

# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Spring 2024 Referendum Pro Statements

### 1. Should Cornell University call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza?

Cornell University must call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*Cornell should call for an immediate ceasefire and release of ALL hostages - Palestinian children and women that were wrongfully arrested as well*

It would be inappropriate for Cornell not to call for a ceasefire.

*I do not like the wording of this questionnaire. Do better. However, I am pro cornell calling for a ceasefire. More importantly I am more in favor for them actually taking tangible steps to end their active involvement in the genocide of Palestinians. Particularly divesting financial and intellectual resources from military and construction operations. While I am in favor of them putting a statement out, if the only thing that comes of this is a statement calling for a ceasefire with no actually efforts to remove themselves, then no work will actually get done.*

yes they should

*Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza because of the civilian lives that have been lost and the atrocities that have been committed.*

Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza - seeing as Israel is committing a genocide by needlessly and ruthlessly killing and displacing innocent Palestinians, just as they have been doing for the past century. This is not a form of "defense" or "response" to Hamas' attack on October 7th. If it were a retaliation, then Israel would not have murdered more than 33,000 Palestinians in an act of settler colonialism and imperialism. Free Palestine!

*Cornell should call for a ceasefire.*

Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*I don't really care one way or the other - it's not like Netanyahu's been thinking "well Cornell is on my side so clearly we should stay the course." It's all PR, but I'm generally anti-war so sure, go for it.*

Cornell University as an institution should support a ceasefire in Gaza. The institutions lack of urgency in taking a stance on the ongoing war and genocide against Palestinians, and the violence against all impacted peoples, has ongoing consequences on and off campus.

*It the moral obligation of knowledge seekers like ourselves to want what is right, which is a ceasefire in Gaza.*

Cornell must call for a ceasefire in Gaza. While the acts of Hamas should be condemned, they are not the actions of the people of Gaza, and in no way justifies the senseless killing and separation of innocent families. Especially during the holy month of Ramadan, there must be an emphasis placed on humanitarian solutions to this complex issue.

*A permanent ceasefire would enable a few key things: a hostage swap, the end of the destruction of the Palestinian people, and a potential path for Palestinian statehood. There is no reason to NOT call for a ceasefire -- if Cornell wants to take stances on humans right issues, then we shouldn't forget about the human rights of the Palestinians suffering, nor should we pretend extending the war is in the interest of the hostages. Collective punishment -- bombing Gaza, starving the entirety of the population -- is a war crime, and we should not tolerate such grave offenses to the human race -- Palestinians deserve their human rights whether Hamas exists or doesn't.*

Ezra Cornell's vision for any person any study called for creative, academic, and social freedom. Part of that freedom involves using our own power and voice to empower communities that are oppressed globally. This is why we should call for a ceasefire at a school level, to share our support for the civilians in Gaza that are facing a plausible genocide.

*I support Palestine, and the majority of students do. There isn't a safe environment on campus to discuss this however.*

The US government has continued to make non-stop foreign policy blunders since WWII. Without any type of meaningful pressure from the nation's institutions, it's harder to imagine a world in which the US backs out of these situations and recognizes its mistakes in the moment, as opposed to 20 years later once the damage has already been done.

*Palestinians and Muslims on campus will feel more safe and seen by the university.*

Zionism is antisemitism. AIPAC funds antisemitic politicians and due to this, real antisemitism has been growing among white nationalists for the last few decades. Palestinians are not allowed to drive on certain streets or be in certain places past 10 pm or they are arrested and sometimes detained. They are not allowed to walk on certain streets even the ones outside their homes that they have lived in for decades. Palestinians have had their water supply controlled by Israel and consistently poisoned for decades, they have had their homes taken without any warning in the middle of the night. If someone broke into your home, and wanted to steal everything and no one would come to protect you- what would you do? Some may say that Cornell calling for divestment won't do anything and we have to focus on ourselves, but America is a nation of immigrants from all across the world and we are NOT isolationist in our forgiven affairs. Cornell's stance actually will have significant sway on our representatives that have shown a clear increase in being in favor of a permanent ceasefire, as a NON PARTISAN issue. Lastly, AIPAC sends Zionist students talking points and exact lines and words to say. If you look them up you will find this to

be true. Please watch the documentary “Israelism” it is for free online. It explains everything from a Jewish perspective and from the perspective of IDF veterans being honest about what they did. Additionally, more than 30,000 Palestinians, including 25,000 women and children and close to 200 aid workers have been murdered by the IDF with U.S. weapons since Oct. 7. The IDF has also killed 95 journalists, and destroyed all of the hospitals and universities in Gaza.

*Rather than call for a ceasefire (which will have no effect, and will not resolve the conflict), we should call for Hamas to release all hostages taken on 7 October 2023 and surrender, thus leading to an immediate ceasing of hostilities.*

There is a genocide!

*Seems to be the right thing to do---war is bad.*

I firmly believe what is going on in Gaza is ethnic cleansing and it must come to an end. Palestinians have suffered from decades of a dehumanizing apartheid regime, and by not calling for a ceasefire, Cornell will show its disregard for human life and dignity.

*Cornell University is in a unique situation as an Ivy League that is recognized worldwide. People listen when we speak and will listen when we call out injustices. In calling for a ceasefire, we are calling for the end of a genocide that is targeting the Palestinian people. Given the excessive war crimes that Israel is*

*committing including the targeting of civilians, mass destruction of civilian homes, murders of the press and aid workers and mass starvation, we should be able to clearly see that these moves are not self defense but are instead a method of trying to eliminate Palestine. As one of the biggest and most notable institutions in the West, we must call for a ceasefire and stand against genocide. Our silence only serves in our complicity in this crime against humanity.*

Cornell should absolutely call for a permanent Ceasefire. Far too many lives are being lost in Gaza.

*Cornell should call for a ceasefire in Gaza.*

The way Cornell has been acting has divided us and alienated people of color on this campus.

*It is a clear genocide.*

It is pointless death

*Ceasefire in Gaza*

Free Gaza. There should be a call for permanent ceasefire.

*Thousands upon thousands of innocent Gazan children and civilians are being killed, displaced, and injured as their homes and livelihoods are completely destroyed through these attacks. A ceasefire is absolutely necessary in order to prevent the lives of more innocents from being taken.*

Absolutely nothing can justify the murder of over 15,000 innocent children. Nothing. Ceasefire now.

*Cornell should uphold its values as well as protect all of their students. Cornell students include Palestinians and many people who support the Palestinian cause that advocates against the killing of civilian Palestinians. Therefore Cornell needs to represent those students and also execute its responsibility of calling for the end of the genocide of the Palestinians in Gaza. Cornell cannot express its worry for students' safety when it does not even recognize the need for a ceasefire to stop the killing of the Palestinians in Gaza, to which many students feel connected to.*

As an educational institution committed to promoting peace, justice, and human rights, Cornell University should indeed call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Doing so aligns with its values of fostering global understanding and addressing conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy rather than violence. By advocating for a ceasefire, Cornell demonstrates its commitment to upholding the principles of humanitarianism and actively engaging in efforts to alleviate suffering and promote stability in conflict-affected regions.

*It is not a radical stance to call for a permanent ceasefire in any war, especially one that is so deeply affecting many students and their families. Cornell has a long history of suppressing anti-war protests and then, decades later, using those as proud talking points. Many will say it is not a university's responsibility to comment on current events. To this I say: if an institution which ostensibly fosters a compassionate community, academic innovation, and the expansion of human rights cannot take a stance against war, who will? Violence begets violence. The vicious cycle of death created and perpetuated by forced displacement and sustained apartheid cannot continue. Each day, more Gazans suffer, starve, die, and are brutally murdered. As a Jewish student, there is nothing more important to me than to fight for and protect the lives and dignity of all people. My Judaism compels me to speak out against war, against terror, and against Judaism itself being used as an excuse for violence. Calling for a permanent ceasefire is but the first step. It is a simple step, but a crucial one. Cornell cannot admit the horrors of this war decades in the future, but must address it now.*

It is a matter of standing on the right side of history. If Cornell continues to stay silent and not call for a ceasefire, then we are no better than those who have come before us who had a voice and did nothing about it in the face of injustice and genocide.

