

Resolutions for the AHA Business Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 5, 5:15-7:30 pm in the Mercury Ballroom, 3rd floor NY Hilton

Two working groups of Historians for Peace and Democracy (H-PAD) have gathered the required number of signatures to place their proposed resolutions on the agenda of the AHA's annual business meeting, 5:15-7:30 Sunday, January 5. The business meeting, in the Mercury Ballroom on the third floor of the New York Hilton, is open to all current members of the AHA.

From H-PAD's Immigration Working Group:

Resolution Condemning Affiliations between ICE and Higher Education

In light of the serious and systematic violation of human rights committed by both the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) in recent years—and considering their presence on U.S. university campuses for recruitment and research purposes—we resolve the following:

Whereas several US universities have contracts with, and host recruitment for, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP);

Whereas ICE and USBP have been cited for numerous human rights abuses at the border and in detention facilities;

Whereas university contracts with ICE and USBP legitimate both agencies as a branch of government and potential employers;

Be it resolved that the AHA urge university faculty, staff and administrators to sever existing ties and forgo future contracts with ICE and USBP;

Be it further resolved that the AHA support sanctuary movements on campuses that seek to protect immigrant students and workers.

From H-PAD's Palestine Working Group:

RESOLUTION on PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION in PALESTINE-ISRAEL

WHEREAS members of the historical profession support the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including universal access to higher education; and

WHEREAS Israel violates its obligation to these principles by refusing to allow students from Gaza to travel in order to pursue higher education abroad, and even at West Bank universities; and

WHEREAS members of the historical profession believe that the free exchange of ideas is facilitated by teaching, delivering lectures and participating in conferences; and

WHEREAS Israel arbitrarily denies entry to foreign nationals, including U.S. citizens, who seek to lecture, teach and attend conferences at Palestinian universities, denying both faculty and students the rich experience enjoyed by their peers at other universities worldwide; and

WHEREAS, members of the historical profession are dedicated to the documentation of human experience through the collection and preservation of historical information; and

WHEREAS, the Israeli Defense Forces bombed the Islamic University in Gaza which houses the Oral History Center on August 2, 2014;

THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the AHA condemns the acts of violence and intimidation by the State of Israel against Palestinian researchers and their archival collections, acts which can destroy Palestinians' sense of historical identity as well as the historical record itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AHA calls for an immediate halt to Israel's policy of denying entry to foreign nationals seeking to promote educational development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AHA calls on Israel to provide free access for Palestinian faculty and students alike to pursue their education wherever they choose.

2. RESOLUTION on ACADEMIC FREEDOM of U.S. CITIZENS VISITING ISRAEL and PALESTINE

WHEREAS members of the historical profession are committed to the principles of academic freedom, whose curtailment severely compromises education; and

WHEREAS members of the historical profession believe that the free exchange of ideas is facilitated by teaching, delivering lectures and participating in conferences; and

WHEREAS Israel arbitrarily limits the entry of foreign nationals who seek to lecture, teach and attend conferences at Palestinian universities, denying both faculty and students the rich experience enjoyed by their peers at Israeli universities and other universities around the world;

THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the AHA calls for an immediate halt to Israel's policy of denying entry to foreign nationals seeking to promote educational development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AHA demands that the U.S. Department of State honor the academic freedom of U.S. citizens by contesting Israel's denials of entry of U.S. academics who have been invited to teach, confer, or do research at Palestinian universities.