

University of Windsor

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July 13, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada 80 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The University of Windsor is a community of diverse views. The attacks on Israel on October 7 and the destructive war in Gaza and resulting humanitarian crisis have and continue to traumatize our University community, in particular, those with a direct connection to Palestine and Israel and our Jewish and Muslim students.

We write to you today, on behalf of the University of Windsor, to call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, and for the release of all hostages as outlined in the Prime Minister's statement of June 6. We believe that to be the first step to what we hope will one day be a lasting peace in the Middle East and, what we hope to be the beginning of the difficult work of healing the trauma and tension within our University community.

The University supports Canada's long-standing position that the Palestinian people have a right to self-determination; Israel has a right to exist; that protection of civilians is paramount; that rapid, safe and unimpeded access for humanitarian relief must be provided; and the need for assistance has never been greater. The University encourages the Government of Canada to be generous in its humanitarian aid to enable Gaza to engage in reconstruction.

The University of Windsor condemns all forms of identity-based violence and discrimination, including Islamophobia and antisemitism. The University will be including antisemitism and anti-Palestinian discrimination and racism as parts of its Anti-Racism Policy and Training strategies and encourages the Government of Canada to do the same in future iterations of its Anti-Racism-Strategy. We are also committed to ensuring

that our programming reinforces and supports the ability and rights of all members of our communities to advocate and speak from their diverse perspectives, and to creating opportunities for members from diverse communities to engage in the difficult conversations needed to foster mutual understanding.

Sent on behalf of the University of Windsor.