*Cornell University has a responsibility as a prominent institution of higher education to promote peace in the world. It has a responsibility to acknowledge the harm cause by this genocide and to support its students and the entire Cornell community as we deal with the effects and implications of this genocide.*

Ever since the Nakba began in the 1948 war, genocide has been a consistent, pervasive fact. It is beyond a land dispute; from the



beginning, Israel's intent has always been to erase Palestine, the land and the identity of the people, from existence. They have murdered countless, renamed the survivors, and treated Arabs as second-class citizens. They have displaced 1.9 million civilians to date, and the death toll of the most current conflict is at least 30,000 by the latest count. Regardless of what side you stand on, how can we ignore the numbers? The people?

Genocide -- not just what is occurring in Gaza- operates on the willful ignorance and the blind eyes the rest of the world casts upon it. Cornell University must not be apart of that.

*I believe what's happening in Gaza is a violation of human rights. Cornell needs to join those calling for a ceasefire.*

As an institution that supports justice, peace, and battling inequality, we as a school should unite in this effort to call for a ceasefire.

*Free Palestine. There's overwhelming evidence of genocide and human rights violations by Israel. We are a major educational institution, our voices matter, so let's be on the right side of history.*

While Cornell University's current complicity in the genocide of the Palestinian people cannot be ignored or erased, officially calling for a ceasefire means that the university will assert a morally sound position as an institution. What is currently occurring in Gaza, as well as the historical occupation of Palestine by Israel, constitutes an apartheid and a genocide, and this is not up for debate. By calling for a permanent ceasefire in

Gaza, Cornell University will set a precedent for other prestigious, powerful universities and institutions to advocate for ceasefires as well and condemn this genocide. The United States government, which has enabled this occupation and genocide to continue through continual monetary and military support for the Israeli government, may take cues from our statement permanent ceasefire in Gaza and hopefully sever these relationships with Israel. Cornell University must do everything it can as an institution to mitigate the horrific murder of 40,000+ innocent civilians, as well as the destruction of important mosques, houses, hospitals, and other cultural sites in Gaza.

*we should*

Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This university and other universities have an obligation to condemn acts of violence, and the war crimes being committed against those in Gaza have been described as a plausible genocide. As an institution which preaches freedom and equality, this institution should also speak up for human rights for all people, including the right to live for the people in Gaza.

*Cornell University should call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Members of our community are currently being impacted by the Genocide occurring in Gaza. Not calling for a ceasefire or being silent while genocide is occurring denies and ignores the pain and suffering the members of our community are experiencing. This university has established a precedent to comment on and address events worldwide. While addressing the Israel- Hamas war, it has been biased and excluded members of our community. This exclusion and disregard has resulted in an increase in Islamophobia on campus. It has opened a space*

*where hate toward Arab students is okay. It has also fostered an environment where it's OK to be harassed and doxxed over being against genocide. How many more people have to die before Martha calls for a ceasefire?*

This may only be lip service, but it is important lip service nonetheless. To ask for peace is what is most important here and takes a neutral point of view when compared to the other question above. It is in peace that people can thrive, in peace that institutions of learning much like our own flourish.

*The current war is disproportionate in how the civilian people of Gaza are the ones being punished and receiving the onslaught. 33,000 - that's how many Palestinian lives have been lost, with about a third of these lives being children. There is no sanctuary or safety as hospitals and refugee camps are targeted and bombed. Civilian Palestinians are trying to survive with their nearly perpetual displacement and minimal resources due to aid being blocked. It is from our state of privilege and safety that we must humanize the Palestinian people and have Cornell call for a permanent ceasefire. We are a world-renown university and taking this stance will send a message to the world that we advocate for and value the safety and continuance of the Palestinian people*

Of course Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire to stop the active genocide going on in Gaza and the West Bank. All of this started way before October 7th, and it wasn't the Palestinians that started it. The genocide in Gaza is a one sided ethnic cleansing putting millions of innocent Palestinian lives at risk every second that it continues. I hope you have the smallest iota of empathy to be able to recognize that after decades of oppression under the apartheid state of Israel, in tandem with

multiple attempts at peaceful resolution that only resulted in more lost Palestinian lives, that people would eventually turn to violent resistance.

*University institutions should strive to be apolitical environments where freedom of expression is able to prevail. Cornell's administration must work to create an environment where students are comfortable and able to easily express their political views. However, the ongoing situation in Palestine has passed the threshold of being a purely political dilemma. As the situation in Palestine teeters on the definition of genocide, it is no longer a question of politics. This is a question of ethics. Cornell has an obligation to call for a permanent ceasefire for the sake of the Palestinian people. As a respected and influential institution, Cornell has a loud voice and the power to create change. Calling for a ceasefire does not silence anyone's voice. In 50 years, when we look back at the war in Palestine, I hope that Cornell will have stood on the right side of history, calling for basic human rights.*

you already get the sentiment, and the reasoning. What hundreds of students, alumni, and faculty have voiced so ardently doesn't need to be ineloquently reiterated by me.

*Cornell must call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Further destruction must not and cannot be tolerated and Cornell University must not and cannot ignore the destruction, forced famine, and unfolding genocide in Gaza. If Cornell University does not call for a permanent ceasefire, then it will remain complicit in mass violence. I urge the University to issue a statement to this effect. If it does not, I will remain to be ashamed to call myself a Cornellian.*

There is no plausible reason for the denial of a call for a ceasefire, other than the perpetuation of war.

*Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza!*

I am anti Israel simply given that Israel supports ukraine against Russia.

*There is absolutely no plausible reason for Cornell University to continue staying silent on the heinous acts that Israel is inflicting on Gaza. This is a genocide. And it is sick and twisted that Cornell would ever need to "consider" standing up against it. Without question, Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza AND contribute in sending aid to the affected and displaced Palestinians. This institution has deeply disappointed me and other members of the student body by disgracing and dismissing the true horrors of this genocide and by remaining complicit.*

I think Cornell should call for the immediate and unconditional ceasefire, and push for immediate pease talks. This is the only reasonable path to pease and we must act now before the conditions in Gaza get even worse.

*Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza*

As a student at this university, I feel it is important to acknowledge and hold accountable the immoral actions that occur around the world. We are here to learn and grow which means that we should not hide behind comfort and ignorance.

*I am a Jewish student in support of a ceasefire resolution. I hope that if this passes, it will pressure the board of trustees to vote to divest from genocide. I have family in Israel and friends in Gaza. Everyday the war continues, both my family and friends are at risk.*

Over the past months I have been sickened by the images and reporting coming out of Gaza. I believe in the humanity of all people, and when a people are being systematically denied their rights, including the right to life, I believe that every person and institution has a responsibility to stand up for them. Cornell's size, reputation, and prestige speak to the weight its voice carries, and today it is obliged to use that voice to speak out for peace for the people of Gaza.

*I believe that the university should call for a ceasefire due to the incessant genocide that has occurred since the Nakba, and Cornell must take a stance for justice.*

Immediately. We have all seen the videos from Gaza, and nothing more needs to be said. The civilian casualties are unprecedented and far too great to chalk up to collateral damage. There is a man-made famine happening in Gaza, a population consisting of approximately 50% children. These are not numbers. These are lives that we can save.

*Supporting a permanent ceasefire in Gaza aligns with humanitarian values and the pursuit of peace. Cornell University can influence public opinion and policy through its stance on global issues. Advocating for a ceasefire can demonstrate the university's commitment to human rights and the protection of civilians affected by conflict. It can also encourage dialogue and negotiations towards a lasting resolution, fostering an environment where education and research can contribute to conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. A ceasefire can facilitate the delivery of essential humanitarian aid and the rebuilding of infrastructure, which are crucial for the well-being of the population in Gaza. Cornell University can stand as a beacon of hope and leadership in the academic community and beyond by calling for a ceasefire.*

Growing up in a Jewish household, my mother taught me that as part of an historically oppressed ethnic minority, it was our duty to fight against racism and genocide for all oppressed people; That the best way to ensure our own safety is to create a world in which all individuals are safe from ethnic oppression and cleansing. As a University, I implore Cornell to uphold these same anti-racist, anti-genocidal ideals, whatever the situation, for all people. To call for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza is to confirm these values by standing with a currently oppressed and war-torn people, who if no action is taken are threatened with a destruction of life and culture. If no action is made, I will assume that Cornell is a bigoted institution, that prefers to uphold genocide rather than call off war, an atrocity that kills innocent lives and needless destruction irrespective of who it involves. I stand with the people of Palestine and their struggle for freedom and right to life, much of which I see reflected in my own family's history with war and genocide. I sincerely hope that Cornell will respect basic human rights and morals and choose to be on the side of history that stands with the

oppressed, not the oppressors. Land you have to kill for is not land for you to keep.

