



*A Union of Professionals*

**AFT Washington**  
AFL-CIO

## **AFT Washington Statement on the war in Gaza**

As extreme acts of violence and terror continue to happen across the world, we recognize Jewish and Muslim communities are facing hate, vulnerability and their own feelings of shock, grief, and devastation. The American Federation of Teachers, Washington, acknowledges that this is a time where it is impossible to remain silent **and that the violence must stop in order to achieve peace**. As an anti-racist union, we advocate that our membership supports our Jewish and Muslim members; we stand against any form of hate, oppression, racism, discrimination, and bias; and we act in solidarity with refugees, immigrants, and all people who are affected by global conflict.

Educational institutions are a place where robust debate of ideas must be respected, free from intimidation, violence, and the threat of violence. These debates are difficult—often painful—yet our voices in support of peace, safety, and security need to be heard. We call for an end to all violence, the freeing of all hostages, and the honoring of the inherent dignity of all human beings.

AFT Washington stands in solidarity with our membership, our colleagues, and our students, and encourages you to connect with your community for support if needed. In addition to your campus and local resources, the following links may provide assistance in the days ahead:

- AFT's Trauma Counseling benefit ([Trauma Counseling Programs and Services | American Federation of Teachers \(aft.org\)](#))
- [Condemning Hate and Affirming Freedom of Speech on Campus | American Federation of Teachers](#)
- [Washington State Employees Assistance Program](#) at 1-877-313-4455
- [US Department of Education Statement on Discrimination and Harassment](#)
- ["Dear Colleague"](#) letter from the US Dept of Education, Office of Civil Rights