

Historians

FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

www.historiansforpeace.org

The mission of Historians for Peace and Democracy (H-PAD) is to stand up for peace and diplomacy internationally, and for democracy and human rights at home. To these ends, we are dedicated to fostering education on campuses and in communities, encouraging activism, and facilitating networking with organizations working for peace and justice.

NEWSLETTER #16, MAY 2025



HPAD members at the April 17th National Day of Action, Rally for the Right to Learn: Hands off Our Students! Hands off Higher Ed!

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Legislative Updates:

US Senators Stay Silent While Gaza Starves! Call Them Now! 202-224-3121

After 60 plus days of Israel's blockade of Gaza, children are starving to death, while our elected politicians are mute. See this article by Bernie Sanders: ["Why is Congress Silent While Gaza Starves."](#)

Substantial majorities of US Senators have repeatedly voted to fund the Israeli military, but they have been silent about Israel's interference with food, water, and medical supplies for Gaza. Most Democrats seem to assume that their anti-Trump stand on other issues is sufficient.

It isn't! They need to hear from constituents that their silence is inexcusable. Innocent civilians are dying in Gaza every day.

Please call your Senators today, and demand that they speak up now against Israel's denial of humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The number of phone calls matters. Please share this message with family and friends. And let us know if you have made the calls.

Use the Congressional Switchboard 202-224-3121.

Please let us know that you have called!

Legislative Coordinators:

Prasannan Parthasarathi Prasannan.parthasarathi@bc.edu

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Antisemitism Awareness Act Coming Up Now! 44 US Senators Co-Sponsoring

Call on your representatives to oppose S.558 Antisemitism Awareness Act. This legislation would impose the definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) as the criterion for "the enforcement of Federal anti-discrimination laws concerning education programs or activities."

According to the broad IHRA definition, antisemitism can involve criticisms of the state of Israel, claims that the existence of the state of Israel "is a racist endeavor," or "Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation."

If enacted and applied, this bill is a direct threat to academic freedom in schools and universities, as well as to non-profits, which do educational work. At the present time, this legislation has 44 co-sponsors in the Senate.

Please call their offices today and let them know you object to this repressive legislation, which is as dangerous as Donald Trump's attacks on higher education (**check the list via the link below and see whether or not your Senators are co-sponsoring**). In either case, these Senators need to hear from constituents, that this legislation is completely unacceptable, designed to stifle criticism of Israel and US policy.

[S.558 Antisemitism Awareness Act Text](#)

[S.558 Antisemitism Awareness Act co-sponsors.](#)

[Vote to Democratize the AHA!](#)

Below are the AHA candidates that HPAD endorses. If you are an AHA member we encourage you to vote for them between **June 1-July 15**. To join the [AHA click here](#).

HPAD Endorsed Candidates by Petition:

- **President-elect [Annelise Orleck](#)**

Dartmouth College (professor; 20th-century US politics, labor, immigration, women, social movements, race and migration)



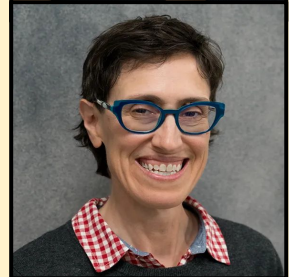
- **Vice President Professional Division [Sherene Seikaly](#)**

University of California, Santa Barbara (associate professor; modern Middle Eastern capitalism, consumption, and development)



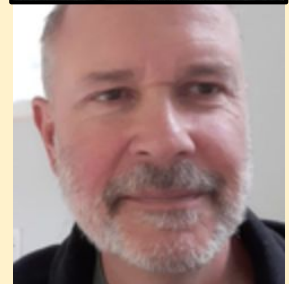
- **Council Member Teaching Division [Karen Miller](#)**

La Guardia Community College, CUNY (professor; internal migration programs, settler colonization, long 20th-century US empire in Philippines)



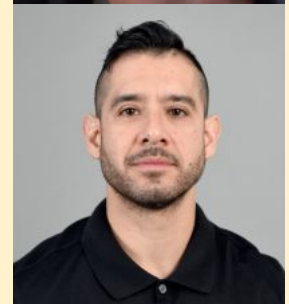
- **Council Member Research Division [Van Gosse](#)**

Franklin & Marshall College (professor emeritus; African American struggle for citizenship, Global Cold War politics and culture)



- **Nominating Committee Slot 1 [Alexander Aviña](#)**

Arizona State University (associate professor; Latin America, activism and social movements, immigration)



HPAD Endorsed Candidate by AHA Nominating Committee:

- Nominating Committee Slot 3

[Prasannan Parthasarathi](#)

Boston College (professor and chair; South Asia, India, economic and social, environmental)



AHA Council Fails to Respond to Petition by Membership Against Veto of Scholasticide Resolution.

AHA's Council met on March 20. On March 6, we had sent them the petition urging a revocation of their veto of the Resolution to Oppose Scholasticide in Gaza, hoping that would be sufficient time for them to consider it. They discussed it on the 20th, but no action was taken. In response, HPAD's Steering Committee sent the following on April 3:

To: Council of the AHA

On March 24, Jim Grossman reported to us that following a "thorough discussion" at your March 20 meeting, no action was taken regarding our petition urging a review of your decision to veto the Resolution to Oppose Scholasticide in Gaza.