*Cornell University SHOULD call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I don't want to be complicit in genocide, and neither should the university.*

Humanitarian crisis at this point is extremely concerning now

*Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in account of more than 30,000 Palestinians killed by Israel. Cornell should not be tied to either verbal or physical support for mass murder. The targeting of hospitals and schools that innocent civilians sought for safety is beyond my scope of understanding, or ability to put in words of utter frustration and sadness. How could Cornell support this? Children now have to live without their parents, families torn away from one another, children most affected, many losing limbs. Hunger is a daily struggle, famine tears through the nation. Again I ask, how could Cornell support this?*

Cornell University, being a highly prestigious educational institution must take a principled stance and Call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Over 33,000 people have been murdered in Gaza, by Israel's indiscriminate bombing and targeting of civilians. One third of them are non combatant women and children. Thousands more have been injured, maimed and orphaned. A genocide is taking place in front of our eyes. Educational institutions like Cornell must stand on the right side of history. Otherwise, there would be no point of professors and libraries holding talks and seminars about the genocide in Gaza decades from now. Like it does about Bosnia,



Rwanda, Bengal and many more. It can only talk about them if it takes a moral stand now. It is unfortunate that professors and staff are unable to condemn blatant violence against civilians. Women and children targeted by any side, in any war is unacceptable. Furthermore, all aid delivery in Gaza is controlled by Israel and is stopped, creating a man made famine. Reports, pictures and videos coming out of Gaza Strip are horrifying. The US is the only country that has the power to stop it. But it's actions till now have been disgraceful and disgusting to the core. Therefore, students and institutions must mount pressure on the government to play its role in realising the demand for a permanent ceasefire. The moral authority of the US and its leadership of a rules based global order is in shambles. Student protests and pressure has a history in the US, and Cornell University must stand on the right side by demanding a permanent ceasefire and it must divest from there weapons manufacturers who are supplying the weapons that are killing innocent people. Like other universities have already including UC Davis and University of Virginia among others.

*Cornell should call for a ceasefire.*

Cornell University can exert an ounce of human decency and not support an ongoing genocide. 34,000 Palestinians have been killed in the last 6 months. There are no safe zones. This is not about who is right or wrong. We are not each others enemies. A ceasefire is a matter of humanity.

*The current situation in Gaza is a violation of human rights and it will only continue to get worse unless major institutions make their voices heard and call for a ceasefire.*

If we believe in our Alma Mater's mission statement, of course we should call for an immediate ceasefire.

*Cornell is a premiere international institution which must take a stand against this horribly tragedy and stay on the right side of history. If our educational institutions can't send an example then who will.*

Cornell is complicit in this genocide until they divest

*The genocide in Gaza has devastated millions of Palestinians, Arabs, Muslims, and the universal community of sympathetic human beings since violence has began in October. There is quite literally no justification for the continued violence, especially after we have witnessed Israel commit a multitude of war crimes, including, but not limited to: targeting and bombing humanitarian aid workers, utilizing chemical warfare in systemic bombings such as white phosphorus, targeting women and children, and restricting medical supplies, food, and other life-dependent resources to systemically and slowly eradicate the Gazan population. Cornell University's failure to call for a permanent ceasefire reinforces the idea that what is happening in Gaza is justified, and pits Cornell University as an institution that is complicit to genocide. We are no better than Nazi sympathizers if we continue to fail to call out genocides when we see it. Cornell's silence is extremely telling of how the institution would have responded to Hitler's Nazi Germany, or how they would have responded towards the powerful Civil Rights Movement that took place in Jim Crow 20th Century America.*

Calling for a ceasefire is the first, most basic step in recognizing the humanity of those suffering in Gaza right now.

*Cornell has a direct link to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. It is their responsibility to both call for a permanent ceasefire and divest from those who profit from the ongoing genocide itself.*

Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*Stop genocide*

Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza

*Israel should stop its genocide of Gazans. Any war is bad.*

Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I feel ashamed that I go to a school where people do not care that, by association, they are supporting the slaughter of Palestinians. Much of the rest of the world is calling for ceasefire and the US has been reluctant because of ties to Israel.

*Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire*

Our university has the power to enact nationwide influence regarding the genocide happening in Gaza, and being an example to others will dramatically help this situation. It is our responsibility as a self-respecting university to promote peace over profit.

*Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza*

I strongly believe Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*The ongoing genocide in Gaza is becoming increasingly dire. Since the creation of Israel as a country the oppression of the Palestinian people has been ongoing. Israel has an incredibly powerful military which is propped up by some of the most powerful countries on the planet. The October 6th attacks are being used as a justification to kill 10s of thousands of innocent people. This is inherently evil and the violence must end.*

The devastating loss of Palestinian civilian lives, especially women and children is morally reprehensible. Cornell should not remain silent during such a tragedy.

*A ceasefire is the very least we can do for people suffering bombing for months. Israel has shown no regard for innocence or guilt in their actions, where they have shot and killed Gazans for the simple desire to get food, and made it impossible for aid*

*to reach Gazans. It has bombed reported "safe" zones. There is no justification for this behavior, and a permanent ceasefire should immediately be put in place.*

Too many innocent lives have been lost. We need to stop the suffering now.

*It's important that the university hold this stance and stand against genocide. Cornell would also be the first Ivy League to denounce the active genocide occurring.*

Cornell was founded upon the principles and values of Ezra Cornell, which the university still lauds to this day; namely "any person any study." I truly believe that Ezra Cornell, if alive today, would be calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Concrete data has shown that well over 30,000 Gazan civilians have died. How could any legitimate academic institution completely ignore such an egregious human rights violation?

*Cornell should call for Ceasefire in Gaza and stop the genocide*

The question is why should we not? Thousands of civilians have died. Not calling for a ceasefire is evil.

*Cornell should take an active stance on calling out issues on the world if the university pertains to ideas of free expression.*

Calling for a ceasefire doesn't mean, in my opinion, picking sides. Advocating for a peace and condemning violence and atrocities is aligned with our university's values!

*We should not even have to be asking Cornell University to do this. As a school with the motto To do the greatest good, Martha Pollack and the rest of the administration should have publicly called for a ceasefire months ago.*

The city of Ithaca has called for a ceasefire. Joseph Biden has called for a ceasefire. Why are we still debating on doing the right thing? The time to speak up is not too late but we must implement meaningful change. This conflict has brought nothing but destruction to the people, and caused campus to be an unsafe for Arab and Muslim students.

*Over 30k people have died in Palestine since Oct 7th. The loss of human life has been devastating. As I student, it is disappointing to see Cornell's silence as this genocide continues. We must call for a permanent ceasefire.*

We have born witness to more than 6 months of horrors imposed on the citizens in Gaza by the IDF. It is unfathomable that we can still be okay with this as a society and continued silence shows Cornell's deep complicity. How can we with a straight face say that this is an institution of any person, any study when we have made it abundantly clear that we don't care about the more than 30,000 people who have been murdered?

*Cornell University, like many academic institutions, may choose to advocate for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza for several reasons:*

*- Humanitarian Concerns: A permanent ceasefire would alleviate the suffering of civilians caught in the conflict in Gaza, including innocent men, women, and children who face the risk of injury, displacement, or death due to ongoing violence.*

*- Academic Values: Cornell University, as an institution dedicated to learning and scholarship, upholds principles of peace, dialogue, and conflict resolution. Advocating for a ceasefire aligns with these values and promotes a peaceful resolution of conflicts.*

*- Education and Research: Conflict zones like Gaza often disrupt education and research initiatives, hindering academic progress and the pursuit of knowledge. A ceasefire would create a safer environment for students, researchers, and educators to continue their work without fear of violence or interruption.*

*- Moral Responsibility: Cornell University, as a global institution with influence and resources, has a moral responsibility to advocate for peace and support efforts to end violence and promote reconciliation in conflict-affected areas like Gaza.*

There is no justification for the wanton murder of tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of whom are women and children. A ceasefire is necessary to prevent further suffering and loss of human life.

*I am for Cornell calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza because this is a genocide proved by the ICJ's court ruling, and*

*anyone with a heart and a basic sense of empathy would be able to realize that what is happening is WRONG. We are watching Palestinians being murdered, starved, and tortured by the IOF before our very eyes and for some reason, our Palestinian peers have to continue life as normal on campus, which is unacceptable. Permanent ceasefire now, and Free Palestine.*

*Absolutely. There is no justification for the mass killing that is happening in Gaza as well as neighboring countries. There is nothing antisemitic about protesting violence and standing up for basic human rights. Cornell is obviously just concerned with money and reputation, and that disgusts me.*

A lot of children have died, it's a very sad loss of life. War is not the answer.

