

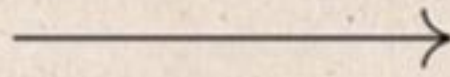


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## UIUC FACULTY FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

As faculty and staff at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, we come together as UIUC Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) in order to unequivocally express our solidarity with Palestinian people globally facing genocide. Our university is a land-grant institution built on stolen land from the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piankashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Medquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations, and the university continues to reap financial gains from the use of this land and Indigenous imagery.

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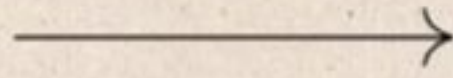


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The university also largely serves students from the Chicagoland area, which is home to the largest number of Palestinians in the United States. Against this backdrop, UIUC FJP recognizes the complicity of the non-Native among us in ongoing settler colonial dispossession of Indigenous people here, and refuse to comply with settler colonial violence committed against Palestinian people elsewhere.

WHAT FOLLOWS ARE OUR PRINCIPLES OF  
UNITY, ADAPTED FROM THE FACULTY FOR  
JUSTICE IN PALESTINE NATIONAL NETWORK:



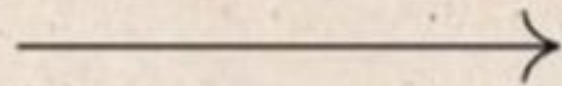
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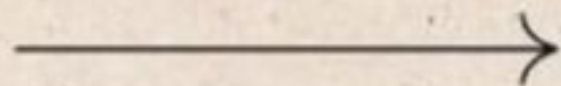


1. The UIUC Faculty for Justice in Palestine (FJP) is part of a decentralized, national network of affiliated campus chapters whose faculty and staff members support the cause of Palestinian liberation through education, advocacy, and action. Our chapter is committed to supporting and amplifying the work of Students for Justice in Palestine along with other pro-Palestinian student groups and campus unions.



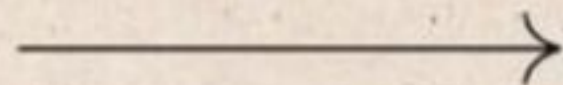


2. UIUC FJP supports and endorses the principles of BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions) and works in solidarity with international BDS organizations. We encourage academic and cultural boycotts of Israel and Israeli academic institutions, both of which have been responsible for maintaining apartheid and colonial occupation. UIUC FJP also supports the fundamental right of Palestinians to self-determination and legal equality, and to return to their indigenous homes and lands.



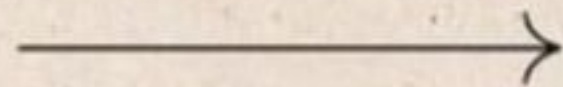


3. In order to be firmly grounded in anti-colonial solidarity, UIUC FJP , as part of a national network, follows the lead of our colleagues in Palestinian universities, such as Birzeit University's "A Unified Call for Freedom and Justice in Palestine." Our solidarity recognizes that Palestinian universities have been subject to attacks, closures, and destruction long before this most recent assault on Gaza.



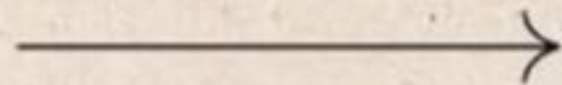


4. UIUC FJP seeks to protect and defend anyone who is being defamed, punished, or censored for pro-Palestinian speech and any pro-Palestine activity.



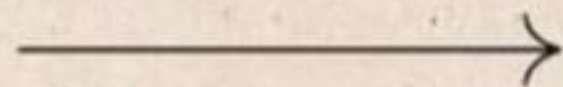


5. UIUC FJP supports public education and discussion about the 75+ years of Israel's occupation in the context of settler colonialism and Zionist ideology. As campus members of the University of Illinois, which "fired" Palestinian American scholar Steven Salaita before he could start his position in the American Indian Studies Program in 2014, the UIUC FJP recognizes the local history of how solidarity with Palestine has been criminalized and repressed. We are committed to efforts to draw attention to the history of Palestine and Palestinian resistance, both on our campus and in the public sphere. UIUC FJP defends and supports the right to teach and talk about interlocking systems of oppression underpinned by global white supremacy and racial capitalism. We understand the absolute urgency of drawing these transnational connections in this current moment of escalating genocide.





