

DID YOU KNOW...

- The genocide in Palestine has been **financed by decades of U.S. military aid to Israel through tax dollars** (~\$310 billion total; ~\$3.8 billion/year since the 1970s) and investments by U.S. institutions and companies tied to surveillance technology, weapons manufacturing, and demolitions.
- **Israel has bombed all universities in Gaza** and is committing **scholasticide**. Meanwhile, U.S. universities continue investing in Israel and punishing students and faculty for speaking out against the genocide.

DIFFERENTIATING ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ZIONISM

What is antisemitism?

“Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, hostility or violence against Jews as Jews (or Jewish institutions as Jewish)” - Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA).

What is anti-Zionism?

Anti-Zionism opposes Zionism as a nationalist political ideology committed to Jewish supremacy in Israel. Anti-Zionism criticizes Israel as “an apartheid state founded on settler colonialism.”

- Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism.

How are they different?

Criticism of Zionism and the state of Israel is not equivalent to hostility against Jews as Jews. “Criticizing or opposing Zionism as a form of nationalism,” “evidence-based criticism of Israel as a state,” and “supporting the Palestinian demand for justice and ...human rights, as encapsulated in international law” are NOT antisemitic - JDA.

"We can not fight for our rights and our history as well as future until we are armed with weapons of criticism and dedicated consciousness." - Edward W. Said

WHAT IS BDS? (AND WHY IT'S NOT ANTISEMITIC)

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is an international Palestinian-led non-violent movement inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement (2005). BDS urges action to pressure the state of Israel to comply with international law, human rights, & refugee rights.

• **Myth: BDS is antisemitic**

- **Fact:** “Boycott, divestment and sanctions are commonplace, non-violent forms of political protest against states. In the Israeli case they are not, in and of themselves, antisemitic.” (JDA)

• **Myth: BDS undermines academic freedom**

- **Fact:** BDS “aims to create conditions in which true academic freedom is enjoyed by all scholars in Palestine/Israel equally, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.” - American Anthro Assoc. (AAA) Boycott
- **Fact:** Palestinians’ academic freedom is being systematically violated by Israel’s military assaults on Palestinian universities and discrimination against Palestinian students.

• **Myth: Endorsing BDS causes legal issues**

- **Fact:** The boycott resolution is lawful. Laws that discourage BDS do not apply to non-profit academic associations. Academic associations that have adopted BDS have not been affected by such laws (AAA Boycott).



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PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE**



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DID YOU KNOW...

The International Court of Justice declares **Israel's presence in Palestinian territories is illegal**, calling for its immediate end and stating that nations are obligated not to assist Israel in maintaining its illegal occupation. - Advisory Opinion, July 19, 2024

By remaining silent about Palestine, **we are complicit** in aiding and maintaining Israel's **genocidal acts** in Gaza and the **illegal occupation** of Palestinian territories. **Our silence is responsible for:**

- Over 58,000 Palestinian deaths, 120,000 injuries, and more than 1 million displaced and starved (Oct '23 to July '25).
- An estimated 186,000+ direct and indirect Palestinian deaths due to the genocide (Khatib et al., 2024).
- The systematic denial of life, land, human rights, and freedom to Palestinians for over 75 years.

WHY BREAKING OUR SILENCE ON PALESTINE IS AN ETHICAL IMPERATIVE: CHOOSING JUSTICE OVER COMFORT

- There is a **deafening silence in organizational psychology spaces** about the genocide in Palestine, related to the silencing of those who publicly speak to legitimate criticisms of Israel and anti-Palestinian racism.
- **Silencing** (esp. of anti-racist speech) **is a colonial tactic** to normalize injustice and disavow histories and contemporary structures of oppression.
- Silence comes from and recreates fear and violence. **Our silence** has enabled the cycle of violence and trauma against Palestinians to persist and intensify for over 75+ years.

This is at odds with our field's dedication to protecting human rights.

- Our knowledge of the impacts of violence and trauma compels us to question,
 - ***Whose life, humanity, freedom, and safety are we denying when we remain silent?***

"[Our] silence will not protect [us]" - Audre Lorde

WHAT IS POSSIBLE WHEN WE BREAK THE SILENCE?

- Reduce powerlessness, isolation, and despair
- Disrupt cycles of violence fueled by hate, anger, ignorance, and confusion
- Increase opportunities to offer and receive loving corrections for accountability and transformation
- Create safe and caring community spaces to hold honest dialogues, work through intergenerational trauma, and co-create anti-colonial solutions for peace and justice
- Live our values of promoting mental health and well-being, authentic connections, and genuine care
- Dismantle structures that deny our humanity and our capacity to see our shared humanity
- Effectively address real instances of antisemitism when they occur

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

- Martin Luther King Jr.

BREAKING THE SILENCE: WHAT WE CAN SAY AND DO

"Celebrate, flank, and embrace each risk [we] take to speak up even as [our] voices shake." -adrienne maree brown

- Center our shared humanity, intertwined struggles, and collective liberation
- Keep the focus / being a broken record: (a) There is no justification for the level of killing and violence and (b) Violence against Palestinians is not new
 - Our job is NOT to change the minds of people who are dug in, aggressive, or engaging in bad faith
 - Don't get caught in debating fine points
- Holding complexity without two-siding ("Yes and...")
- Naming media bias and ways this manipulates understanding
- General ally development strategies
 - Leaning into good intentions
 - Not shaming without offering a path forward
 - Holding the anger (and pain)
- Disentangling anti-Zionism/critique of Israel from antisemitism
- Resisting essentializing: Pointing to the diversity of Jewish opinion on Zionism and Israel
- Leaning into community and our collective voice
 - You are not alone in your fears, nor are you alone in commitment to justice



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DID YOU KNOW...

