

**HJ0002: Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine – Unfavorable
Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro Chapter
Shelley Cohen Fudge, Steering Committee Member**

**The DC Metro chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace strongly supports House Joint
Resolution 2 (HJ0002): Supporting a Long-Term Ceasefire in Israel and Palestine.**

We urge all members of the Maryland General Assembly's House Judiciary Committee to support this resolution.

Jewish Voice for Peace is a national organization that advocates for social justice, equality, and freedom for all people, with over 700,000 members and supporters nationwide. Like generations of Jewish American progressives before us, we work toward freedom and justice for Palestinians and Israelis.

Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro represents over 2000 JVP members and supporters who live in the DC metro area, including those who reside in Montgomery and Prince George Counties, as well as in the District of Columbia and northern Virginia.

We strongly condemn the war crime committed by Hamas on October 7th, 2023, when it attacked southern Israel and committed a war crime that killed 846 Israeli civilians and captured 240 Israeli hostages.

As of today, DAY 147 since October 7th, over 30,000 Gazans have died, including over 10,000 children, and the over 70,000 who have been injured by Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza since then. The entire Gaza strip has been devastated. The health system has been decimated; Palestinians in Gaza lack basics for life like water, food, and electricity. Leading human rights groups accuse Israel of using starvation as a deliberate war tactic. Eighty Five Palestinian journalists have been killed.

Millions of people across the globe are demanding that the death and destruction being perpetrated against thousands of innocent Gazan civilians must stop. Polls show the vast majority of Americans want Israel's merciless war on Gaza to stop. Over 70 cities across the US have passed ceasefire resolutions.

Palestinians have been denied their freedom and self-determination for 75 years under oppressive Israeli rule. A just and lasting peace between Palestinian and Israelis must include freedom, equality, and justice for the Palestinian people immediately.

It is time for the Maryland General Assembly to support a long-term ceasefire in Israel and Palestine. We respectfully urge you to pass HJ0002.

Shelley Cohen Fudge
Steering Committee Member
Jewish Voice for Peace – DC Metro