



• SAN FRANCISCO •
WOMEN'S POLITICAL COMMITTEE

SFWPC Support for Resolution calling for an immediate
ceasefire in Gaza

December 5, 2023

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, Ca 94102-4689

RE: Support for Resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza

Dear Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of the San Francisco Women's Political Committee (SFWPC), we are writing in strong support of a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. As an organization that champions policies that advance intersectional feminism and racial justice, we are deeply saddened by the situation in Gaza. We urge the Board of Supervisors to affirm the values of San Francisco as a city of peace, freedom and love, and take a firm stand for peace in Gaza.

We mourn the deaths of the 1,400 Israelis at the hands of Hamas, and we fear for the lives of the hostages. However, the atrocities committed on October 7th do not provide moral cover for the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza by the Israeli army. We call for the return of all the Israeli hostages, the end of the bombing and for the coordinated entry of humanitarian aid in Gaza, as well as for the U.S. government to stop enabling the genocide of Palestinians through military aid and unconditional support to the Israeli government. We believe that it is the duty of San Francisco to join other cities and counties all over the country and call for the Federal government to stop funding the war in Gaza.

International organizations have warned that the escalation of the conflict is disproportionately affecting women and newborns, as they represent 67% of the casualties in the Gaza Strip. The World Health Organization (WHO) has published



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that 420 children have been killed or injured every day since the beginning of the bombings¹. Recently, the WHO disclosed that a child is killed or injured every 10 minutes in Gaza. The United Nations have reported that if no ceasefire is achieved, these numbers will continue to rise. We are heartbroken thinking of the conditions that women, children, and families are living under the siege of the Palestinian territory, and we condemn the resulting large-scale humanitarian and health crisis that mainly affects civilians. Not only are they under the constant threat of bombings and hunger due to the siege, but the risk of gender-based violence is heightened, as highlighted by multiple reports from the UN Women's Rapid Assessment and Humanitarian Response in Palestine².

We cautiously celebrated the temporary ceasefire, and we are disappointed in the resumption of violence. We want to reiterate what we ALL know: temporary solutions are not enough to bring long-term peace and stability. We fully understand that the situation is complex. However, we are convinced that a long-term ceasefire on all sides is the first step to achieving peace, as well as any sustainable solution for both Israelis and Palestinians. It is also essential to call for peace at a time of rising antisemitism and Islamophobia in our own country, and show our commitment to the safety of both our Jewish and Muslim neighbors. Many organizations, as well as millions of protesters in the United States, have now called Congress and the White House to demand a ceasefire. It is time elected officials at every level of government listen to the calls for peace and take a strong position.

We urge you to support a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and humanitarian aid in Gaza. By supporting such a resolution, you will make sure that our city unequivocally rejects hatred and war, and embodies San Franciscans' values of peace and openness.

Sincerely,

SFWPC Board of Directors

¹Women and Newborns Bearing the Brunt of the Conflict in Gaza, UN Agencies Warn." World Health Organization, World Health Organization, www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2023-women-and-newborns-bearing-the-brunt-of-the-conflict-in-gaza-un-agencies-warn

²UN Women Report Reveals Devastating Impact of the Crisis in Gaza on Women and Girls - Question of Palestine." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/unispal/document/un-women-report-reveals-devastating-impact-of-the-crisis-in-gaza-on-women-and-girls/