after the October 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas and the start of the ferocious Israeli military response against the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, over 32,000 Palestinians --- primarily defenseless women and children --- have died and even more have been injured. We certainly denounce all terrorist attacks against civilians in Israel, but we also

strongly denounce the ruthless and disproportionate acts of war terrorism committed by the State of Israel.

Israel's large-scale attack has displaced more than one million people who face dangerous, cruel, and life-threatening conditions amid shortages of food, water, sanitation, and medical care. It is urgent to save people's lives, and to initiate a reconstruction process that ensures their stability and wellbeing towards a peace and reconciliation agreement which ends the region's historical conflict.

In addition to supporting an immediate ceasefire, we join calls by the principal United Nations agencies for the protection of civilians, and of the infrastructure on which their lives depend, in order to stop the genocidal acts; the release of hostages; access and safety guarantees at points of entry so that humanitarian aid can enter the Gaza Strip; and guarantees of safe, coordinated communication and distribution of aid throughout the territory.

We join calls by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the protection of the educational system, including the universities; all journalists; and of Palestine's ancient historical heritage. We repudiate the destruction of schools, universities, and religious and cultural heritage sites. We repudiate all military actions that impede the ability of the Palestinian population, especially children and youth, to receive an education and access their cultural and social rights.

A commitment to a culture of peace and human rights guides our defense of those assaulted and abused Palestinians who, as prisoners and hostages of this relentless, savage, and indiscriminate war waged by the State of Israel, are suffering so much today.

***We encourage you to adopt this
Manifesto for an Urgent Peace for the Palestinian People
and to disseminate widely!***