

**Senate Bill**

**Act Number: 2023-05**

**23 October 2023**

**Introduced by: Senator Sara Hosbach, Senator Amanda Shortt, HGS Senator Stephen Raymond, and Senator Patricia Kalaidjian**

**Proposed by: Zachary Glaser, Isabella Apgar, Senator Sara Hosbach, Senator Amanda Shortt, HGS Senator Stephen Raymond, and Senator Patricia Kalaidjian**

**Whereas:** The Student Government Association (SGA) of Ramapo College of New Jersey is the liaison body to the Faculty, Staff, Administration, the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Governors of Ramapo College of New Jersey;

**Whereas:** The Ramapo College mission statement prioritizes global awareness through diversity, inclusiveness, sustainability, and community engagement;

**Whereas:** The SGA represents the ideals of Ramapo College of New Jersey as expressed in the association's mission statement;

**Whereas:** SGA acknowledges the importance of addressing and engaging with educated student-led discussions on international issues;

**Whereas:** The SGA, as a nonpartisan organization, recognizes the importance of freedom of religion and expression;

**Whereas:** The conflict between Israel, Palestine, and neighboring regions has persisted for decades;

**Whereas:** Many Ramapo College students have personal connections to the conflict or possess strong sentiments about the causes;

**Whereas:** In 1987, the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Hamas) was established with the goal of expanding the Islamic Palestinian state and later designated as a [Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States](#) on October 8, 1997 based on the destructive approach of the group;

**Whereas:** Gaza, a densely populated strip of territory located along the Mediterranean Sea, has been a site of historical and religious contention for various groups leading to recent events of destruction, violence, and a loss of life;

**Whereas:** On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an unexpected attack against Israel, resulting in injuries and the loss of lives to thousands according to current reports;

**Whereas:** Israel has declared war against Hamas on October 7, 2023;

**Whereas:** A hospital in Gaza City packed with Palestinians seeking refuge was bombed on October 17, killing hundreds [according to recent reports](#). There is uncertainty regarding the origin of the attack;

**Whereas:** Since declaring war, Israel thus far has conducted airstrikes in Gaza, the West Bank, and Syria;

**Whereas:** The Gaza Strip is experiencing a humanitarian crisis as food, water, and electricity have been cut off by Israel to the region. Many hospitals and care units are also lacking sufficient medical supplies;

**Whereas:** The violence in the Middle East has given rise to extremist acts that have resulted in tragic fatalities of civilians, including children, and soldiers in both Israel and Palestine. Fatalities have further risen due to the kidnapping of hostages by Hamas, including children, and their consequential brutal deaths;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA will observe a moment of silence at an upcoming General Meeting to honor the lives lost during the ongoing war and will recognize the destruction being endured in the affected countries. The SGA will work with the necessary departments to plan appropriate events, including a plausible vigil or faculty-led discussions, and informative sessions;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** Through a humanitarian lens, the SGA shall express its solidarity with the civilians of Israel, Palestine, and surrounding areas that have been negatively impacted by the attacks. This will be done through the SGA website, social media, and other proper forms of communication;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The SGA will correspond with other on-campus organizations to acknowledge the lives lost and destruction in Israel and Palestine. Through these efforts, such organizations will offer resources and educational initiatives in relation to the attacks. These on-campus organizations include, but are not limited to: the Chabad Club, Hillel Club, Gross Center for Holocaust Genocide Studies, Center for Civic Engagement (CCEC), and Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and



## STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Compliance (EDIC). These resources and educational tools will be promoted on the SGA social media platforms and website;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** The members of the SGA will make an effort to stay informed on the conflict through reputable sources in order to foster open and constructive discussion forums and encourage fellow Ramapo College students to do the same.

*Shannon DeCicco*

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**Shannon Decicco**  
**President '23 - '24**

*Madison Weeks*

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**Madison Weeks**  
**Senate President '23 - '24**