*How many children does Israel have to kill for Cornell to question its relationship to a foreign state's military operation. Israel is like the Kobe Bryant of killing kids right now.*

I think for Cornell to have any other stance, but to immediately halt the emotional and physical torture that's happening in Gaza to individuals that don't make it into the news would be morally reprehensible and not from a religious standpoint. This school prides itself on teaching its students to think for themselves, and we have all collectively said we're very upset and distressed by what's happening in Gaza and the school keeps sending campus police to deter any kind of protest or assembly and to voice that specific issue.



*Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. In the past, university officials have claimed that it's not their place to comment on international politics. But as Cornell's core values make clear, Cornell is at least ostensibly committed to the pursuit of knowledge, to the environment, and to the safety of its own students. So how can Cornell not call for a ceasefire, after Israel has destroyed every university in Gaza? How can Cornell not call for a ceasefire, when Israel is actively poisoning Gaza's soil and water? How can Cornell not call for a ceasefire, when Cornell's students are being stalked, threatened, and harassed by other students for attending peaceful pro-Palestinian demonstrations? If Cornell is going to take its own values seriously, it has to call for a ceasefire.*

A university that claims to be training the next generation of leaders to change the world for the better should not be a passive bystander during a literal genocide going on. If Cornell University truly is committed to enacting change, it could at least have the courage to try and support justice, instead of claiming everyone is hurt and keeping its eyes shut.

*It is a genocide, no matter how you look at it. Thousands of people and CHILDREN have died. We need to end now*

Divesting from a genocide can actually help the communities that need help at Cornell itself. Housing (cough cough) has been an ongoing issue at the university so far and divesting from companies that help Israel commit genocide could save a TON of money and also help more POC and importantly the Palestinians on campus hopefully more comfortable.

*The violence occurring in Gaza is a genocide and must be stopped. There is no excuse for Cornell's silence on this matter. Refusing to call for a ceasefire means that Cornell is okay with the continuation of this genocide.*

As a leading institution devoted to the expansion of knowledge and the positive impact on communities far and wide, Cornell University should stand by their core values and take a stand against a genocide.

*Cornell cannot turn a blind eye to one of the most well-documented genocides in history. Currently, all 12 universities in the Gaza strip have been destroyed, along with 378 schools in total. As an educational institution, Cornell has an obligation to speak up against the destruction of schools and the murder of Palestinian students, teachers, and intellectuals.*

*Several institutions have already taken a stand against the ongoing genocide, but Cornell being an elite Ivy league institution will turn the tide in favor of a permanent ceasefire by speaking out. Cornell has the power to set the precedent for change that will put an end to the overwhelming loss of life occurring in Gaza. Cornell's stance during this crucial moment in history will make clear to the public its values and moral standing. If Cornell truly values human life and intellectual opportunity--if it truly believes in ""any person, any study""--it must speak out now.*

A permanent ceasefire stands as the sole viable solution to bring an end to the suffering and ensure the safety and security of all parties involved. Even if the current militant group could be subdued, the void left behind would likely be filled by another resistance group sooner or later. Without a ceasefire

agreement, Israel risks being accused of genocide or facing continuous threats to its safety.

Cornell University has a unique position and capability to influence global affairs positively. By publicly advocating for a ceasefire, Cornell can demonstrate its leadership and commitment to peace on the international stage. This would not only align with our values of empathy and justice but also reinforce our standing as a beacon of hope and change in challenging times.

Even in the least favorable outcome, Cornell has nothing to lose by taking this stand. On the contrary, it offers an opportunity to embody the principles we hold dear and potentially contribute to a resolution in a region long plagued by conflict.

*Why the hell shouldn't we? It's genocide.*

The crisis occurring in Gaza is a tragedy and requires global action at every space. Cornell University has the obligation to speak for justice, peace, and healing. As an institution with a global voice, Cornell must act now to call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, to defend the rights of those suffering under immense injustice. Staying silent is a form of violence.

*How many dead Palestinians is enough for you to care? Since October 7th, there are at least 33,545 people killed, including more than 13,000 children, 8,400 women. More than 76,094 people have been injured and more than 8,000 people are missing. Imagine the entire population of Cornell dead. People with dream, histories, love, desires, gone; to never breathe again. The ICJ has said there is plausible reason to*

*believe a genocide going on and it is imperative we do everything within our power to not be complicit in it.*

As a Jewish student at Cornell, I am deeply disturbed by Cornell's unwillingness to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. I am unwilling to be used as a scapegoat to excuse not speaking out against genocide and Cornell's claim that to call for a ceasefire would be giving in to antisemitic pressure, aside from being entirely unfounded, is blatant hypocrisy. Cornell cannot claim to care about its Jewish students while inviting known antisemites such as Ann Coulter to speak on its campus under the guise of free speech, all while silencing and ignoring Jewish students within Jewish Voice for Peace who are trying to speak out, as is both encouraged and required by our culture's teachings, in support of the people of Gaza. The conflict in Palestine is a genocide and an atrocity and thus President Pollack's claims that Cornell is not a political entity and thus cannot make a call for ceasefire are rendered null and void. In situations such as these, silence is a political statement. There is already a precedent for universities calling for a ceasefire, and it is past time that Cornell stands for what is right and truly shows that it is a university that can learn from its past.

*Cornell University should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. This is a humanitarian crisis, and Cornell should stand against Israeli bombing, starvation, and indiscriminate killing of Palestinians in Gaza.*

We should stand for peace from all parties, and in the face of the injustice of Palestinians and the many horrors this war has caused, any rational party would want a ceasefire.

*Calling for a ceasefire is the humane thing to do. Cornell can't claim to be for any person, any study while supporting a genocide.*

Considering Cornell University's investments which contribute to the devastations that occur in Gaza currently, I believe it is only just to call for a ceasefire. In honor of the 30,000+ people who have been killed, along with recognition of basic humanitarian needs, I believe Cornell should call for a ceasefire.

*In light of the humanitarian tragedy in Gaza, a permanent ceasefire is the best way to allow aid to freely enter the region and prevent famine from spreading any further.*

Hamas is a genocidal regime. They butchered 1,200 men, women, and children. They used sexual violence as a weapon. There was a permanent ceasefire before October 7th, which Hamas broke. The ceasefire leaves Hamas in power. They have said they will break any future cease fire – “We must teach Israel a lesson. And we will do this again and again. On October 7th, and October 10th, and October 1,000,000th. Everything we do is justified” Ghazi Amhad LBC TV, October 24th 2023. Israel is fighting a war of necessity to bring the hostages home and dismantle Hamas, an organization whose stated goal is to rid the world of Jews.. Israel is a nation built by the survivors of genocide, and it is again forced to fight a genocidal terrorist organization dedicated to its destruction. Accusing Israel of genocide is not only false; it is also a modern-day iteration of the age-old antisemitic blood libel. The language included in Resolution falsely paints Israel as the aggressor in the current Israel-Hamas war, which is factually incorrect and ignores the Hamas terrorist organization's brutal attack against Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023. On that day, the deadliest day for

Jews since the Holocaust, Hamas tortured, raped, and murdered 1,200 people and took hundreds more hostage, including American citizens. Overall, This referendum will not have any tangible impacts on the conflict.

*I believe that Cornell University should call for a ceasefire in Gaza. As an ivy league institution and one of the leading institutions in the United States, Cornell University holds a unique position of power to advocate for this. Cornell also represents the voices of roughly 25,000 students and 2,000 faculty from all walks of life around the world. By calling for a ceasefire, Cornell can serve as a model for the world that we seek to build by means of doing "the greatest good." By failing to call for a ceasefire, our institution fails to uphold this practice by acting as passive bystanders in a genocide, through which brilliant, valuable lives and resources are being lost. Our institution prides itself in being a pioneer in many different ways, such as agriculture, campus sustainability, and much more. I believe that it is Cornell's duty to call for a ceasefire in Gaza, and as an ivy league institution, to serve as a role model for other college institutions across the United States (and the world) to follow suite in order to end this terrible genocide.*

Cornell University must call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*After 6 months of carnage the least we can do is ask for more voices to call for a ceasefire*

Calling for a ceasefire is the bare minimum action that the Cornell community can take. It shows the world that we call for an end to death and celebrate life.

