

March 19, 2024

As we write this, it has been more than 5 months since Israel began its [intensified] genocidal assault on the Palestinian people in occupied Gaza. In over 160 days, 2 million people have been displaced. Over 40,000 people have been killed - 70% of them women and children. 70,000 have been injured, and the few hospitals left functioning are targets of relentless bombing. Hundreds of journalists have been killed for showing the world the atrocities taking place in Gaza: denial of food, water, power, and medical aid.

For months, Palestinians in Gaza have filmed and shared their deaths, their grief, their fear, and also their precious moments of love, care, and joy. They have done this explicitly to resist a powerful propaganda campaign that has worked for over 75 years to deny or justify the ethnic cleansing and genocide carried out against them by the Israeli state. With each video, they call on the world to see them, hear them, and stand with them, yet too many remain silent, and those who speak up have been targeted and punished.

On January 26th, 2024, the International Court of Justice, responding to the South African charges that Israel is committing genocide, called on Israel to "prevent genocide." Since then, Israel has begun [the bombardment of Rafah](#), the last safe place for Palestinians, a city of only 64 square kilometers where over a million Palestinians are currently trapped

The response of the Western world has not just been to uphold colonial violence and white supremacy, the response itself has been the very embodiment of colonial violence and white supremacy. We see it in our own 'country,' so-called Canada, whose leaders speak of truth and reconciliation, while Indigenous peoples are criminalized and imprisoned, removed from their communities and culture, denied clean water and access to the land, and murdered. Our oppression is connected, and so is our liberation.

Righting Relations Canada is an organization committed to social change, anti-racism, anti-oppression, and decolonization through adult education. In our very name, we commit to right relations with Indigenous peoples who have been subjected to settler-colonial violence. We also seek to right relations with the Earth, which has been and continues to be subjected to exploitation. As educators, we seek to right relations by bringing communities across Turtle Island together through popular education, de- and anti-colonization, and approaches that challenge Eurocentric white supremacist hierarchies and binaries.

Our network brings together many voices: voices of people Indigenous to Turtle Island, who continue to fight against acts of individual and institutional violence, dehumanization, and genocide; voices of people who have been displaced and whose lives have been forever changed by colonial violence in Haiti, Afghanistan, Colombia, Chile, Libya, the Philippines, and many other lands; voices of European settlers who see their privilege and their complicity in colonialism and white supremacy and are committed to standing with those who are targeted and marginalized within those systems.

Our very existence as an organization is based on the consequences of settler-colonial violence, and we must also acknowledge the ways in which that violence is neither historical nor limited to Turtle Island. It is global and ongoing. If we refuse to accept and ignore settler-colonial violence here, we cannot accept or ignore the ongoing violence, apartheid, and attempted genocide of the Palestinian people.

We seek to ground our work in the radical power of love: love, we say, is what binds us. How can we urge love without liberation? We hear calls for peace and ask ourselves, peace for whom? We see calls for an end to violence, and again, we ask, violence for whom and by whom? Peace *without* justice is an illusion.

Our anti-oppression cannot be *variable*. Our solidarity cannot be *conditional*. Within the privilege of this place called Canada, Righting Relations stands by the Palestinian people and calls for an immediate ceasefire and the liberation of occupied Palestine. We call on our community in Righting Relations, and on all of our communities working towards social justice, to commit to the following as individuals and/or as organizations:

- Bridge cultures within and across communities by building solidarity. Learn about Palestinian culture, celebrate it, and find connections with your own. If you can, consider fasting (from food, liquids or both from sunrise to sunset, or even for a half-day) in solidarity with those taking part in Ramadan this month, or sponsoring/co-hosting/joining an Iftar (break of fast meal) or Eid community feast. [Find out more about solidarity fasting here.](#)
- Join local actions in a way that best suits your circumstances. If you can, join marches or vigils, email and/or call your [local MP](#) and other representatives, and connect with local activist circles to offer your support.
- Find and participate in teach-ins, workshops, panel discussions, or other educational opportunities. Share what you learn with your friends, colleagues, and family.
- Support (financially or through in-kind donations) those that have been leading direct action in your local community, or organizations like [Palestinian Youth Movement](#) (PYM); University of Waterloo Voices for Palestine (UWVFP); [Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East](#) (CJPME), etc.
- Listen to Palestinians: [donate e-sims](#), support grassroots initiatives providing relief on the ground like [Care For Gaza](#), and above all **keep talking about Gaza**.

A small group of folks via 'the Falastine Collective Circle' have committed to do our part in raising awareness through education and teach-in opportunities for our Decolonial, heart-led network to engage in this important process of learning and unlearn and explore heart-led direction action. The collective will host additional Circles and co-create spaces for our community members who need them. If you wish to learn more please get in touch with us at rightingrelations.org/contact-us

In and with Solidarity,

The Falastine Collective Circle