

Motion to Adopt the MBSU Position Against Genocide

McGill Biology Student Union

November 26, 2024

WHEREAS The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), backed by US, Canadian, and other Western governments, have waged a relentless, indiscriminate, genocidal campaign against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023. Israeli forces have murdered over [43,972 Palestinians](#), including over 13,319 children at the time of writing, and have repeatedly [declared their intent](#) to destroy the population of Gaza;

WHEREAS Since October 7th, 2023, Israeli forces have cut off food, water, medicine, fuel, electricity and any other essentials of life from the Gaza Strip, putting [nearly two million people at imminent risk of famine](#);

WHEREAS [Palestinians have lived under illegal occupation](#) and apartheid for decades, subject to forced displacement, land seizures, unlawful killings, military detention without trial, and severe restrictions on mobility;

WHEREAS [Lebanon](#) has experienced a humanitarian crisis and unprecedented mass displacement as a result of Israel's significant escalation of violence;

WHEREAS McGill incorrectly portrays resistance against genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, and criticism of the Israeli government as [antisemitic](#); we reject antisemitism and support the liberation of all people from racist oppression and colonialism;

WHEREAS Instead of condemning this escalating genocide, the McGill administration has publicly [threatened students](#) who voice their position against genocide. The administration's persistent refusal to even acknowledge the mass murder of Palestinians has demonstrated a shocking, blatant, and racist disregard for Palestinian and Arab lives;

WHEREAS McGill University continues to [invest and engage in close collaboration](#) with [corporations, institutions, and donors](#) complicit in the ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza, in addition to settler-colonial apartheid and ethnic cleansing throughout occupied Palestine. [McGill holds ties to academic institutions](#) that play a central role in perpetuating genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, and ethnic cleansing against Palestinians;

WHEREAS [78.7% of McGill students](#) voted in favor of the [Policy Against Genocide in Palestine](#) in the SSMU Fall Referendum in November 2023 with a record turnout;

WHEREAS Following concerted student activism, McGill University cut its ties with institutions and corporations complicit in [South African apartheid](#) in 1985 and divested from fossil fuel companies in [December 2023](#);

WHEREAS Student associations at [UQAM](#), [Concordia](#), and McGill have passed similar policies in solidarity with Palestinian liberation and demanding divestment and an academic boycott.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The McGill Biology Student Union (MBSU) adopts a position against the ongoing genocide in Palestine, which supports calls for McGill to divest from all corporations and institutions complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing against Palestinians, and engage in a full academic boycott of institutions complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing against Palestinians;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The MBSU aims to boycott corporations complicit in genocide, settler-colonialism, apartheid, or ethnic cleansing against Palestinians for all future consumer purchases it makes for its activities, such as events, office supplies, meetings, etc;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The MBSU commits to a position in solidarity with Palestinian and Lebanese students, the Palestinian struggle against genocide and settler-colonial apartheid, and all colonized people working against systems of racism, antisemitism, settler-colonialism, and other forms of oppression;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The MBSU commits to providing academic support to all biology students who are impacted by the violence in Palestine and Lebanon. We are committed to ensuring students feel safe against all forms of hate, including anti-Arab sentiment, Islamophobia, and antisemitism. The MBSU will advocate for students by liaising between students, faculty, and other academic staff within the Department of Biology;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The MBSU will support any future university-wide student strike calling for divestment from genocide undertaken by the Students Society of McGill University (SSMU).

MOVED BY: Nick Chow, Co-President

SECONDED BY: Caroline Viola, Co-President