We stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine. We unequivocally answer and amplify the call from the Palestinian Feminist Collective for “feminists everywhere to speak up, organize, and join the struggle for Palestinian liberation.” We condemn the forced removal of Palestinians from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, the raiding of the al-Aqsa mosque, the indiscriminate bombing of Gaza, one of the world’s most densely populated areas, and the de facto annexation of East Jerusalem, which by international law is illegally occupied territory. Israeli settlers, with the support of Israeli police and military forces, are taking over streets, invading homes, and brutalizing Palestinians. This right wing, ethnonationalist violence is often accompanied with the vile chant "Death to Arabs." We do not subscribe to a “both sides” rhetoric that erases the military, economic, media, and global power that Israel has over Palestine. This is not a “conflict” that is too “controversial and complex” to assess. Israel is using violent force, punitive bureaucracy, and the legal system to expel Palestinians from their rightful homes and to remove Palestinian people from their land. Israeli law systematically discriminates against Palestinian citizens of Israel. Illegal Israeli settlements choke and police Palestinian communities, and Palestinians are cut off from each other by a network of checkpoints, laws, settler-only highways, and a separation wall that swallows illegally occupied Palestinian land. Both Human Rights Watch and B’Tselem have concluded that Israeli policies and practices towards Palestinians amount to apartheid.

As gender studies departments in the United States, we are the proud benefactors of decades of feminist anti-racist, and anti-colonial activism that informs the foundation of our interdiscipline. In 2015 the National Women’s Studies Association wrote that our work is “committed to an inclusive feminist vision that is in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and sovereignty rights globally, that challenges settler colonial practices, and that contests violations of civil rights and international human rights law, military occupation and militarization, including the criminalization of the U.S. borders, and myriad forms of dispossession.” We center global social justice in our intersectional teaching, scholarship, and organizing. From Angela Davis we understand that justice is indivisible; we learn this lesson time and again from Black, Indigenous, Arab, and most crucially, Palestinian feminists, who know that “Palestine is a Feminist Issue.” In solidarity, we call for the end of Israel's military occupation of Palestine and for the Palestinian right to return to their homes. As residents, educators, and feminists who are also against the
settler colonialism of the U.S., we refuse to normalize or accept the United States’ financial, military, diplomatic and political role in Palestinian dispossession. Furthermore, we will not tolerate any censorship of nor retribution against Palestinian scholars, activists, and those openly critical of the Israeli state. We join a vibrant, vast, and growing international solidarity community, composed of those raising their voices in support of Palestinian's right to freedom, return, safety, flourishing, and self-determination.

May 15th marked the 73rd anniversary of the Nakba, an ongoing ethnic cleansing of Palestine that drove over 750,000 Palestinians out of their homes, villages, and cities between the years 1947-1949. Today the vast majority of these Palestinians and their descendants are refugees in bordering countries and in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Palestinians have been resisting settler colonialism for more than one hundred years. We hail the fortitude and determination of the Palestinian people, who remain, despite the fragmentation of their populations, united in their demands to end their oppression.

Please tweet and post the solidarity statement from your department social media accounts with the hashtag #PalestineisaFeministIssue

Endorsed By:

Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Rutgers University New Brunswick
Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University Newark
Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
Department of Feminist Studies, University of California Santa Cruz
Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of California Berkeley
Department of Feminist Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Stony Brook University
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Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Winona State University
Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Connecticut
Department of Gender Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, Yale University
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Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Arizona
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Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at College of the Holy Cross
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Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Syracuse University
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Department of Race, Gender, Sexuality and Social Justice, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Columbia University
Department of Gender & Women’s Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison
Department of Ethnic & Gender Studies, Westfield State University
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Women’s Studies, California State University, Dominguez Hills
Texas Christian University Women and Gender Studies Department
Women's, Gender & Queer Studies Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Bates College
Department of Women & Gender Studies, University of Lethbridge, Canada
Gender, Race, and Sexuality Studies program of Lesley University
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, University of Virginia
Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston
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Simone de Beauvoir Institute, Concordia University

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at The College of New Jersey

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University of Nebraska at Omaha Women’s and Gender Studies Program

Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis

Institute for Gender and Women’s Studies, American University in Cairo

Associations and Chapters:

National Women's Studies Association

Feminist Geographies Specialty Group of the American Association of Geographers

Feminists for Justice in/for Palestine Interest Section, National Women's Studies Association

Centers:

Center for Race and Gender, University of California Berkeley

Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, New York University

Center for the Study of Women, University of California, Los Angeles

Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University

Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women at Brown University

Feminist Autonomous Centre for Research

Gender and Sexuality Equity Center, College of Charleston

Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies (CIGS) in Leeds, UK

BiGS/Birkbeck Gender and Sexuality

Centre for Gender Studies, University of Stavanger, Norway

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Centre for Gender Studies at SOAS, University of London

Instituto de Investigaciones de Estudios de Género, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Gender Studies Programme, University of Iceland

Centre for Feminist Research, Goldsmiths, University of London
For Information from the Palestinian Feminist Collective and to sign a pledge, go here:

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To add your department, program, institute, or center, contact: solidaritygenderstudies@gmail.com

Please note, due to the overwhelming response we are only uploading names twice a day. Please be patient as we are stretched to capacity. Thank you.