

April 2, 2025

Dear President Espy and Board of Governors,

We are leaders of faith and conscience in Detroit coming together to express our grave concerns about the ways that university administrations all over the US have maligned and intimidated students protesting the genocide in Gaza over the past year.

We have been increasingly alarmed watching this repression ramp-up in recent weeks. International students in the US have been detained by plain clothes officers without a warrant, whisked away in unmarked vehicles.

We are horrified to hear politicians and cabinet members dismiss these students as “antisemitic” and “terrorist-sympathizers.” Last week, the US Secretary of State called these students “lunatics.” He said that he had a list of more than 300 international students that the administration will be targeting.

We are outraged because we know that this violent, unconstitutional crack-down has absolutely nothing to do with protecting the safety of Jewish college students, or fighting terrorism. We know that this has everything to do with protecting and serving oil companies, weapons manufacturers and the Israel lobby.

We are troubled by the omnipresent police presence at Wayne State and that these officers have intimidated, arrested and roughed-up students peacefully protesting what several human rights organizations have called “a genocide.”

We demand that you use your power to protect and serve the free speech and safety of *every* student at Wayne State University, regardless of where they were born, how they worship, or who they support politically.

We demand that you listen to the brilliant and brave students who have consistently and creatively aired their concerns over WSU’s stubborn insistence on investing in corporations that profit off the ongoing occupation and genocide in Palestine.

We demand that you make it clear that the campus of Wayne State University will be an ICE-free sanctuary.

In these treacherous times, this country needs real leadership, not cowardly complicity with federal dictates that are constitutionally dubious.

The words in this letter were not generated by AI. They come from our hearts and our minds, in the service of love, compassion, justice, truth and humility.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Ben Adams**

**Lindsay Airey, LMFT**  
Christians for a Free Palestine

**Tommy Airey**  
Director, RadicalDiscipleship.net

**Rabbi Alana Alpert**  
Congregation T'chayah

**Marianne Arbogast**  
Manna Meal Soup Kitchen

**Huwaida Arraf**

**Adam Barrett**  
Detroitters For Tax Justice  
Moratorium Now Coalition

**Kateri Boucher**  
Ministries Coordinator, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Detroit

**Kwan Ung Bill Boyle**  
Dharma Teacher

**Julie Brock**  
Minister, First Unitarian Universalist Church, Detroit

**Robert Chapman**  
WSU Alumni

**Cass Charette**  
Building Beloved Community Sangha

**Deborah Choly**  
WSU Law Alumni

**Matthew Clark**  
WSU Law Alumni

**Rose Crowley**

**Cait De Mott Grady**  
WSU Law School Alumni  
Public Defender

**Tony Eggert**  
WSU Alumni

**Michigan Coalition for Human Rights**

**Naim Edwards**

**Denise Griebler**  
Ordained Minister, United Church of Christ

**Elena Herrada**  
Distinguished Alumni WSU  
Criminal Justice, Chicano Boricua Studies, 1980  
MA Industrial Relations, 1992

**Zaynah Jadallah**

**Yvonne Jones**  
WSU Alumni

**Father Tom Lumpkin**

**Heather McNeilly**

**Dr. Lily Mendoza**

**Sharon Monday**  
Building Beloved Community Sangha

**Dr. Ismail Noor**

**Katie Page**  
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**Dr. James W. Perkinson**  
Professor of Social Ethics, Ecumenical Theological Seminary

**Gail Presbey**

**Joe Reilly**

Dharma Teacher in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh  
Building Beloved Community Sangha

**Lulu Schwarz**

**Lisa Sinnett**

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**Cynthia Tobias**

WSU Nursing School Alumni

**WSU Alumni for Palestine**

**Daniel Wylie-Eggert**

**Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellermann**

**John Zettner**

*Organizations that are not bolded are listed for identification purposes only.*