

My name is Jihad Edwan, a resident of Montgomery County, I firmly support House Joint Resolution 8, which specifically condemns anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia, along with antisemitism. This resolution is crucial for advocating for the rights and dignity of Palestinian and Muslim communities and promoting a society that values diversity, tolerance, and inclusion.

Maryland's foundation on principles of equality, justice, and respect for all individuals obliges us to actively reject discrimination and bigotry. Anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia are forms of discrimination that have historically subjected Palestinian and Muslim individuals and communities to harassment, violence, and marginalization based on their ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Fostering a culture of understanding, acceptance, and appreciation for ethnic and religious diversity is essential for building a just and harmonious society. Combatting anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia requires collective efforts from government, civil society, and communities to promote tolerance, inclusion, and education.

As a member of the Montgomery County community, I believe it is the responsibility of the State to condemn all forms of discrimination and protect the rights and safety of its residents, especially those who identify as Palestinian or Muslim. I stand in solidarity with the General Assembly of Maryland's commitment to promoting a state that values diversity and inclusion and supports legislation and policies that address and counteract anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia.

I urge the Maryland Congressional Delegation to take decisive action in support of this resolution. By working together, we can create an environment free from discrimination for all residents of Maryland, including Palestinians and Muslims, and foster a society that truly values and respects diversity.

Jihad Edwan