*Ceasefires have repeatedly been shown in history to be the best conditions for hostage release. Even during this conflict, the greatest hostage release was during the recent ceasefire. Continuous bombardment makes attempts at peace difficult at the very least. Hostages have also been killed trying to get home.*

A ceasefire is by definition an end to the violence. Cornell failing to take this easily made position is embarrassing and reveals a lot about the actual nature of the admin and school structure.

*The heartless killing of Palestinians people needs to stop. No one on the day of Eid should be fearing for their lives. This is humanity problem, that goes beyond ethnicity religion and culture.*

It is undeniable that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. We've all seen footage of direct targeting of civilians, including journalists and international aid workers. Israeli politicians have stated their explicit intent to erase Palestinians from Gaza. Genocides like this one, like Rwanda, like the Holocaust, occur because people stand by and let them. Only after the smoke clears do most people finally acknowledge the horror, and by then, it's far too late. Genocide is genocide is genocide, no matter who carries it out. Ethnostates breed violence, apartheid, and hatred, no matter which ethnicities are involved. We have to equally condemn all crimes against humanity; otherwise, we're admitting that some people don't count as humanity. That is the fundamental cause of genocide:

dehumanization. Cornell, as an institution, has to stop participating in the process of dehumanization, and acknowledging the atrocities Israel is committing by calling for a permanent ceasefire is a strong first step. The next steps should be an end to the both-sides rhetoric that the administration has employed in speaking about the genocide and conflicts on campus. We can condemn antisemitism and the atrocities committed by Hamas without treating them as equal to the crimes perpetuated by the state of Israel. Hamas is a decentralized terrorist organization with limited resources that carried out a massacre in Israel. Israel is a well-equipped, well-trained, militarized state with US backing that has wiped out over 30,000 Palestinians since October 7. Further, the crimes against Palestinians did not begin with Israel's response to October 7. Palestinians have suffered extreme repression, violence, and deprivation under Israeli occupation. What Hamas did was horrific, inexcusable, and unjustifiable. However, Israel's response has been to commit similar massacres a thousand times over. That is even more unacceptable. Call for a permanent ceasefire now, or be complicit in genocide.

*The university should call for permanent ceasefire. When it benefits the university, the administration is quick to point towards Cornell's motto of "any person any study". However, Cornell refuses to acknowledge their history which points towards the contrary; the university is built on stolen native land, did not vote to divest from South African apartheid, and many other examples. If the university truly wishes to uphold their own founding policy, it is critical that they come forward supporting a ceasefire and begin to extend the same protection that the university has given other students to the Palestinian student population.*



With the great recognition Cornell holds nationally and internationally, it plays an important role in shaping discourse and promoting understanding. By calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Cornell expresses its commitment to human life and well-being and recognizes the immense suffering and seeks to mitigate it. Calling for a permanent ceasefire shows that Cornell upholds values of peace and survival of any person, as its slogan any person, any study indicates. By calling for a permanent ceasefire, Cornell amplifies the voices calling for the urgency of ending violence and showcases the institution's commitment to ethical responsibility. Cornell's call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza will help create a more peaceful, compassionate and just world reflecting the institution's core values of justice and striving for humanity. For these reasons, I believe that it is essential that Cornell University calls for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

*As a prestigious Ivy league university, we have the responsibility of being strong leaders and the resources to make drastic changes. If we do nothing with the privilege that we have been given then we are only working to strengthen the status quo and if our education has taught us anything, the status quo is not conducive to respect and liberation for all beings. Knowledge is power. What is the point of having power if it is not used to help the voiceless and make positive changes? We are the future and must work towards making a future that we are proud of passing down. We know what violence does to people and environments. We know that it only causes more pain and suffering and issues for future generations. Let us be the generation that makes actionable change. Peace is not weakness, it requires the strength to look past short-term solutions like violence and commit to the work of communicating with and understanding the other. Lets show the world that Cornell is compassionate and Cornell cares.*

I am voting in favor of our university calling for a ceasefire in Gaza because over 33,000 Palestinians have been killed since October 7th, and 8,000+ have been buried under the rubble of fallen homes, hospitals, educational, and worship facilities. This has all occurred over the course of an indiscriminate military campaign that started in the Gaza Strip but has since spread to the West Bank, Rafah, Lebanon, and Syria. The Israeli government's systematic killing and destruction of all means of Palestinian survival, which I have witnessed across multiple social media platforms and news outlets, appalls me as a student who believes in the universal right to education free from fear of carpet bombings, as a climate justice activist who sees the dire environmental consequences of this military assault, as an American whose tax dollars are being used to fund these atrocities, and as a human being of conscience that refuses to accept the brutal, intergenerational trauma and violence that this conflict (a plausible genocide according to the ICJ) has caused, as normal. Calls for a ceasefire are endorsed by the city of Ithaca, several other large cities across the United States, and entire countries. Calling for an end to the killing of Palestinian civilians is not discriminatory and does not isolate our Jewish peers. Join me in voting for a ceasefire from Cornell, which will send a powerful message to peer institutions all over the country that our education is directly at odds with war against civilians.

*I am in favor of Cornell calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.*

I believe that Israel's ongoing genocide needs to be condemned at all levels of society to help stop it.

*As an American university it is our moral duty to call for a ceasefire in Gaza*

Cornell should absolutely call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, simply to save more human lives.

*Nobody is safe until a permanent ceasefire is put in motion. A ceasefire for this genocidal war will prevent the loss of more innocent lives, Palestinian, Muslim, Jewish and Israeli alike - in order to prevent it from turning into a full scale regional war.*

Cornell has a duty to its student body. Its student body is composed of thousands of people whose identities tie them to the ongoing occupation of Palestine. This conflict is fed by the United States, who fund many companies that invest in this genocide. Because of that, its universities have a duty to stop being complicit, and one form that takes is calling for a permanent ceasefire.

*I don't believe that there is any justification for the 35,000+ murders Israel has committed since October 7th. I believe that this one-sided "war" has gone on for way too long and that it should be stopped immediately, allowing hostages on both sides to be returned and more importantly allowing the remaining Palestinians to receive aid so that as many of the over 2 million people in Gaza which has more starving people than the total number of starving people everywhere else combined can survive before they too die of starvation, bombs, or bullets.*

Calling for ceasefire is the least this university can do to work toward an end to ongoing genocide in Gaza. This university has significant political and social power, and must use it to do good.

*Cornell needs to be a part of the call for a ceasefire in Gaza. Without an immediate and permanent ceasefire, there can be no peace or justice for anyone. Almost 35,000 people have been killed by the Israeli aggression over the span of 6 months including more than 13,800 children. The violence must stop and we all need to do our part to hold our institutions accountable. By voting yes you are resisting complicity in purposeful violence. Don't be silent. Be on the right side of history.*

The nature of Israel's current far-right, ethnicist government is a source of alarm in my observations of material about the war. Let us begin with a discussion of Itamar Ben-Gvir, Israel's current Minister of National Security. This man was indicted in Israel's courts for racism in 2007, is known for his extreme anti-Arab hate speech, and joined the youth movement of the terrorist organization Kach and Kahane Chai, which was later outlawed by the Israeli government. Yet he holds a position of immense power. Recently, prominent Israeli politicians have been described as making statements along the lines of fighting human animals, wanting to make Gaza a slaughterhouse, and erasing the Gaza Strip from the face of the earth (AP News). This rhetoric is extreme and racially charged in its comparisons of Palestinians with animals, and indicates a hidden aspect behind the severity with which the Israeli government has targeted Palestinian civilians and children. According to MSNBC, more children have been killed in Gaza in four months than in four years of war globally. To me, that fact speaks for itself.

As an educational institution, it is our responsibility to see these injustices and name them. Cornell has an established relationship with Israel through Cornell Hillel's birthright program, Cornell Tech, as well as through the United States government's general financial and political support for the nation as opposed to our association with Hamas, which is effectively nonexistent (and therefore Hamas is not a political entity with which we can really withdraw association or condemn effectively). While the call for ceasefire is only symbolic rhetoric, by supporting it we say: Israel, these actions are not OK. As a nation and as an institution we have supported you in the past. But the way you have waged this war is unjust and that injustice may even be ethnically motivated. That is not something I am willing to support.

*As a Jewish student at Cornell who recognizes the ongoing genocide in Gaza, I urge my peers to do their part to repair the damage that our school has inflicted in Palestine through its collaboration with institutions and corporations that execute this genocide. The violence in Gaza inflicted by Israeli occupying forces must come to a permanent stop, and Cornell cannot remain silent on this issue any longer.*

People on both sides are being innocently killed.

