

END THE GENOCIDE!

A DEMANDS LETTER

**PREAMBLE :**

We, the Trinity Students Coalition for Justice in Palestine, feel disheartened, neglected, and hurt in the face of Trinity Administration's response to genocide, colonization, and the rise of anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic sentiments in our world. You may see us but you really don't listen to us, even when we voice our concerns multiple times. We're tired of Trinity creating new ineffectual committees under its Climate Response Task force that act like fluff and never truly address student concerns. You do not need to create a committee to "identify and address gaps in support" for Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and SWANA students. We, the undersigned, present this clear list of demands of the steps Trinity must take if it is genuinely willing and interested in making Trinity a safer and more inclusive space. We urge the administration to institutionalize all our demands in a timely manner with continued transparency of timeline and processes.

**I. Call for a permanent ceasefire**

- Make a public statement that recognizes and condemns the current actions of the Israeli government in Gaza as genocidal
- Call on our elected representatives to support **Res. 786, Ceasefire Now Resolution**, and end the funding of this genocide.
- Make a public apology to current and past students, faculty, and staff for the flawed and biased nature of your response thus far.
- Ensure that faculty and students speaking out about the genocide in Palestine are safe and protected by the Trinity administration and network, both within our institution and from outside forces.
  - Commit to protecting students and supporting their pursuit of post-graduation opportunities in the face of potential doxxing and targeted harassment by organizations like Canary Mission.

**WHY?** : Trinity's ostensible commitment to pacifism is part of a larger dehumanizing, normative, and orientalist rhetoric that contributed to the hate that targeted our own community. This language was created and has been utilized as a tool of oppression. The only way to achieve security and justice is by actively fighting and condemning hate

rhetoric. This is not done through performative sympathies and hollow calls for peace. Calling for a ceasefire sends a message that Trinity stands against collective punishment and colonization, and truly values human life.

## **II. Increase structures for student support and academic inclusion**

- Hire an Imam to join the Spiritual and Religious Life Team as a Co-Associate Chaplain and serve as the advisor to MSA.
- Provide an appropriate space for MSA with a capacity to accommodate up to 100 students.
  - This could look like ensuring full usage of Crescent 76 or finding an alternate permanent location on campus.
- Reestablish, fund, and maintain the HOUSE OF PEACE (Arab student cultural house).
  - The House of Peace must be given equal opportunity and rights under the umbrella of MAC and OMA organizations
  - Recognize and fund Trinity's Students for Justice in Palestine chapter.
  - Increase funding for OMA to ensure equitable distribution of resources for all religious and cultural organizations on campus including MSA, orgs under the UMOJA Coalition, I-House, SASA, AASA, LVL, TrinSJP, etc.
- Create a student and faculty elected committee comprising of students, faculty, and staff to revise the guidelines on student-led campus events to ensure transparency, equity, and justice.
- Work with the curriculum committee to introduce more courses on Palestine.
  - In particular, highlight the history of Palestine, transnational connections between Palestinian resistance and other resistance movements.
  - Encourage the incorporation of relevant material about Palestine in existing courses.
- Hire more Palestinian faculty across all departments. This can look like:
  - Launching our own program, following the model of the [Threatened scholars integration initiative](#), to provide academics, scholars, artists,

teachers, etc, that are at risk in their communities the opportunity to join the Trinity community.

- Fostering new long-term relationships with Palestinian academic institutions.
  - This can include exchange or study away programs, annual bilateral faculty/student visits, visiting guest lectures, etc.
- Conduct annual *in-person* trainings on anti-racism that discuss Islamophobia and xenophobia, as well as timely trainings in response to incidents that impact the campus climate. This includes:
- Forming a student and faculty elected committee composed of students, faculty, and staff review statements, actions, and events created in response to campus climates.

**WHY?** : Trinity's ostensible commitment to pacifism and performative sensitivity for "all sides" in its actions during the last month and a half stems from a broader sense of its neglect and ignorance towards its international, especially Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim, students. Your neutrality is symptomatic of the years of insufficiency that has persisted within social and academic support/resources for such students on campus. It is imperative that the college rethink its stance of solidarity and empathy with the Palestinians to not just be a one-off message but a continuous goal that permeates within all sections of campus life, thus ensuring your students' safety and well being. You can do so by agreeing to these demands.

### **III. Commit to Long-Term Institutional Changes**

- Withdraw institutional support from companies and industries that perpetuate colonial and oppressive structures. This includes:
- Make fully transparent the sources and organizations that fund Trinity's endowment.
  - Create a financial transparency policy governing the acceptance of any restricted gifts in coordination with the Financial Affairs Committee, Committee on Institutional Advancement, SGA, and other relevant governance committees.
  - Agree to fulfill demands put forth by TrinDivests.
  - Agree to uphold the principles of the BDS movement, including:

- Boycott companies such as HP, Siemens, Caterpillar, AXA, Sabra, SodaStream, Puma, etc.
- Actively move away from Israeli produce within dining services on campus and cut ties with Chartwells.
- End all study away partnerships with Israeli universities.
- Uphold the values of academic freedom by limiting the influence that board members and funders have on educational and social programming on campus.
- Reduce policing on campus.
  - Sever ties with the Hartford Police Department, including de-establishing the Trinity Hartford Police Precinct.
  - Reduce the outsized presence Campus Safety has in and around cultural houses and their events.

**WHY?** : Trinity's complicity with the ongoing genocide rises from the insidious nature of its basic institutional structures and policies. Trinity must be aware of its role in upholding existing structures of oppression and develop new institutional practices to ensure it does not continue to do so. Being transparent about how Trinity makes its money is crucial because its endowment investments represent material support for specific industries and companies. We call for the institution to end its complicity in the occupation of Palestine, the military-industrial complex, and climate change. If Trinity is committed to equity and justice, it must begin by making these fundamental, structural changes.

BY

TRINITY STUDENTS COALITION FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE

additionally signed on by

- TRINITY STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE
- TRINITY STUDENTS AND FACULTY FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE
- MUSLIM STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- INTERNATIONAL HOUSE
- ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- LA VOZ LATINA
- TRINITY AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- SOUTH ASIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

- THE MILL
- IMANI BLACK STUDENT UNION
- MEN OF COLOR ALLIANCE
- TRINITY COLLEGE'S CHAPTER TEMPLE OF HIPHOP
- TRINITY COLLEGE'S BLACK WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
- CARIBBEAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
- ATHLETES OF COLOR COALITION
- TRINITY DIVESTMENT ORGANIZATION
- STUDENTS AGAINST MASS INCARCERATION