We are deeply disappointed that a petition signed by over 1,400 current and former members of AHA did not receive any formal answer. At a time when the Trump Administration is attempting to stifle informed discussion about the catastrophe in Gaza, we think it especially important that an association of historians speaks out clearly, rapidly and fearlessly about the destruction of its entire educational system.

Sincerely,
The Steering Committee of Historians for Peace and Democracy

Statement by AHA president-elect candidate Annelise Orleck:

The responsibilities of the AHA have never been greater or more crucial. At a time when History is being weaponized and politicized, when elected officials and ideologically driven private citizens attempt to dictate and limit what we can research, what we can teach, include in libraries, and say on departmental and institutional websites, the AHA must continue to vigorously represent and protect the standards of the Historical profession. If elected, I will seek to maintain partnerships between professors, K-12 teachers, museum curators, public historians and archivists and solicit a range of ideas about how best to preserve the integrity of our profession in the face of these assaults. I will work with fellow officers, members and staff to maintain relationships with elected and appointed government officials. And I will look for ways that the AHA can support and protect those in our profession who are most vulnerable at this fraught time in our history.

We who research, write and teach History face an existential crisis. A capricious federal administration has frozen billions in funds vital to university research. Masked federal agents abduct, detain and try to deport our students. K-12 teachers, college and university professors, public historians, librarians, archivists and museum curators are less free every day to teach what our research tells us is true. Thousands of students, staff and faculty were violently arrested last year for peacefully protesting genocide and scholasticide in Gaza. These harsh realities moved a coalition of AHA affiliates to nominate a slate of candidates committed to addressing these crises. They asked if I would run for President-elect. After much thought, with humility and a searing sense of urgency, I agreed.

I did not know at that time who the other nominees were. I have great respect for Lonnie Bunch III and for George Sanchez. My decision to run is not so much an act of opposition as a promise. Whatever the election results, I will work to infuse the AHA with a fighting spirit and to engage and energize our members.

My approach to building community among historians will be informed by the life I've led – I was a high school History teacher for years before becoming a professor – and the movements I've written about. Immigrant labor organizers, welfare rights activists, domestic workers, farm workers, Walmart workers speak to me now as I try to understand and resist today's assaults on History. Their movements will continue to inspire and guide me if I am elected.

Annelise Orleck
Dartmouth College
Professor of History

Victory at the OAH!

At its annual Business Meeting on April 5, members of the Organization of American Historians (OAH) overwhelmingly supported a [Resolution Against Scholasticide in Gaza](#) submitted by Historians for Peace and Democracy (HPAD). **The measure passed by a vote of 104-25!**

On May 9th President Annette Gordon-Reed and Members of the OAH Executive Board announced the following updates:

The Executive Board of the Organization of American Historians met on May 5, 2025, and approved the Resolution Against Scholasticide in Gaza!

The OAH Executive Board unanimously approved three motions:

Motion 1

The OAH Executive Board recognizes that 56 members in good standing brought forward a resolution for consideration at the 2025 OAH Business Meeting in accordance with procedures outlined in the OAH Constitution. The resolution passed at that meeting by a vote of members in good standing, 104 in favor and 25 opposed.

Motion 2

The OAH Executive Board approves the creation of an ad hoc committee of the Executive Board to advise the Executive Board on creating a committee as outlined in the resolution.

Motion 3

The OAH Executive Board approves the creation of an ad hoc committee of the Executive Board to advise the Executive Board on recommendations for review and possible revision of the relevant sections of the current OAH Constitution relating to resolutions.

If you joined, plan to join, or plan to renew your membership in the OAH because of this Resolution Against Scholasticide In Gaza please write messages of solidarity and encouragement to Beth English at benglish@oah.org

[Click this link to join the OAH.](#)

Political Repression, Then and Now Teach-in Report:

On March 10th, HPAD organized a powerful teach-in with Robin D.G. Kelley, David Cole, and Ellen Schrecker on “Political Repression, Then and Now.”

Our three panelists discussed the history of political repression in the United States. The panelists shared expertise from their research and experiences to illuminate topics ranging from Jim Crow repression against Black people, attacks on civil liberties, FBI surveillance, and the various Red Scares, linking these past examples to current attacks on social movements and civil rights.

If you were not able to attend the live viewing and have not yet watched the recording [please watch it here](#) and share with others!

You can find a functional pdf of the above [flyer linked here](#) to share with all who may be interested.

We are currently in the planning stages for our next webinar that will be titled “When is a Coup a Coup?”

POLITICAL REPRESSION, THEN AND NOW



ROBIN D.G. KELLEY

Gary B. Nash
Endowed Chair in
U.S. History at UCLA,
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Dreams: The Black
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DAVID COLE

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former National
Legal Director of the
American Civil
Liberties Union
(ACLU)



ELLEN SCHRECKER

Professor of History
(retired) at Yeshiva
University, author of
*Many Are the Crimes:
McCarthyism in
America*

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IS AVAILABLE NOW ON HPAD'S
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