

I urge all elected leaders in the state of Maryland to firmly support the ceasefire resolution HJ0002 which has been introduced by Delegate Gabriel Acevero. Just in the last few months, over 30,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israel in this escalation of the genocide. This is a deepening of the over 75 year campaign of settler colonialism and ethnic cleansing against the Palestinian people. The United States government not only provides political and diplomatic support for Israel's war crimes, but our government is actively arming and funding the genocide, the starvation, and the forced displacement of the Palestinian people. Supporting an immediate and full ceasefire is the minimum we need from our elected leaders at this moment. We need a ceasefire, and we also need the United States government to immediately stop arming and funding Israel.

Democratic party leaders and elected officials in Maryland have failed us in opposing anti-Palestinian racism and repression. In Montgomery County, at least four teachers have been unjustly put on administrative leave for speech centering Palestinian humanity. Two years ago, the Montgomery County Council affirmed the anti-Palestinian IHRA definition which harmfully conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism. Democratic governor Wes Moore has stated he supports the anti-BDS executive order, which is in violation of the principles of free speech and is rooted in anti-Palestinian racism. Creating a false choice between fighting against antisemitism and fighting against anti-Palestinian racism and colonialism harms our collective struggles for justice. We must strive for a world where we find safety through solidarity. We need legislators in the Maryland General Assembly to show solidarity and promote safety for Palestinians in Gaza and across the world by supporting this ceasefire resolution today.

I urge you all to vote yes on HJ 2 because our complicity makes it our moral and legal obligation to protect and center Palestinian life.