



**Asian American Psychological Association Statement on
Student Protests
May 9, 2024**

The Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA) strongly supports and affirms the First Amendment right for students, faculty, and staff to protest on university campuses to end complicity in Palestinian genocide. As an association founded in 1972 to advance Asian American psychology, support Asian American mental health, and advocate for our Asian American community, we are dedicated to promoting liberation and justice and offer our unwavering support, solidarity, and unequivocal stance for an absolute ceasefire and a permanent end to the occupation and ethnic cleansing of Palestinian people.

While the number of Palestinian deaths and journalists continues to rise, faculty, students, and staff in higher education here in the United States who have spoken out against the genocide have faced surveillance, violence, hate speech, death threats, intimidation, and doxxing. Students and faculties of color, notably Arab and Muslim scholars, have been disproportionately targeted by these violent acts. As the genocide in Gaza continues, we have witnessed the devastating loss of Palestinian lives and the destruction of universities, hospitals, and historical monuments (mosques) older than a millennium by Israeli military forces.

Student activism including protests are not a new phenomenon and have been critical to social change (e.g., against the Vietnam War, apartheid in South Africa, the Iraq War; and in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement). These efforts towards social justice and liberation are integral to our cultural heritage and reflect the intergenerational strengths we have had to draw upon as Asian and Asian Americans residing in a colonized America. As a marginalized group with a history of countless periods of colonization, we are all too familiar with the detrimental impacts of degradation and oppression of a group of people. As practitioners, scholars, and activists in the field of psychology who promote liberation and justice for our communities, we cannot stand for the subjugation of students who are protesting for these same values. As people with shared values of life and humanity, we absolutely will not support violence against others, especially in the supposed name of maintaining peace.

We hear the anger and frustration of our students and affirm their call for a ceasefire and divestments from Israel. As an organization borne out of a social movement, we unequivocally see the need for civil disobedience to magnify the movement against apartheid, ethnic cleansing, settler-colonialism, occupation, and mass genocide.

As experts in the field of psychology, we are deeply concerned for the safety and well-being of our student protestors and strongly condemn police brutality and violence against them. We also condemn

the institutional silencing and doxxing of student protestors, faculty, and staff in higher education alike. We offer additional resources for support below.

Additional Resources

[Strong List of readings created by the American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association](#)

[Anti-Doxing Guide](#)

[Division 45 Humanitarian Statement on Supporting Peace and Protection of Human Dignity](#)

[Who are our people? Article](#)

[Unapologetic: The Third Narrative \(podcast hosted by two Palestinian-Israeli activists\)](#)