



May 28, 2021

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Cecily Myart-Cruz, President  
United Teachers of Los Angeles

VIA EMAIL: [UTLAPresident@utla.net](mailto:UTLAPresident@utla.net)

Dear President Myart-Cruz,

We write to you today, concerned about reports from community members, including UTLA members and LAUSD parents, that UTLA is considering a resolution asking the United States to end all aid to Israel and taking an extremely one-sided view of the conflict between Israel and Hamas. The resolution makes problematic claims and biased assumptions, including blaming the recent outbreak of violence solely on Israel.

Founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of antisemitism and bigotry, ADL has now become a leading anti-hate organization. As we strive to fulfill our founding mission “to secure justice and fair treatment to all,” our goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination, or hate.

ADL is concerned that the proposed resolution may isolate Jewish and non-Jewish students and staff who are supportive of the state of Israel, and for whom a connection to Israel is part of their Jewish identity and will have an impact on school campus climate.

Especially in light of the recent spike in [antisemitic incidents](#) across the world, including here in [Los Angeles](#), we would hope that the leaders and membership of a body tasked with educating all children in our public school community would not take such a potentially divisive stance. ADL is not against students and their teachers learning about current events in the Middle East; however, we expect that it should be done in a contextual and age-appropriate manner.

Now is the time for UTLA to use your voice to speak out and offer support to all community members who may be affected by the recent conflict in Israel and Gaza, and notably your Jewish colleagues, students, friends and neighbors who are fearful of the recent rise in antisemitic acts and rhetoric.

As always, ADL stands at the ready to be a resource for school administrators, teachers and students by fostering awareness and providing the proper tools to navigate these challenging situations. We look forward to engaging with you on this issue and to continuing our work toward a more just and equitable world.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey I. Abrams  
Regional Director  
ADL Los Angeles

CC: Alex Caputo-Pearl, UTLA NEA Vice President ([acaputopearl@utla.net](mailto:acaputopearl@utla.net))