*Cornell University is massive and influential insitution whose name is known around the world. The name Cornell University is one that represents all those affiliated with it and it is expected that its decisions should be in line with the community it represents. As students, this is our chance to say 'not in my name'! Cornell continues to be silent on the violence in Gaza*

*which means that all of us students are silent on the issue. If you feel for the men, women and children in Gaza dying right now, this is our chance to make our voice heard that we are opposed to continued support for the violence.*

A lasting ceasefire is the only way to end the genocide Israel is currently perpetrating in Gaza. Hostages held by both Hamas and Israel should be released as well.

*I believe Cornell should call for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. I believe that what is currently occurring in Palestine can most assuredly be considered a genocide. It is our responsibility as human beings to actively support a movement to preserve human dignity by calling for a ceasefire. I understand that Cornell's primary purpose is to serve as an academic institution. However, at a base level, this is an organization that is made up of human beings. The decision to speak out against a genocide is more than a business decision, it is a decision to support human beings. For a group of people to fail to recognize the humanity of Palestinians currently being murdered in Gaza is absolutely unforgivable and will be one of the most shameful acts of our history.*

Cornell must stand for its Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students and call for a stop to this bloody genocide. As an Arab student, it is infuriating to see Cornell complicit in a livestreamed genocide in favor of a handful of rich donors. Cornell's claims as a community to "do the greatest good" ring hollow when it cannot stand for the slaughter of the families of its students overseas. This isn't political more than it is humanitarian - for the lives of Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab students to be recognized and dignified in a place we are trying to call a home. Yet, our cries these past six months have rung

hollow on the ears of our administrators: Shame on you, Cornell. Stand for Palestinian, Arab, Muslim, and Jewish allies: vote for peace, vote yes to Question 1.

*Cornell University should call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. The Israeli government has illegally occupied Palestine for seventy-six years. During which the Israeli government has been unlawfully seizing Palestinian homes and land, imprisoning Palestinian men, women, and children without due process, and withholding the bodies of those imprisoned when they have died. The state of Israel can exist, but not by taking the lives, land, and freedom of Palestinians. This conflict is not black and white and did not start seven months ago. Israel has been terrorizing innocent Palestinians, and now they have destroyed homes, hospitals, schools, and places of worship and taken the lives of 30,000 Palestinians in Gaza. The Israeli government and its supporters are blaming HAMAS, a Palestinian resistance group that has chosen to fight back against Israel. Cornell University's silence is labeling that they side with the Israeli government, which is committing genocide on innocent people because they believe they have the right to that land. Cornell is an elite and prestigious institution representing students from various ethnicities, cultures, religions, and other backgrounds. But how can they not make a statement to condemn the terrorism committed by the Israeli government? There are Palestinian students and faculty on campus who have lost their land and family members in this atrocity, and Cornell's silence is a green light to let Israel continue with their violence against innocent men, women, and children. It is heartbreaking to know that the university you go to is okay with not speaking out against the injustice of your people. The place where you have invested your education, time, and money is fine with the deaths of innocent children, women, and men. Cornell must stand up to those going against injustice and make current, future, and past students proud to call Cornell home.*

Israel kills its own hostages via the Hannibal directive. Calling for a permanent ceasefire will allow hostages to be released. Many times Israel has violated previous ceasefires, preventing the release of hostages. Furthermore, I feel so scared to go outside of my dorm knowing cornelians support the genocide of people such as myself. I am always anxious when I'm outside, thinking my looks would make people want to kill me because many Israel purposely wanting to kill people like me. One time, a Cornell student violently threatened me based on my race just because I felt unsafe on campus. I was scared for my life and had a severe mental breakdown, causing me to fail a prelim and lower my grade in that class. Also, Cornell University should always stand for peace, not war. Lastly, I want to be seen as human on this campus, I'm so tired of people hating me because of my ethnicity here.

*Yes, we are an educational institution. Any violence that has claimed and is continuing to claim the lives of 30 THOUSAND+ people and CHILDREN should be denounced.*



# Cornell University Student Assembly

## Spring 2024 Referendum Pro Statements

- 2. Cornell has investments in companies supporting the ongoing war in Gaza, which has been deemed as a “plausible genocide” by the International Court of Justice in South Africa v. Israel. Should Cornell University follow their 2016 Guidelines for Divestment and divest from the following weapons manufacturers: BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp?**

Cornell University must disinvest.

*Cornell needs to immediately stop sponsoring a genocide*

Why are we arguing whether Cornell should follow its OWN guidelines? Wouldn't it be extremely hypocritical not to do so?

*Cornell should divest.*

Yes, they should.

*yes the should divest from companies supporting genocide*

Cornell should definitely divest, especially since so many other schools across the nation have done so in response to the senseless violence in Gaza. We should not be complicit in genocide as an institution, and I believe that we are obligated to divest, as stated within our 2016 guidelines. Guidelines are only effective if they are enforced. Fuck Lockheed Martin, fuck Northrop Grumman, and fuck the bombs and destruction we fund!!!

*Cornell should divest from companies that make weapons used in Gaza.*

Cornell should stop supporting the genocide happening in Gaza

*I think we should keep our money away from military manufacturers regardless of whether there is a major ongoing conflict. There are armed conflicts all over the place, most of which sadly do not get publicized, and these companies are profiting from that violence.*

Cornell University should divest from the named weapons production, as it makes the institution an active contributor to the Israel-Palestine conflict. In order for the institution to remain aligned with its ethos, the university must take accountability and take action to stop the violence, or at the very least its contribution to said violence.

*I refuse to give my tuition to a university which is supporting Genocide.*

Investing in and receiving returns from companies dedicated to extracting profit from the killing and violence of innocent people is an unacceptable use of endowment funds and must be terminated effective immediately. The actions of the university present a moral contradiction to many of the statements released in recent times about global conflict, as well as some of the teachings presented within courses.

*There is absolutely no reason we should be profiting off of war. These companies make weapons of mass destruction. In a way, our funding has gone toward the destruction of academic campuses and buildings in Gaza, which is ridiculous -- our priority as an academic institution should be to facilitate learning, not make profit off of war. As an academic institution, we ought to recognize the potential genocide of the Palestinian people, which has only been accelerated by these companies and their advanced weapons. The Palestinian people do not have the resources to combat these kinds of weapons, which is made evident by the fact there have been over thirty five thousand Palestinians dead, whilst the number of IDF soldiers and Israeli citizens murdered has been a whole MAGNITUDE smaller.*

It goes against Cornell's 2016 guidelines on divestment to support organizations (even if through the act of investing) that are playing a key role in the ongoing war, a war that has shown to be far too dangerous for the civilians. That same capital deployed in these value-destroying companies could be put towards sustainable energy, food bank oriented organizations, and impact investing in general. Cornell needs to take into account ESG more in their investment choice, even if it is as little as deciding to divest and not invest in companies supporting global conflicts.

*Similarly to the federal government, Cornell should withhold any aid from companies who are actively assisting such a horrific and unjustifiable genocide.*

Students' money won't be going forwards the death of 13,000 children.

*This is a principled stance, Cornell shouldn't be funding any wars as an academic institution that is supposedly non partisan. Also as these companies continue to grow job markets will get more scarce with less competition, students shouldn't be fighting for jobs from these companies because of their size and unchecked power. These companies are also responsible for helping facilitate what the ICJ has called a plausible genocide in Gaza. Additionally, Cornell set a precedent that would support this call for divestment back in 2006 when Cornell divested from Sudan in response to the Darfur genocide.*

Stop giving israel more money!

*To be honest, it wouldn't be a bad thing for Cornell to divest in weapons manufacturers in general. I think most people can agree that they aren't exactly the most ethical investment. Despite political opinion, this seems like a great opportunity to do that.*

As a institution, our values are stated to be ones that define us as a place where "any person can find instruction in any study," where we can "create a community of belonging," and "create a benefit for society." In continuing our investments in weapons companies that are actively supporting a genocide of Gaza, we are showing that these values we claim to have are instead just

a publicity stunt rather than a true commitment. How can we benefit society when we are actively supporting the mass murder of a people? How do we create a sense of belonging when our students and their relations are being murdered in Gaza by the companies that we financially support. Our current involvement in weapons companies prevent us from truly supporting "any student." Our guidelines of divestment are clear and to not follow the guidelines the university established for this purpose is to show a double standard where money is more valuable than life and the wellbeing and life of certain students are not as valuable as the lives of others in the eyes of the university. As a wealthy, prominent institution, Cornell's divestment will show that we do not stand with the mass murder of a people and actually follow are values to support everyone rather than it being nothing more than an empty promise.

