

MOTION TO PRESSURE DIVESTMENT: *Statement on Results & Next Steps*

Background

In March, the Dalhousie Palestinian Society (“the Society”) submitted a motion, with the support of numerous other Dalhousie societies and groups, to the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) Council urging them to put pressure on Dalhousie University to divest from all investments and relations with Israel.

The DSU Council meeting to discuss the motion took place on March 22, 2024.

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THE MOTION

I. THE PROPOSED MOTION

ON MARCH 15, the motion prepared by the Society urged the DSU to:

- 1. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to demand that Dalhousie University immediately cut ties with and divest from any corporations, institutions, or individuals complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing in Palestine**
- 2. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to demand that Dalhousie University immediately and publicly condemn the genocidal campaign and siege on Gaza, and provide legitimate support to Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students.**
- 3. Make an immediate and public statement condemning the ongoing genocide and reaffirming its solidarity with Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students.**

The full motion submitted to the DSU Council can be found on pages 6 to 9 on this document.

II. ADOPTED CALLS TO ACTION

After a lengthy Council, the calls to action were amended to provide sustainable goals and a foundation that we will continue to build upon with the support and backing of the DSU.

The adopted calls to action urge the DSU to:

- 1. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to urge that Dalhousie University immediately cut ties with and divest from the corporations, including those listed in Appendix B.**
- 2. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to urge that Dalhousie University pause [or maintain the ongoing pause of] the Israel Exchange**

Program [under the Faculty of Management in collaboration with Tel Aviv University] until a peaceful or mutual resolution has been reached.

3. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to request that Dalhousie University immediately and publicly support Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students through fundraising for crisis relief in collaboration with the DSU.

4. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to request that Dalhousie University release an immediate and public statement condemning the ongoing loss of life, including the death of over 30,000 Palestinians, by the end of the 2023/24 academic year.

5. Stand in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to demand that Dalhousie University immediately implement security measures on campus to protect all students on Dalhousie University's campus to ensure the safety and equity of all.

The DSU meeting minutes can be found on their website.

III. RESPONSE TO CRITICS AND PURPOSE OF THE MOTION

Some have claimed that the adopted calls to action are discriminatory and have questioned the integrity of the DSU. To reiterate, our goal is to ensure protection for all students at Dalhousie University, including the Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students that have been let down by their institution.

More importantly, the purpose of this motion is to ensure that our educational institutions are neither funding or investing in an ongoing genocide, ethnic cleansing, and a settler-colonial apartheid. As the student body, whose tuition funds the activities of our institution, we demand that it is not spent on the demise and devastation of a group of people and the infringement on their human rights.

The DSU has a role to play in advocating for all students and ensuring that their voices are heard. The Society and its supporters are thankful for the support the Council has provided throughout this process, including at the contentious March 22nd meeting, and the support they will continue to offer. Additionally, the Society appreciates the Council for taking the time to privately discuss and vote on the motion, as is their policy, without external influences affecting their decision to ensure that Dalhousie is a safe and welcome space for all students.

NEXT STEPS

We are demanding that Dalhousie University sever ties with and divest from any corporations, institutions or individuals that are complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid or ethnic cleansing in Palestine. This includes the suspension of the annual Israel Exchange Program offered under Dalhousie's Faculty of Management in collaboration with Tel Aviv University in Israel.

Our demands have precedent. In 1986, Dalhousie University divested holdings in three companies linked to the South African apartheid regime alongside other institutions which contributed to the necessary pressure to dismantle the unjust regime. In 2022, within a month of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Dalhousie clearly signaled solidarity for Ukraine and Ukrainian students. The university waived various fees for Ukrainian students, offered flexibility on deadlines, raised the Ukrainian flag on campus, and outlined many other supports.

We demand that Dalhousie University to extend legitimate support and solidarity to their Palestinian students, as they have done for other groups in the past.

THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support we've received from students, faculty, and the Halifax community, as well as the societies who've rallied behind our cause. This victory belongs to all of us. We extend our thanks to those amplifying Palestinian voices on campus and to those who recognize the urgency for immediate action. Your solidarity is not a symbol; it is enacting real change.

The Society would like to mention that while this is not a complete victory, it is a positive step in the right direction. The path to a free and liberated Palestine is not an easy one and we must all stand in complete solidarity with the movement, no matter how long and what it takes. There are numerous Gaza Solidarity Encampments currently taking place across Turtle Island and around the world, and the Society offers its complete support and solidarity to them. It is the strength and unity of students, staff, and faculty that will lead to realizing justice and upholding

Palestinian liberation across all university campuses. The Society will continue to advocate for this with your backing, and we thank you for all of the support you have shown us throughout the academic year.

- END OF STATEMENT -

Proposed DSU Motion in Full

Background

This motion is brought forward by the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and is supported by several Dalhousie societies and student groups listed in Appendix A.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has waged a [genocidal](#) campaign on Gaza, murdering at least [31,490](#) Palestinians, including more than 12,300 children, 8,400 women, and 96 journalists at the time of writing. This campaign is supported by Western governments such as the United States, and [Canada](#) who has authorized \$28.5 million of new military exports to Israel since October.