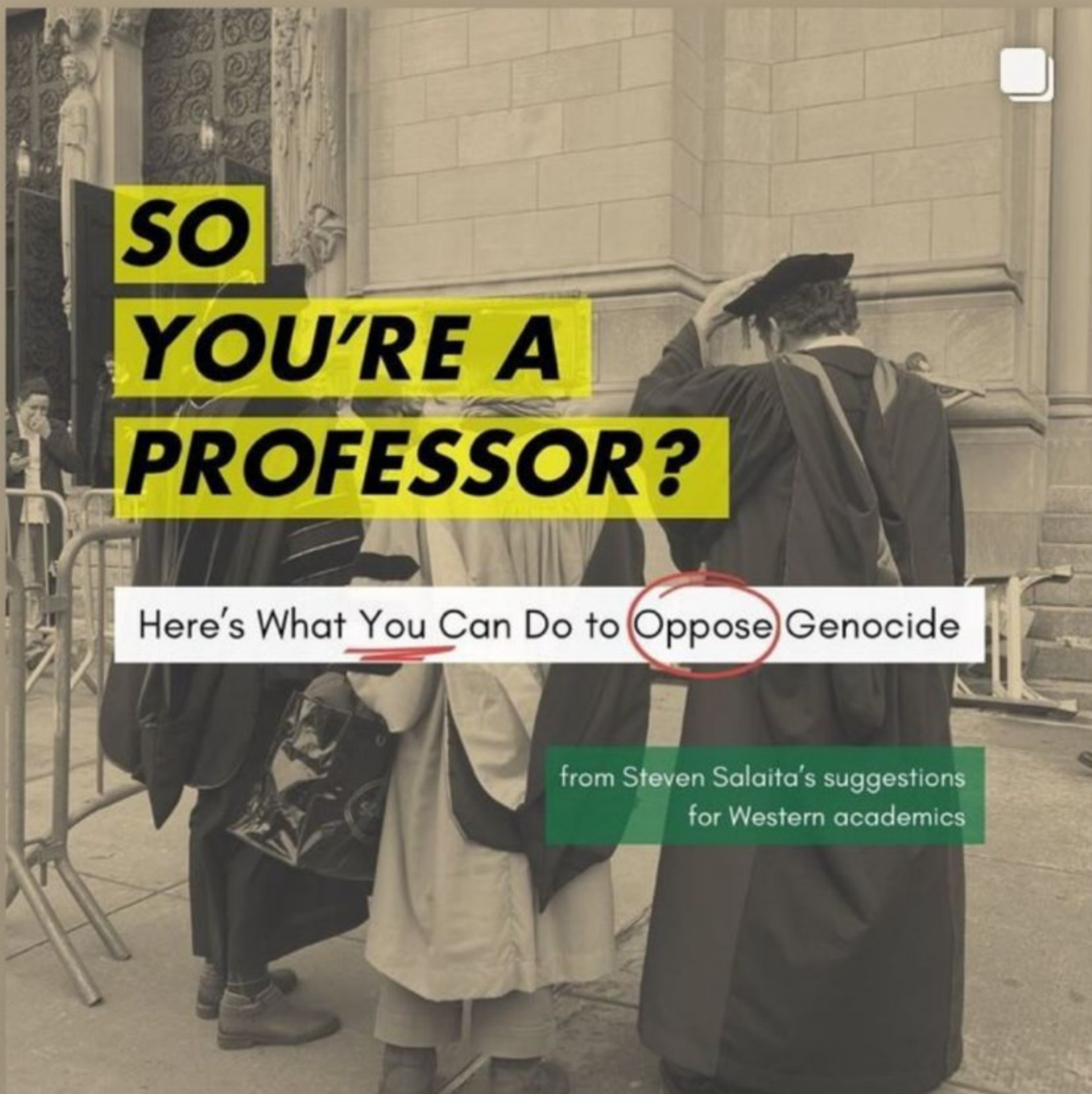
6. UIUC FJP is firmly committed to combating any form of racism, including anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, anti-Blackness, and white supremacy. We are also firmly committed to combating any form of oppression, including caste hierarchies and those targeting sexuality, trans and non-binary gender identification, and disabilities of any kind.







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**SO  
YOU'RE A  
PROFESSOR?**

Here's What You Can Do to Oppose Genocide

from Steven Salaita's suggestions  
for Western academics

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Try one or more of the following if you can:

- 1 Defend Palestinian Students:** Be it from forces on or off campus, or be it individuals you know or don't know personally, it is reprehensible that students should suffer doxing and harassment, whether it is orchestrated by skeezy has-beens like [Michael Rapaport](#) or [hysterical faculty](#) on their own campus. Speak on behalf of your students. It can be done publicly through the usual channels or in private communication with chairs, deans, and other administrators. Or keep it simpler: reach out to the students and offer yourself as a resource.
- 2 Defend Palestinian Colleagues:** The same idea holds, but with a quick addendum. Being a Palestinian in Western academe can be deeply alienating, in no small part because shitting on Palestinians is a reliable method of upward mobility. I'm sure some of your Palestinian colleagues will appreciate any gesture that might make them feel slightly less alone.