*I believe that we should divest from these companies.*

Cornell University should divest from these companies.

*No public college should fund a weapons manufacturer*

A University should not fund weapon manufacturers or any company with ties to any military

*I do not want my tuition to be funding war and death.  
Divestment would be a positive step taking action against all wars, and not only the genocide happening in Gaza.*

If Cornell has established guidelines that require them to divest from specific companies under a previously agreed-upon set of guidelines, they should abide by their own rules. In my opinion, divestment from these businesses is within the rights of Cornell as a financial institution if they believe it is wise.

Furthermore, divestment seems like a wise choice given general student discontent and protest. I'm confident that Cornell's financial experts can effectively deploy its capital elsewhere without creating mass student uproar. Controversial investments can be bad for Cornell's public image and brand, both of which affect the social value of the degrees Cornell students pursue. I'm not convinced Cornell's divestment will have a meaningful effect on the war in Gaza, but it would likely improve the general contentment of the student body and bolster Cornell's brand image.

*Why would a university an institution for betterment support a moral stain on humanity's consciousness*

Investing in companies that provide weapons to Israel is only aiding them as they continue to murder innocent children. We should stop our support for their genocide in any way possible. Let's learn from history and not aid another Holocaust.

*They should not invest in companies aiding in genocide.*

The investments in these weapon manufacturers is one of the reasons that this war is being allowed to mercilessly continue. In order to help bring an end to the suffering of the Gazan people, we must do our part and withhold this support for the war.

*Cornell needs to uphold its own values by divesting from being complicit in genocide.*

Yes, Cornell University should follow its 2016 Guidelines for Divestment and divest from the weapons manufacturers supporting the ongoing conflict in Gaza. The designation of the situation as a "plausible genocide" by the International Court of Justice underscores the urgency and severity of the matter. By divesting from these companies, Cornell would uphold its ethical responsibility to ensure its investments do not contribute to human rights violations or exacerbate conflicts. Furthermore, divestment sends a clear message that the university stands against violence and supports peaceful resolutions to conflicts. It also aligns with Cornell's commitment to social responsibility and ethical investing, setting a precedent for other institutions to follow suit in promoting peace and justice globally.

*Why is a university invested in weapons manufacturers in the first place? Our tuition money, that students and families struggle each semester to pay, to work for, to spend decades paying off loans, is being funneled into factories of war. Not only is it a moral and ethical decision to divest from weapons manufacturers, but the Cornell Board of Trustees itself created a clear set of standards and guidelines for divestment in 2016. Divestment must be considered when the actions of a company are "'morally reprehensible,' constituting apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery or systemic cruelty to children, including violation of child labor laws." The ICJ has deemed the war a plausible genocide, and many experts have determined a definite genocide against Gazans. The Israeli state which treats Arab and Jewish citizens differently, controlling access to borders, work, and land, is nothing if not an system of apartheid. Finally, we have watched in real time as images of children,*

*brutally murdered, flash across our screens. Families are being ripped apart and completely wiped out. The weapons manufacturers that supply the IDF with the machines to conduct these murders are in part supported by Cornell. The university must follow its own standards and divest as quickly as possible. Cornell has blood on its hands just as much as these manufacturers. This University since its birth has had blood on its hands in the form of monetary and land assets. These companies have no interest in the safety and wellbeing of our fellow humans. To associate ourselves with them and benefit from their profits begs the question of whether or not Cornell cares about its fellow humans.*

Cornell has a responsibility to ensure that they take action alongside their promises. As tuition paying students, we should have a say in what our money goes to.

*I agree with this statement. We can't support those who are a part of taking innocent lives for profit.*

Besides calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, it is imperative that Cornell University divests monetarily from the genocide Israel is enacting against innocent civilians in Gaza. By maintaining these investments, Cornell University remains complicit in what the International Court of Justice in South Africa v. Israel deems a "plausible genocide". Divestment ensures that Cornell University is no longer complicit in funding weapons manufacturers that furnish the Israeli government with weapons of mass destruction that have led to the murder of 40,000+ innocent Palestinian civilians, the destruction of essential infrastructure and cultural sites in Gaza, and the acute traumatization of survivors. Choosing to divest, as well as calling for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza means that Cornell University will put its money where its mouth is and adhere to the clause



within the Standard and Process for Review of Divestment Requests in which the university must consider divesting from companies that, through their action or inaction, partake in morally reprehensible activities such as apartheid, genocide, human trafficking, slavery, and systemic cruelty to children and perpetuate harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the University,

*As an institution that condemns acts of genocide on any people, we as an intuition should should choose not to invest in companies that are profiteering from the destruction and ethnic cleansing of a population. We should look elsewhere to invest our funds where peace and profit can be mutually achieved. I don't want my tuition to be invested in genocide, please divest from these companies.*

we should

*Cornell should divest from weapons manufacturers because it has made a pledge to divest from companies which commit or contribute to acts which are "morally reprehensible," and what is happening in Gaza falls under this category. To upkeep the values Cornell put forth in their Guidelines for Divestment, divesting from weapons manufacturers is necessary.*

Cornell should divest from the following companies. Refusing to divest is rooted in the idea that profit is more important than civilians' lives. Trustee Marty stated that if we invest in these companies. He has to see how the university would be affected first before considering whether to divest. Cornell student's comfort doesn't come first before innocent civilians live. Refusing to divest immediately is rooted in the oppression and denial of Palestinian humanity and their right to exist. Cornell

can't say they care about students when they put money over Palestinian student families' lives. We are tired of seeing this university put greed over moral values. I want every trustee individually investigated to make sure that none of them are involved with these weapon manufacturers.

*I think Cornell should divest from these companies in general, because it is blood money that funds our studies essentially. Cornell is able to extract value from the making of arms which are in turn only used to maim, damage and kill other human beings. This is not right. There are many other ways that Cornell could produce value for itself as well as bankrolling good actors, such as renewable energy companies. This is currently contributing to wars around the world, especially the genocide in Gaza. Cornell should not taint itself and its money, but rather use its power as an institutional investor for the power of progress it says it possesses.*

Guidelines are guidelines. Because Cornell has set this precedent in the past, it is only right for it to continue follow its own guidelines in the present, divesting from companies that are supporting the genocide against the Palestinian people. It is simply following the rules.

*Screw your "Guidelines for Divestment". Do the moral and just thing and end your support for all of the companies actively promoting Israel and the weapons industry directly responsible for the genocide.*

In 50 years, when we look back at the war in Palestine, I hope that Cornell will have stood on the right side of history, calling for basic human rights. In investing and profiting off companies

that are aiding in genocide, Cornell is itself aiding in the killing of tens of thousands of people.

*We should not have invested in these companies in the first place. I understand that in these modern, complex times, a University needs to do much more than before in order to thrive, but I just don't understand how Cornell, a higher education institution, has gotten into the position of investing into weapons manufacturers, or any other inherently insidious companies.*

If Cornell University does not divest, then it not only remains complicit in genocide but also betrays its own values and policies. Without divestment and a call for a permanent ceasefire, Cornell is not only a facilitator of mass violence but a hypocrite, as well.

*Cornell University should divest from the previously mentioned weapons manufacturers*

Cornell University is BREAKING ITS OWN RULES. What on earth. This is so stupid, these grown adults are acting like toddlers and not following their own guidelines for situations like this. It is so sick to think that they would have a justifiable reason to send money to these weapons companies. Any member of the board who does not choose to divest should be treated like a baby.

*I believe that Cornell as well as other institutions should divest from companies profiting killing of innocent Gazans as well as the continuation of illegal settlements in the west bank.*

The weapons manufacturers that Cornell is invested in make me regret and resent attending Cornell. I am ashamed to be attached to an institution invested in weapons being used to kill children, doctors, journalists, pregnant mothers, and 35,000 other civilians. Cornell must stand by its own words from the 2016 Standard to Guide Divestment Consideration stating that the Board of Trustees must consider divestment from companies whose actions constitute ""genocide, apartheid, or systemic cruelty to children."" By doing business with Israel as it conducts its genocide, responsibility for these three morally reprehensible actions fall on the shoulders of the following weapons companies: BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp. In order for Cornell to abide by its own divestment standards and precedents for divestment (in the cases of the Sudanese genocide and the fossil fuels industry), the university must immediately liquidate all of its holdings in the companies listed above and enact a moratorium on all investments in arms manufacturers that supply weapons, munitions, and other military supplies to Israel. I will not stand for my tuition and my name being connected to an ongoing genocide.