Israeli forces have completely cut off food, water, medicine, fuel, electricity, all communications, and any other essentials of life from Gaza. This is an escalation of the 16 years of Israeli blockade imposed on Gaza, which has a population of about 2.3 million people living in one of the most densely populated areas in the world. Israeli attacks have left Gazans with nowhere safe to go and damaged more than half of Gaza's homes, 392 educational facilities including universities, 267 places of worship, and all of Gaza's hospitals – leaving only 12 of 35 partially functional.

Instead of condemning this genocidal campaign and upholding the university's stewardship of international humanitarian law, Dalhousie University failed to initially mention the loss and violence Palestinians are experiencing and have been experiencing for decades. The President's Office issued an apology that finally acknowledged the current loss and violence, but they still failed to recognize the oppression and occupation that has been ongoing for decades and is the underlying cause of the current genocidal campaign and all violence in Palestine.

Dalhousie University continues to [invest](#) in and collaborate with corporations, institutions, and donors complicit in the ongoing genocide against Palestinians and the decades-long settler-colonial apartheid and ethnic cleansing in Palestine. A list of some of these investments is included in Appendix B.

Dalhousie University has an [Israel Exchange Program](#) under the Faculty of Management in collaboration with Tel Aviv University. This trip is fully funded by two members of the pro-Israel lobby who are founders of an [organization](#) that encourages foreigners to join the Israeli army and then pays them to remain in Israel following their service. The trip is also a form of propaganda as students are expected to return and promote the program and Israel on campus to other students.

Dalhousie University divested holdings in companies with links to the South African apartheid regime – a step that was vital to its demise – and recognized that divestment is a tool of social change that can change the course of history. On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice stated that some of the acts and omissions committed by Israel in Gaza are capable of falling within the meaning of genocide, and that the Court will be moving forward with the genocide case against Israel. The Court also held that Israel must take all measures to prevent the commission of all acts of genocide in relation to Palestinians in Gaza. By continuing to invest in and build relations with organizations and individuals who aid and support this genocide, Dalhousie University is complicit in the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza.

Call to Action

Be it resolved that the Dalhousie Student Union:

1. Stands in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to demand that Dalhousie University immediately cut ties with and divest from any corporations, institutions, or individuals complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing in Palestine.
2. Stands in solidarity with the Dalhousie Palestinian Society and groups in Appendix A to demand that Dalhousie University immediately and publicly condemn the genocidal campaign and siege on Gaza, and provide legitimate support to Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students.
3. Make an immediate and public statement condemning the ongoing genocide and reaffirming its solidarity with Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students.

Appendix A

List of societies and student groups that support this motion:

- Dal Bike Centre
- Dalhousie African Nova Scotian Society
- Dalhousie Chinese Society
- Dalhousie Egyptian Society
- Dalhousie EngiQueers
- Dalhousie Environmental Engineering Society
- Dalhousie Lebanese Society
- Dalhousie Moroccan Society
- Dalhousie Muslim Students' Association
- Dalhousie Recreation Association
- Dalhousie Rocks
- Dalhousie Sikh Students' Association
- Dalhousie South Asian Society
- Dalhousie Sudanese Society
- Dalhousie Taylor Swift Society
- DalOUT
- Divest Dal
- Islamic Relief at Dal
- No More Stolen Sisters Indigenous Women's group at Dalhousie
- Omani Student Association at Dal
- Society of Undergraduate Planners
- The Loaded Lade

Appendix B

List of some companies that Dal invests in that are complicit in the ongoing genocide of Gaza.

[Oshkosh Corp.](#) produces military vehicles for the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF).

[ICL-Israel Chemicals Ltd.](#) has been found to [supply](#) the IOF with [white phosphorus](#).

[Mercury Systems Inc.](#) supplies chips and technology to [RTX](#). RTX manufactures [missiles](#) for the IOF and has developed and supplied Israel's [Iron Dome](#).

Boeing Co. supplies Israel with [planes](#) and [bombs](#).

Leonardo DRS Inc. has an [Israeli defence subsidiary, partnerships in Israel](#), and provided [equipment for the IOF](#).

[AIMCo](#) Realty Investors LP owns more than \$200 million of shares in companies profiting and participating in the illegal occupation genocide in Palestine.

BCI QuadReal Realty & BCIMC Realty Corp are both part of the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation which is [linked](#) with investing in companies and arms manufacturers supporting Israel.

[Woodward Inc.](#) has been linked with missiles launched over Gaza.

Bank of Montreal and Bank of Nova Scotia who both been [linked](#) with investing in and providing money to Elbit Systems, the primary provider of the Israeli military's vehicles. Toronto-Dominion Bank invests millions in General Dynamics which provides weapons used by the IOF.