

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL
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A Resolution In Support of Positive Steps Towards an Israeli-Palestinian Peace
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WHEREAS, all UCLA students have an inalienable right to free speech and to express their views and narratives [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the UCLA “Principles of Community” are intended to ensure “freedom of expression and dialogue, in a respectful and civil manner, on the spectrum of views held by our varied and diverse campus communities” [2]; and,

WHEREAS, the University of California, Los Angeles actively supports promoting an inclusive climate on campus, in which “all individuals and groups generally feel welcomed, respected, and valued by the university” [2] with the understanding that “healthy climate is grounded in respect for others, nurtured by dialogue between those of differing perspectives, and is evidenced by a pattern of civil interactions among community members” [3]; and,

WHEREAS, UCLA students have a longstanding tradition of examining critical issues of our time thoroughly and honestly, appreciating the complexity and nuances of world affairs, along with a responsibility to place our discussions in a clear and accurate contextual and historical framework; and,

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Students Association Council has previously resolved not to tolerate or accept the behaviors of students, staff, faculty, or administration that infringe upon the safety of another person and/or develop a hostile and unsafe environment” [4]; and,

WHEREAS, “campus climate has become hostile for some students as a result of a lack of understanding amongst communities and identities” [4], specifically in regards to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and,

WHEREAS, both the Jewish people and the Palestinian people have historical and cultural ties to the land; and,

WHEREAS, both the Jewish and Palestinian narratives regarding the land are substantial parts of each group’s self-identity; and,

WHEREAS, both Israelis and Palestinians have considerably suffered as a result of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and,

WHEREAS, even as recently as July 29th, US Secretary of State John Kerry announced that direct peace negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians have resumed out of necessity, noting that “despite tough decisions that have to be made and despite pressure that exists on both sides...both the Palestinians and Israelis have remained steadfast in their commitment to continuing the talks” and that there is a consensus that “a final status agreement is important in enhancing regional security and stability throughout the Middle East” [5]; and,

WHEREAS any efforts leading to or contributing to demonization and stigmatization of any one party in the conflict are detrimental to the causes of peace and justice and therefore only perpetuate the conflict; and,

WHEREAS, it is harmful to campus life and the welfare of the UCLA student body to exacerbate tensions related to foreign conflicts between student groups on campus; and,

WHEREAS, the UC Regents affirmed in 2010 that it would not bring forward any discussion about divesting from companies that deal with the State of Israel until such actions were similarly adopted by the United States government [6]; and,

WHEREAS, divestment resolutions at other UC campuses have had negative effects on campus climate [7][8]; investment has the potential to foster positive discussion and promote cross-community collaboration; and,

WHEREAS, firms like Sadara Ventures and Al-Bawader invest constructively in economic development for Palestinians and Arab-Israelis in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza; and companies such as Intel, Google, Cisco Systems and others have invested more than \$15 million into promoting Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and created a 35-company coalition (“Ma-antech”) with the stated goal of increasing cross-cultural understanding and jobs for Arab tech workers [9].

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council acknowledges the work of students and student groups who have continually advocated for positive campus climate through peaceful and respectful dialogue.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council acknowledges that civilian death and suffering on either side is unacceptable, and that the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority must take reasonable measures together to end that suffering.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council supports a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and only considers legislation that reflects its complex, multi-faceted nature and explicitly recognizes the inalienable rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to self-determination in their respective

homelands.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council would support ASUCLA and UCLA Fund investments in companies and ventures such as Sadara Ventures, Al-Bawadar, Cisco Systems, Inc., Microsoft Corp., Intel Corp., and Google that have spent time and resources on efforts to facilitate cooperative interaction between Israelis and Palestinians by promoting economic and commercial growth for both groups, if such investments are financially sound.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Students Association Council urges Student Affairs and the UCLA Administration to specifically address intergroup dynamic awareness, acceptance of other people's identities, and fostering of a culture that positively and proactively deals with conflict.

1. http://www.usconstitution.net/xconst_Am1.html
2. https://diversity.ucla.edu/strategic-plan/20092010_CAGD_Strategic_Plan.pdf
3. http://diversity.universityofcalifornia.edu/documents/07-campus_report.pdf
4. Resolution to Improve Intergroup Understanding and Dynamics on UCLA's Campus
http://www.usac.ucla.edu/documents/resolutions/resolution_dynamics.pdf
5. <http://www.newsdaily.com/world/bcf51122doc07fd193dd2762487ab875/israel-palestinians-steadfast-on-peace-talks-kerry>
6. <http://www.ucop.edu/newsroom/newswire/img/15/15382853384e7a6d1bcce55.pdf>
7. Open letter sent from the President of the Associated Students of UC Riverside Liam Dow to the members of the Associated Students of UC San Diego
8. Open letter sent from the President of the Associated Students of UC San Diego Meggie Le to the members of the Associated Students of UC Santa Barbara
9. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/richardbehar/2013/07/24/peace-through-profits-a-private-sector-detente-is-drawing-israelis-palestinians-closer/1/>