



HOPE

Community

Hope Community stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine. We condemn genocide and war in all forms, including the ongoing attacks on Gaza by the State of Israel with support of the United States government. We mourn the deaths of innocent civilians in the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas, and we are alarmed by the emboldened acts of Islamophobia and antisemitism that have occurred in this country and in our local communities. We affirm that all people deserve a safe and secure place to live where they can feel their roots are present and can continue to grow.

We recognize that the genocide currently taking place in Gaza is not an isolated event. The stories of terror, anguish, and deep trauma coming from Gaza are stark reminders of violent displacement of Native people from their own homelands in this country and echo in all communities who have experienced and continue to live the traumas of removal, displacement, dehumanization, and erasure. The attacks in Gaza target the same community structures Hope and others have worked for decades to support: safe homes, strong community relationships, self-determination. We are hearing from people in our community how the genocide in Gaza awakens their own memories and fears. Youth are telling us they have no safe place to process their experiences around this.

We are called to speak, and to act.

Hope Community staff have been in conversation about how to respond amidst the emerging needs and calls for global solidarity. As an organization:

- We are united in calling for an immediate ceasefire.
- We commit to creating opportunities in our programs for people to process their experiences and the impacts of what is taking place in Gaza.
- We are committed to keeping our spaces welcoming to all and free of islamophobia and antisemitism.
- We will continue supporting staff to respond to community needs and acts of solidarity as they emerge.

We know that all struggles for liberation are interconnected. For that reason, we cannot be silent.

In Solidarity,
Hope Community Staff and Board

January 16, 2024