

Resolution submitted by the NLG Palestine Subcommittee

Proposed by: Charlotte Kates, charlotte.kates@gmail.com

**EMERGENCY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIAN LIBERATION AND
BERKELEY LAW STUDENTS CONFRONTING REPRESSION**

Whereas the National Lawyers Guild is committed to supporting the self-determination, rights, and liberation of the Palestinian people and their land; and

Whereas the NLG has adopted multiple resolutions in support of Palestinian liberation, including resolutions adopting boycott, divestment, and sanctions as a tactic of supporting the Palestinian struggle; and

Whereas nine student organizations at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, have adopted resolutions, policies, and/or bylaws not to invite speakers who have expressed and continue to hold views or who host, sponsor, or promote events in support of Zionism, the apartheid state of Israel, and the occupation of Palestine; and

Whereas the student organizations have faced attacks in the media, student leaders have been put at risk due to publication of their personal information, including email accounts, on sites like Canary Mission and threatened with being denied jobs or even admission to the bar because of their political commitment to Palestinian liberation and

Whereas the student leaders are facing public harassment, including racial slurs, claims that the students are white supremacists, trucks parked outside of the law school equating the students with Nazi supporters, and threats that additional provocative trucks with their faces plastered onto them will be parked outside of their school; and

Whereas the student organizations include Berkeley Law Students for Justice in Palestine, Womxn of Color Collective, Law Students of African Descent, Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and Queer Caucus; and

Whereas this policy has been egregiously misrepresented as prohibiting the participation, involvement, or public speeches by Jewish people, when it is a political position in support of Palestinian liberation that applies equally to speakers of all religious and ethnic backgrounds; and

Whereas the Berkeley Law administration has ignored the threats against the students and, in doing so has further perpetuated misinformation regarding the student policy; and

Whereas Berkeley Law's Dean, Erwin Chemerinsky, published an op-ed threatening to sanction students for "excluding a speaker on account of...holding particular views about Israel, ;and

Whereas there is no requirement under either Berkeley Law's policies nor the First Amendment for independent student groups to invite speakers who oppose Palestinian liberation or any other political viewpoint; and

Whereas; the National Lawyers Guild supports the student organizations at UC Berkeley and views the policy they passed as a principled position;

Therefore, be it resolved that the National Lawyers Guild condemns the actions of external Israel-affiliated groups as well as the Berkeley Law administration, including Dean Chemerinsky, in seeking to undermine and punish the students' unequivocal support for Palestinian liberation and opposition to apartheid and its underlying racist ideology, and, in so doing, proscribing expression of a valid political viewpoint in contravention of the First Amendment; and views these actions as antithetical to the principles of the NLG, and

Be it further resolved that the National Lawyers Guild reiterates that it is committed to divesting funds from and boycotting institutions, organizations, and any entity that participates in or is directly/indirectly complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories and/or supports the actions of the apartheid state of Israel, as well as supporting sanctions against it and

Be it further resolved that in furtherance of that commitment, NLG will not invite speakers who have expressed and continue to hold views or who host, sponsor, or promote events in support of Zionism, the apartheid state of Israel, and the occupation of Palestine; and

Be it finally resolved that NLG encourages NLG ~~local and~~ student chapters and other NLG affiliated organizations to adopt this resolution or a related bylaw as part of their local governance and to attend, host, and support events promoting Palestinian liberation on their campuses.

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Submitted October 21, 2022 as an emergency resolution by the NLG Palestine Subcommittee. The events discussed here have become a campus and media issue in late September to October 2022.

Implementation by Palestine Subcommittee, and by the actions of the organizers of official NLG events, in adhering to the principles above. The Palestine Subcommittee has consented to distribute this information and share it with NLG chapters who may organize events and otherwise take action to implement this resolution.