Israel continues to defy the International Court of Justice's ruling to prevent genocide

"We conclude that **Israeli authorities are responsible for war crimes**, crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including extermination, **intentionally directing attacks against civilians** and civilian objects, murder or willful killing, using **starvation as a method of war**, forcible transfer, gender persecution...**sexual and gender-based violence** amounting to **torture**, and cruel or inhuman treatment."

- UN Commission of Inquiry's statement to the UN Human Rights Council on June 19th, 2024

◆ HOW IS APA VIOLATING ITS OWN ETHICS? ◆

WHAT IS THE IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM?

The APA's 2007 Resolution on Antisemitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice uses rationale based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition that conflates criticism of the state of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism.

"...the IHRA definition has often been used to wrongly label criticism of Israel as antisemitic, and thus chill and sometimes suppress, non-violent protest, activism and speech critical of Israel and/or Zionism, including in the US."

- from 104+ Human Rights organizations' Letter to the UN



Read 104+ civil and human rights groups' letters urging the UN to NOT adopt the IHRA definition

WHY IS IT PROBLEMATIC?

The IHRA definition enables justification of anti-Palestinian racism (including genocide), conflates nation-states with people, and obscures the very real instances of antisemitism that all people invested in social justice must recognize and resist.

The IHRA definition has been weaponized to:

- Silence psychologists, community organizers, and politicians
- Criminalize protest
- Defund schools
- Ban teaching about racism
- Target BIPOC & Jewish organizations
- Fire supportive professors
- Evict, deny job opportunities, and wrongfully use disciplinary action against students (e.g., deny degrees or expulsion)
- Deport immigrants
- Undo DEI policies
- Excuse genocide

(Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism, 2024)

WHY IS THIS AN ETHICAL PROBLEM FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS & MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS?

Psychologists are ethically required to oppose prejudice and discrimination for all people, including Palestinians. Therefore, **the APA's conflation of antisemitism with criticism of Israel, like the IHRA definition, is at odds with the Ethics Code.**

- APA Resolution on APA, Psychology, and Human Rights
- APA Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct
- APA Resolution Against Genocide
- APA Apology to People of Color and Resolution on Harnessing Psychology to Combat Racism
- APA Resolution on Dismantling Systemic Racism
- APA Guidelines on Equitable and Respectful Treatment of Students in Graduate Psychology Programs

"Love isn't about what we did yesterday; it's about what we do today and tomorrow and the day after"
— Grace Lee Boggs

We urge the APA to recognize that Palestinians and those standing in solidarity with Palestinians are enacting the central spirit of the APA Ethics code by recognizing that liberation for some cannot come at the cost of oppression of others.



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DID YOU KNOW...

People are being **actively targeted** for speaking up about Palestine
...including our Psychology colleagues by members of our own profession

This has included doxxing (i.e., posting personal identifying information online with the intent to cause professional, emotional, & potentially physical harm), firing, and reaching out to leaders within the current administration to target the APA.

ATTEMPTED SUPPRESSION & PUNISHMENT OF PRO-PALESTINE SPEECH

We've collectively witnessed the suppression of pro-Palestinian speech, including but not limited to:

- The state-sanctioned abduction of student activists (e.g., Mahmoud Khalil and Rumeysa Öztürk)
- Organized tracking & targeting of pro-Palestinian activists by groups like Canary Mission and Betar US
- Over 2,000 incidents of targeting: university investigations, doxxing, adverse employment decisions, termination, criminal investigations, harassment, and threats of physical violence (PalLegal, 2024)

HOW THIS AFFECTS THE FIELD OF PSYCHOLOGY

There are numerous examples of attempted suppression in our field, including but not limited to:

- "Psychologists Against Antisemitism" calling upon APA to suppress pro-Palestinian speech
- Targeting psychologists & students by contacting their institutions with accusations of antisemitism
- Major changes to conference presentations and events after threats targeting pro-Palestinian speech
- Psychologists and students stepping back from activism for fear of deportation, detention, loss of immigration status, criminalization, removal from job or graduate program, loss of financial support, receiving hate mail, threats, or harassment, and more (PJP, 2025)

These tactics have harmful implications for our colleagues and culture as a field.

We cannot allow this to continue.

"After being doxxed in my professional spaces by a psychologist, I didn't know who I could turn to. I wish that colleagues who saw public post(s) about me had spoken out against these actions. In our field, doxxing students and professionals alike should be associated with clear negative social and professional consequences. We cannot accept these injustices as the status quo."

--Clinical Psychology Graduate Student

"I feel ashamed and at times lost, fighting an uphill battle to speak out about how being Jewish does not automatically mean supporting Israel, and that criticizing Israel's genocidal actions is *not* antisemitism--it is actually at the core of what it means to be Jewish to me: thinking critically, questioning, and remembering that we are not free until all are free. This should not be a controversial stance, but here we are."

--Jewish Psychologist

WHAT WE CAN ALL DO: PROACTIVE STEPS & COLLECTIVE RESPONSES

It is our collective responsibility to protect our colleagues and resist threats to freedom of speech

WAYS TO RESPOND

- Know your rights
- Lock social media accounts, set strong passwords, and update recovery information.
- Keep an incident log of attacks/harassment
- Contact Palestine Legal for legal support
- Voice solidarity with affected colleagues
- Create and seek support from safety networks

HOW TO BE PROACTIVE

- Join PJP & participate in their actions
- Sign petitions against the suppression of pro-Palestine speech, such as the conflation of antisemitism with criticism of Israel
- Practice online privacy and digital hygiene to prevent doxxing (scan QR code for a guide)
- Use a PO box/UPS address and Google voice in place of personal contacts



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