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- 3 Boycott:** Up to this point, academic boycott of Israeli universities has been controversial, even in supposedly progressive quarters of the industry. The facts, however, are clear. Israel has destroyed every institution of higher learning in the Gaza Strip. It has murdered dozens of faculty and administrators, including university presidents, and an untold number of students. There is no academic freedom in Palestine. There is no academe at all in Gaza. Reluctance to boycott is no longer acceptable. It is the baseline of political decency. Anybody who continues to oppose or dissemble about academic boycott should be regarded as untrustworthy on everything else.
- 4 Divest:** Start or join a local campaign to force your university to divest any holdings from the Zionist entity. Divestment can include study abroad programs in Israel, which inherently discriminate against Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim students. In the past decade, students have successfully passed divestment resolutions at numerous universities, but management simply ignores them. Faculty voices will help these efforts.

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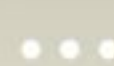
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- 5 **Organize or Attend a Demonstration:** You don't need to be a seasoned organizer to raise hell about the abomination that is the Zionist entity.
  - 6 **Direct Action:** Why should students always be the ones to shut down administrative offices or gum up the machinery of genocide? Professors can participate, as well. I'm not saying you need to do it. I just want you to bear in mind that nobody, no matter how urbane or well-published, is too good to get fired or sit in jail for a few hours in solidarity with a people whose heroism is known and admired around the world.

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- 7 **Invite People from Gaza:** Surely the rank-and-file in academe are tired of the same few dozen big-name professors and celebrity activists saying the same three or four things in the lucrative lecture economy. Decisionmakers on campus invite speakers for prestige, for *the brand*, or else to network or be in the presence of fame. The habit needs to die and there's no better time than now. Instead of summoning the usual Endowed Chair of Gobbledygook at Wealthy Private University to deliver radical affectations at a cost of multiple thousands, reach out to scholars and journalists from Gaza (and for God's sake give them a proper honorarium). They will assuredly be more insightful than warmed-over relics of the pre-millennial theory craze. Likewise: recruit graduate students from Palestine. You can also look into bringing Palestinians as visiting writers/scholars or as researchers/consultants in any effort to document the genocide. Start with people who are currently outside of Gaza; when conditions are better, reach out to those still inside the territory. Gaza is filled with individuals of remarkable talent. You will be better off for having sought it.

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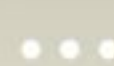
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10 **Teach Palestine:** Hundreds of Palestinian poets, novelists, and essayists write in English or are available in translation. Consider including them on your syllabus. So what if your courses don't focus on Palestine or the surrounding region? If you're a modernist, then assign Fadwa Tuqan or Mahmoud Darwish. If you're in gender studies, look up Fatima Bernawi or Rasma Odeh. If you teach novels, try Susan Abulhawa, Susan Muaddi Darraj, Sahar Mustafah...on goes the list. If you're an Americanist, there are numerous options. Same for Latin Americanists. A critical theorist? No problem: there's Elias Sanbar and Bassel Al-Araj and Ghassan Kanafani. And if you're, say, a medievalist? That's no problem, either.

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- 11 **Stop Pandering to Customs of Civility:** You don't need to condemn " Hamas." You don't need to "affirm Israel's right to exist." You don't need to bang on about "democratic values." You don't need to be "nuanced." You need to defend the people suffering a genocide. Not a single one of them is asking for anything else. ("Who is my audience?" keep asking yourself. If the answer is anything other than "the dispossessed," then recalibrate your ethics and try again.)
  - 12 **Shun the Genocidaires:** Those rationalizing or cheering on the genocide are personae non grata from here on out. No co-authoring articles with them. No sitting together on conference panels. No buddy-buddy bullshit on the networking circuit. Sure, sometimes circumstance will force you onto the same committee or whatever, but, if the association is voluntary, then decline the opportunity and find colleagues who don't celebrate mass murder.

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13 **Speak:** [speak]

Or better still: **Listen.**

Steven Salaita, "So You're a Professor? Here's What You Can Do to Oppose Genocide," January 2024

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