

February 19, 2024
M24-004

To: SPEEA Council Members
From: **SPEEA Legislative and Public affairs Committee (L&PA)**
Subject: **PRE-SUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS: Support Cease Fire in Hamas-Israel War**

Background

The Israel-Hamas war is the longest, bloodiest, and most destructive conflict between two bitter enemies. The fighting erupted on October 7th when Hamas carried out an attack in southern Israel that resulted in at least 790 civilians killed and 1,500 wounded making it the deadliest attack in Israel in decades.

Israel invaded the Gaza Strip after the October 7th attack by Hamas fighters. As of 15 January, it is estimated that over 24,000 people (23,469 Palestinian and 1,200 Israeli) have been killed in this Israel–Hamas war, including 82 journalists (75 Palestinian, 4 Israeli and 3 Lebanese) and over 136 UNRWA aid workers.

Most of the Palestinian civilians killed in Gaza are from indiscriminate weapons from Israel.

After 75 years of ongoing hostilities, it is past time for the world to step in and end this conflict.

AFL-CIO Position

The AFL-CIO condemns the attacks by Hamas on October 7th and calls for a negotiated cease-fire in Gaza—including the immediate release of all hostages and provision of desperately needed shelter, food, medicine and other humanitarian assistance to Gazans—and reaffirms our support of a two-state solution for long-term peace and security.

SPEEA L&PA Committee Recommendation

The SPEEA Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommends passage of this motion.

MOTION

It is moved that:

The SPEEA Council calls upon the President and Congress to support:

An immediate ceasefire:

We grieve each and every life lost. An immediate ceasefire will reduce more loss of life.

Release of All Hostages:

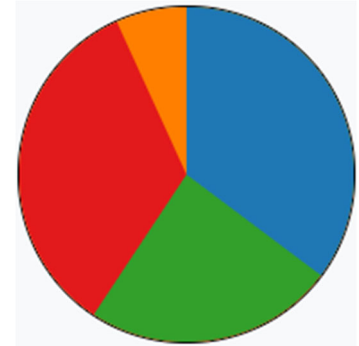
Reunify families and heal communities in Palestine and Israel.

Rejection of Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism, Hate, and Harassment:

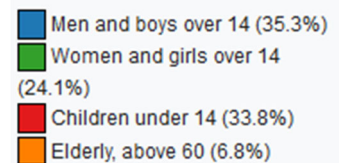
An injury to one is an injury to all. Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and hate have no place in our workplaces or in our communities.

Preserve and Protect Infrastructure and Distribute Humanitarian Aid:

All people should have access to quality public services, including clean water, wastewater, power, electricity, housing, and health care.



Breakdown of deaths by age and gender (analysis by professors Michael Spagat and Daniel Silverman)^[44]



Prior to council action (voting) on any proposal for legislative or public affairs, the SPEEA Council’s Legislative & Public Affairs Committee shall investigate and produce both pro and con statements and a majority committee recommendation.

Passage or adoption of any legislative or public issues proposal shall be by published ballot and require: Total affirmative vote must be a majority of all votes cast by Council members in attendance.

Pro's

- A ceasefire will
 - Reduce needless civilian Palestinian deaths.
 - Increase humanitarian assistance to flow into Palestine.

Con's

A ceasefire will not

- Demilitarize the Gaza Strip
- Stop the diversion of humanitarian aid and materials

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