



May 24, 2024

## Letter to UofT Administration - Re: Notice to Student Encampment

The Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students (APUS), University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union (UTGSU), University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union (UTMSU) and Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU), who represent over 61,000 students across the University of Toronto stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination. We reaffirm our solidarity with the student encampment who have mobilized in support of Palestinians experiencing an ongoing genocide, occupation and settler-colonialism with direct demands. As students' unions within the global student movement, we unequivocally stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples from Turtle Island to Palestine.

Students have been clear with their demands. The University must divest from all direct and indirect financial investments that sustain Israeli apartheid, occupation and its illegal settlement of Palestine including any manufacturing and sales of military weaponry in the ongoing genocide in Gaza. We urge the administration to meaningfully respond to calls to action and immediately:

1. Disclose all investments held in endowments, short-term working capital assets, and other financial holdings of the university hereafter;
2. Divest the university's endowment, capital assets, and other financial holdings from all direct and indirect investments that sustain Israeli apartheid, occupation and illegal settlement of Palestine;
3. Terminate and cut ties to all partnerships with Israeli academic institutions that either
  - a. Operate in settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, or;
  - b. Support or sustain the apartheid policies of the state of Israel and its ongoing genocide in Gaza.

We are disappointed and frustrated by the university's response to the demands of students. We believe that the university administration has an obligation to sincerely engage in negotiations with students. Over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 16,000 children and thousands of students. The university can not ignore students demands to not use our tuition fees to fund and support a genocide nor can they use

convocation as an excuse to dismantle the encampment. An institution that prides itself on its commitment to academic freedom cannot be the same institution that aids the occupation in the Scholasticide happening in Gaza right now. With zero universities left in Gaza, they have no chance to experience academic freedom. The University of Toronto has directly aided in the complete annihilation of the universities and academic system of Gaza by not terminating all partnerships with Israeli universities and by not divesting from Israeli arms manufacturers.

As a result of the recent announcements made by President Gertler to the students, we fear an escalation of the violence by the institution and police on students similar to other university campuses when their administration moved to dismantle encampments and student organizing and silencing student voices who continue to hold the university administration accountable. We urge that the administration not deploy any attacks on students and to not put students in further danger by violently attacking students through the police.

We continue to express our support for the calls of students to the administration to take action and ensure that they divest from all forms of financial investments that sustain Israeli apartheid, occupation and its illegal settlement of Palestine. We further urge the university to denounce the genocide of the Palestinian people and condemn any use of state violence and/or scare tactics to intimidate students, faculty, staff and community members.

The University of Toronto was one of the last universities to divest from apartheid in South Africa. We encourage the administration to seriously engage with the demands of the students and student organizers, and learn from their past mistakes when considering these demands. We demand that the University invest in our future and not on genocide and war.

The People's circle for Palestine will continue until student demands are met. Disclose, Divest, we will not stop, we will not rest.