

Date of Meeting:	October 10, 2024
Ruling:	Constitutional

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

RESOLUTION No. FA24-R004

PGSG Statement of Support for Graduate Students from Lebanon and Palestine



Author(s): Srishti Dutta Chowdhury

Sponsor(s): Elnara Mammadova, Technology Leadership and Innovation

WHEREAS, the escalating conflict in the Middle East has resulted in significant civilian casualties, with more than 2,011 people killed and over 9,535 injured, 1.2 million people having been displaced in Lebanon alone as of September 23, 2024, following Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon^{1,2}; and

WHEREAS, as a result of a wave of Israeli strikes in Gaza since October 2023, more than 41,615 Palestinians have been killed, more than 96,000 injured, and more than 10,000 have been reported missing under rubble³; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned military assault on the region has been ongoing for days, and the numbers affected are greatly increasing⁴; and

WHEREAS, this recent assault follows one year of violent military action in Palestine, including the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including the blockaded Gaza Strip^{5,6}; and

¹ <https://breakingthenews.net/Article/Death-toll-in-Lebanon-since-Oct.-7-surpasses-2000/62829778>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/10/03/israel-attack-lebanon-hezbollah-war-news-gaza/><https://>

³ <https://www.nrc.no/news/2024/october/israel-gaza-conflict-only-ceasefire-can-end-suffering-for-civilians-after-catastrophic-year/>

⁴ <https://www.npr.org/2024/09/26/nx-s1-5127325/israel-hezbollah-conflict-lebanon-displaced-residents>

⁵ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154391>

⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory/report-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territory/>

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly has overwhelmingly voted in favor of an immediate ceasefire “...with a recorded vote of 124 nations in favor, 14 against, and 43 abstentions.”⁷; and

WHEREAS, these events may cause significant emotional distress, including mental health challenges, trauma, and grief due to the loss of loved ones or displacement, which can negatively impact students’ well-being and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Graduate Student Senate and Purdue Graduate Student Government advocate for the interests of Purdue University’s graduate student body, some of which may be adversely affected by current events of Israeli strikes in Lebanon and Palestine.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Purdue Graduate Student Government hereby expresses its solidarity with graduate students from Lebanon and Palestine who are adversely affected by ongoing challenging circumstances.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Members of the PGSG Executive Board will release a public statement acknowledging the hardships experienced by graduate students who are from and have family, friends, and relatives in Lebanon and Palestine, encouraging them to seek the support services available on campus (example provided in Exhibit “A”) as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSS Senators will be encouraged to present this resolution to their respective graduate student organizations/associations (GSO/As), emphasizing the importance of standing with and supporting peers from Lebanon and Palestine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PGSS senators are urged to request that their GSO/As, along with graduate students within their departments, publish similar statements in support of these students' grievances.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ENACTED 7th day of *November* 2024.

Victor Gutierrez-Schultz

Senate Chair, PGSS

Ethan Johnson

Parliamentarian, PGSS

⁷ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154496>

Srishti Dutta Chowdhury
Author

Elnara Mammadova
Floor Sponsor, Senator for
Technology Leadership and
Innovation

Certification

I, Abigayl Novak, Senate Clerk of the Purdue Graduate Student Senate, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was regularly passed and adopted by the Purdue Graduate Student Senate of Purdue University, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 7th day of *November* 2024 by the following vote:

AYES (28)
NAYS (5)
ABSENT (14)
ABSTAINED (8)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30th day of *March* 2025.

Abigayl Novak
Senate Clerk, PGSS

Exhibit “A”

**Example Statement in Support of Graduate Students from Lebanon and
Palestine**

[SEE ATTACHED TWO (2) PAGES]

Dear Graduate Students,

In light of the ongoing conflict and hardships facing your families, communities, and homeland, we want to take a moment to express our unwavering support and solidarity with you during these incredibly difficult times. At Purdue University, we recognize the profound emotional, mental, and physical toll such events can have on individuals, especially those living far from home, and we stand by you.

As a global community dedicated to pursuing knowledge, freedom, and mutual respect, we are deeply committed to creating an inclusive environment where all our students, regardless of their background or circumstances, feel supported. We understand that many of you may be struggling with anxiety, grief, and uncertainty, and we want you to know that you are not alone.

We, Purdue Graduate Student Government (PGSG), stand in solidarity with graduate students from Lebanon and Palestine. Together, we remain committed to ensuring that every student has access to the resources and support they need during these challenging times.

Purdue's resources, including our mental health services, student organizations, and academic support teams, are available to assist you. Should you need any support or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you navigate these challenges and provide whatever assistance we can to ensure your well-being and academic success.

Let us continue to stand together as a community that values peace, respect, and compassion. We hope that you will find solace and strength through mutual understanding and cooperation during this tumultuous time.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any additional support or if there is anything we can do to ease your burdens. I, [Name], can be reached at [email].

*With sincere support and solidarity,
PGSG Executive board members*