



Collaborating with the Southeast Portland community to build informed, engaged, and participatory neighborhoods that support our social and ecological well-being since 1968.

January 9th, 2024

Office of Equity and Human Rights
Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Rubio

Commissioner Mapps
Commissioner Ryan
Commissioner Gonzalez

To whom it concerns:

We write to you in solidarity, as a civic engagement non-profit organization that advocates for social and ecological well-being, with Palestinian and Jewish communities in Portland and around the globe calling for a ceasefire in Gaza.

In recent years, City Council has released statements of solidarity with [Ukrainian](#) and [Afghan](#) communities experiencing war, violence, and displacement. As a sanctuary city, Portland strives to welcome immigrants and refugees who seek to build community here. We have noticed that the City has yet to issue any public statements on Gaza even as [antisemitism](#), [Islamophobia](#), and [anti-Arab racism](#) are increasing.

We urge you, as City of Portland leadership, to take action and offer the following suggestions for consideration:

1. [Join Senator Merkley](#) and [other US cities](#) in calling for a ceasefire.
2. Reiterate the City's status as a sanctuary city for those fleeing violence, experiencing displacement, and seeking refuge.
3. Urge the continued increase of humanitarian aid, fuel to hospitals, and permanent restoration of water to Gaza.
4. Condemn genocide, human rights violations, antisemitism, and Islamophobia whenever and wherever they occur.

We look forward to the City of Portland taking meaningful, informed action.

Thank you for your consideration,

SE Uplift Board of Directors

Uplifting community advocacy since 1968.