



Community Education Council District 14

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Our hearts go out to all Israeli and Palestinian victims of violence. The Community Education Council of District 14 has and will continue to hold ourselves to a standard of nuance and historical accuracy in times of continued global conflict and crimes against humanity.

As we process the brutal invasion happening in Gaza and the ongoing violence in the region we call forth a historical understanding with which to view the current violence in the region. To promote a nuanced lens, lessons can be held from resistance movements across history in South Africa, Ukraine, the U.S., and Haiti. We ask that this lens be applied to other acts of oppression and resistance globally in the interest of creating a more humane and just world.

We reject the framing that the entire Jewish diaspora is comparable to the Israeli government and that all Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims are comparable to Hamas because we know that every man, woman, elder and child is precious and deserves life and freedom.

We condemn settler colonialism, militarized violence in furtherance of the continued occupation of Palestinians, and always condemn innocent people being murdered. We condemn any acts by the U.S. government to escalate the current situation by further militarizing Israel and we reject the statements of various leaders describing the ongoing human rights violations in Gaza as 'self defense.' Peace will never be achieved through apartheid, genocide or the restriction of peoples' movements, freedoms and access to basic human rights.

We will not achieve peace by leaning into the traps of antisemitism, Islamophobia and propaganda either.

The CEC has always sought to promote understanding and dialogue while never hesitating to defend those without power. All our words and actions matter. Our silence matters as well. What we model for our children and whether or not we have the fortitude to challenge the blanket statements we are hearing about entire groups of people matters.

We send deep love to all who are hurting and hold the Department of Education and our elected leaders accountable for doing their due diligence to empathize with EVERY student and family harmed by the ongoing violence in the region and its resulting interpersonal violence here at home. New York City families deserve a response that is clear headed, human centered and cognizant of the myriad of families, cultures and religions we serve in our respective roles.

We offer our council spaces both online and off as opportunities for healing dialogue as we continue to build solidarity economies amongst students, parents, teachers and our Brooklyn community at large. We join the call not only for a #CeaseFireNow but also for the liberation of the Palestinian people.