

Press Release from The New School Students for Justice in Palestine

We, students of The New School, establish The Gaza Solidarity Encampment at the University Center on admitted students' day, one of the most financially lucrative days for the University.

As we enter the seventh month of Israel's latest genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, we stand alongside our comrades at Columbia University, who, alongside many students locally and nationally, have faced heightened repression for their brave calls for Palestinian liberation. These individuals' resolve amidst abhorrent treatment from Columbia University administration has exposed the gross hypocrisy of the American academic institution in their lack of interest in protecting students who embody the dissenting ideals they are taught in their university's classrooms.

As of Friday, April 19th, The New School Students for Justice in Palestine (TSN SJP) has been put on probation as a registered student organization until May 2025 for violation of "Demonstration Guidelines," barring the organization from hosting public events or using University resources; and requiring SJP members to complete a University-administered de-escalation and peaceful demonstration training. To that we ask: what is the 'right' form of protest when there are no more universities in Gaza? When 35,000 and counting have been murdered at the hands of the U.S. and Israel? When 1.1 million Palestinians are currently facing famine?

Today, outside the University Center, the New School Student Workers Union (NewSWU) are also demonstrating their rights as student workers by picketing from 11:30am to 4pm. We, students from the encampment, stand in solidarity with NewSWU in their fight for recognition with The New School, who can voluntarily recognize the union at any time but has instead shamelessly stalled their student workers, whose invaluable labor keeps the institution running. The New School has continually exhibited a disregard for workers' interests at the bargaining table resulting in two strikes in two years, one of which inspired a student-led occupation.

Student-led occupation is ingrained in The New School's history of student protest, and that history begs us to act as students of conscience.

Our demands are as follows:

The New School must commit to a complete divestment from all corporations benefitting from and complicit in the ongoing genocide and apartheid against the

Palestinian people. We demand complete financial transparency as a step toward this commitment. After multiple strikes in just the last two years and a top-down dissolution of an entire college just a few days ago, the students, staff, and faculty that run The New School have long deserved to know where our money is going.

Students, staff, and faculty who have been and will continue to protest in support of Palestine, against the genocide and apartheid they have faced for a century, must be protected from institutional retaliation. The NYPD has been weaponized against student protesters across the city, demonstrating that academic institutions will prioritize protecting their profits and public image over the values they claim to hold. We demand The New School's commitment to refuse collaboration with the NYPD.

We reject normalized collaboration with any educational and cultural institutions of the genocidal apartheid State of Israel, which are inherently complicit in the legitimization of the occupation of Palestine and oppression of the Palestinian people. We demand that The New School enact a full academic boycott of Israeli academic and cultural institutions.

40 years ago, the New School community pressured the President of the University in Exile, however begrudgingly, to divest from apartheid South Africa. Today, we act on precedent from the campus' rich history of student protest.

We call on all New School community members to join us and demand the university divest from death. **We are all SJP. Free Palestine.**