

Victoria Platform for Protection of Civilians in the War between Israel and Gaza

We, the undersigned individuals and organisations in Victoria, BC, on ləkʷəŋən and WSÁNEĆ territories, grief-stricken and horrified by the worsening humanitarian disaster daily unfolding in Gaza and Israel, have come together to support a call for equality, justice, and eventual peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians. At this moment in time, we stand united in our commitment to the following actions:

1. Immediate End to Killing of Civilians in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank

We unequivocally condemn the killing of civilians in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank and call for an immediate end to all acts of terror and to the disregard for civilian lives in bombing raids. The staggering loss of innocent lives, regardless of their nationality or identity, is an outrage that must be stopped immediately. All people in the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel deserve to live in safety and security.

2. Ceasefire for the Protection of Gazan Civilians

We urge all parties involved to agree to an immediate humanitarian ceasefire for the sake of Gazan civilians.

3. Safe Return of Israeli Hostages

We call for the safe return of all Israeli hostages. Every individual's life is of equal value.

4. Humanitarian Aid for Gazans

We demand the immediate and unobstructed provision of humanitarian aid to Gazan civilians. This aid must include essential supplies such as water, food, medicines, fuel for hospitals, and other necessities.

5. End to Israeli Occupation and Blockade

We call for an end to the long-running Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza. It is our belief that both Israelis and Palestinians have the right to live in safety and equality, and this can only be achieved through an internationally supported resolution of the conflict in which neither community dominates nor threatens the other.

6. Rejecting Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Identity-based Hatred

We firmly reject all forms of identity-based hatred, including Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and discrimination against any group. Our commitment to unity and cooperation extends to fostering an environment free from prejudice and working toward a more tolerant and egalitarian future.

We acknowledge the complexity and deeply rooted historical issues that have led to this ongoing conflict. However, we firmly reject the one-sidedness of the current discourse that posits the rights of both communities, Israelis and Palestinians, as mutually exclusive. We recognize that achieving lasting peace in the Middle East requires an inclusive and collaborative approach.

In standing together under this banner of unity, we affirm our commitment to promoting peace, justice, and respect for the rights and dignity of all individuals, regardless of their background, nationality, or beliefs. We invite individuals and organisations from all walks of life to join us in this collective endeavour to bring about necessary change and a more hopeful future for the region.