



CRFAIR Statement on Palestine

CRFAIR, the Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable, the coordinating body of the Good Food Network is issuing a statement to express our deep concern and condemnation regarding credible reports of genocide perpetrated by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian People. As an organization we stand firmly in naming and resisting oppression. We recognize that this crisis in Palestine is a continuation of ongoing issues of colonization experienced globally and here in Canada. Our values as an organization are to work towards transformative change for justice and liberation.

We believe that a just and sustainable food system is inherently linked to broader issues of peace and social justice. The people of Palestine have historically faced food insecurity due to a combination of factors, including access restrictions, blockades, economic instability, water scarcity, conflict-induced displacement, and a dependency on humanitarian aid. Ongoing political conflicts and security measures limit the movement of goods and people, impacting food availability and distribution. High unemployment rates and poverty levels further hinder families' ability to afford a nutritious diet, while water scarcity and conflict-related displacement disrupt agricultural and food gathering practices, contributing to the overall challenge of food security in the region. The current actions of the Israeli government have exacerbated these issues, deepening them into a humanitarian crisis with military campaigns and blockades to humanitarian aid that are not only resulting in vast hunger but are directly harming and killing the citizens of Palestine.

This crisis is emblematic of a deep history of expressions of power and oppression that continue both locally and globally, as an organization it is intrinsic to our values that we continue to look inward to our organizational culture and practices and also outward to speak for justice and support those deeply impacted by injustice, centering their voices and perspectives. We stand with other organizations, such as the Circle on Philanthropy and their statement "to name, resist, and transform dominant and oppressive systems of power toward those focused on justice and liberation" and draw parallels between the crisis in Palestine and ongoing issues of colonization in Canada, aligning with our commitment to transformative change.

This statement is more than an expression of our concern, it is a call to action to members of our Network, to citizens, the Canadian government and the international community to take action against the atrocities. We are responding from our conscience and also to a call for action from the Palestinian people and their allies to join the voices and to:

- Raise your awareness about the genocide in Palestine and join in the calls for action
- Call for an immediate ceasefire and all actions that contribute to the genocide
- Allow for independent investigation and hold those accountable for their actions
- Contribute to humanitarian aid efforts and organizations who are working to support justice.

CRFAIR is committing to this statement, to raising awareness in our organization, through our networks and with our partners. We will continue to examine our own practices and work going forward, add our voice, lift up the voices of those that need our support to identify and grow new transformative relationships for peace and justice.

In closing, we encourage you to learn more from other groups and voices directly impacted by this ongoing violence, lift up their message, reflect on the broader systems of injustice at play, globally and here in our own communities, and take transformative action.

Signed,

CAPITAL REGION FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INITIATIVES ROUNDTABLE (CRFAIR)