*Considering that the University has set guidelines I believe divestment should occur.*

I As a Quaker, I am morally and spiritually opposed to violence in all its forms. I attend Cornell in order to gain an education that can be leveraged for good, and am disheartened that my university uses its financial resources to support companies that make money off of war, destruction, and death. Investments like Cornell's are morally reprehensible, and they fly in the face of the university's mission to "do the greatest good."

*If Cornell does not divest, they are hypocritical and blatantly ignoring their own policy when it applies to Palestinians, showing blatant xenophobia. Cornell must follow the policy accordingly and apply divestment to all forms of genocide as their policy states.*

Cornell University is an educational institution. It is important to educate and remind students, many of whom place monetary concerns ahead of all else, that our moral values are truly the first thing we should consider when making decisions in our lives, especially when the consequences are so great. It is strictly immoral to invest in companies actively supporting a "plausible genocide" and a forced starvation of a marginalized group of people. If we intend to support people of color and indigenous populations on campus, it is important for this university to acknowledge that the struggle for these groups to secure human rights and equality is ongoing in the world today, and that it is our responsibility to take measures to ensure that we do not support the active oppression of these groups.

*Did you read your own question? Of course Cornell should follow the guidelines it set, especially if they are as recent as 2016, as by not doing so, you are telling the entire Cornell community that you can do whatever you want regardless of restrictions and parameters set for handling very sensitive topics or situations. I think this is a ridiculous question to ask, and Cornell should follow its own guidelines stringently. It is not the job of students to decide whether or not Cornell follows its own procedures and guidelines, in fact it is the responsibility of Cornell to follow its own guidelines regardless of student opinion. What even is the point of having these guidelines if they are not going to be acted on immediately.*

Cornell has stated that it will divest when 'The divestiture will likely have a meaningful impact toward correcting the specified harm and will not result in disproportionate offsetting societal consequences'. In this case the harm is companies that are currently funding war and genocide, a fact that has been established by South Africa, a country that knows too well the history of genocide and apartheid. Irrespective of recent events, the citizens of Gaza and other Palestinians had been experiencing genocide since 1948, when thousands of Palestines were killed and uprooted from their homes in-order to form the state of Israel, a event that became known as Nakba, or the "catastrophe". Cornell should have divested from these companies long ago on the basis of these events and Palestinian history, but in light of the recent developments of the current mass killings of innocent Palestinians in Gaza, the destruction of hospitals and civilian buildings, and as of April 8th the killing of 95 of journalist which is considered a war crime by the Council of Europe (cpj.org), it is even more crucial to do so.

*Cornell University SHOULD divest from weapons manufacturers, as they are complicit in genocide. I don't want to be complicit in genocide, and neither should the university.*

The genocide in Gaza is one of the most horrific disregards for human life I have experienced in my lifetime. As a Cornell student, I abhor the financial support this institution provides to those committing genocide. As a part of this community with a voice, I am demanding that President Pollack do what is right and divest from Israel and arms dealers to Israel. Do not be on the wrong side of history... the side that we are on currently will not be looked upon fondly in the future. More importantly, find your morals. Babies are being killed and people are starving. This is not a debatable question.

*Cornell should divestment from companies supporting the ongoing war in the account of more than 30,000 Palestinians killed by Israel. Cornell should not be tied to either verbal or physical support for mass murder. The targeting of hospitals and schools that innocent civilians sought for safety is beyond my scope of understanding, or ability to put in words of utter frustration and sadness. How could Cornell support this? Children now have to live without their parents, families torn away from one another, children most affected, many losing limbs. Hunger is a daily struggle, famine tears through the nation. Again I ask, how could Cornell support this? I do not want any of my tuition money supporting the war. I feel helpless and not listened to!*

I also strongly believe that Cornell University should follow their own guidelines for divestment, thereby divesting from the aforementioned weapon manufacturers, so that the institution and its students are no longer complicit in genocide.

*These companies are supplying the Israeli government with lethal weapons that are indiscriminately killing women, children, aid workers and journalists. This is unacceptable. Cornell must take a principled stance and divest from the companies that aid and abet a genocide. Cornell should have nothing to do with them. It should not contribute to their profits or supply intellectual capital to them. It has done so before in the case of South Africa and it can Do it again. It must. It should not be the last one. In the year of freedom of expression, I implore the administration to set itself free from the burden of 33,000 lives, one third of them women and children. These souls will haunt the people who decide otherwise. Stop funding genocide, Cornell. You can do better.*

Cornell should stop the killing of innocent civilians in Gaza.

*Cornell should stay consistent with their guidelines for divestment. If Cornell stays quiet on this topic and doesn't divest it will bring into question if Cornell follows its states values.*

There is no neutrality in a genocide. Cornell will be on the wrong side of history if they continue supporting organisations that are actively supplying the murder and annihilation of a country and its people. The weapons manufacturers listed are directly responsible for the death of tens of thousands of innocent people - men, women, children. Civilians, army, journalists, humanitarian aid workers. These weapons have no distinction. But we do, and we can choose not to fund their destruction.

*I don't know how, in good faith, a university can stay invested in companies that directly participate in a modern-day genocide.*

Actions speak louder than words and divesting will do that.

*Cornell needs to divest from companies involved in this despicable genocide*

Merely issuing a statement that condemns violence without failing to physically stop supporting an institution is pointless. Cornell University must put its money where its mouth is, which requires a divestment from these companies in addition to issuing a statement calling for a permanent ceasefire. The university does not work towards ending any form of violence in the region if they retain all of their assets into creating more weapons that will kill more people. The continued investment



into the state of Israel further reinforces the idea that what is happening in Gaza is justified, and that Israel should continue to create weapons from the money we provide them. As an Arab-American student, it is disgusting and vile that I am obligated to pay tuition to a university that further pays for the mass destruction of culture, community, and life. I encourage Martha Pollack and other Zionist Cornell leaders to read and educate about the history of the Holy Land. Israel cannot and should not exist as a state at the expense of mass displacing Palestinians. I also urge a referendum to be passed that bans Cornell-sponsored birthright trips to Israel. Nobody should be allowed to freely travel there if Palestinians themselves cannot.

*We cannot claim to be an institution for any person in any study while simultaneously investing in arms dealers that profit off of the deaths of millions in the Global South. We are clearly not an institution for those on the receiving end of drone and missile strikes we are helping to fund.*

Cornell must align with its already existing policy and divest from these companies.

*Cornell should divest from these companies.*

Cornell should divest from the companies listed above

*Yes I am against funding agencies that create and innovate to harm other people for profit.*

Cornell should divest in all companies and associated companies that are weapons manufacturers; i.e. BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp. Cornell should always aim to be an inclusive and safe place for students. By investing in companies that advocate or support an active genocide it sends a clear message that Cornell is complicit in intolerance and violence. This is counterproductive to the things Cornell should be and stand for.

*Cornell should absolutely divest from those weapon manufacturers. They should not be complicit in this genocide.*

Cornell cannot be complicit in this genocide. It will go down in history, and Cornell needs to take action now, to stand with the people suffering this atrocity, and show in their actions that they do not support the government's insistence on continuing this genocide. Cornell should divest from these weapons manufacturers and make a meaningful statement. This is how we can make change, and support basic human decency.

*Divest from them as per ICJ ruling. We should not be complicit in genocide.*

If Cornell were to divest they would be in accordance with their own investment stances around whom they can and cannot support. Additionally, divesting from companies that actively play a part in the genocide would also mean that Cornell no longer has a part in this genocide, as well as making clear to these companies and manufacturers that Cornell doesn't stand for such grave injustices.

*I feel no need to comment on such a logical answer. The university is prioritizing money over lives. Frankly, it's disgusting.*

Cornell needs to divest from companies supporting the war. This war is not even really a war, it's a genocide. I can not be attending a school that is SUPPORTING MASS MURDER.

*Cornell should divest from its investments and take a stand against the genocide. It should side away from the companies that support genocide*

Once again, why should we not? How are supporting war machines? Our money and education is dirty and stained with evil because of these investments.

*Divestment doesn't financially harm the companies being condemned, but it does send a strong message about the school's place in the world. I am pro this but con the earlier statement because this is a general divestment from weapons manufacturers that are and will be involved in the massacre of innocent people. These companies will no doubt generate amazing financial returns in the near future, but I do not think our endowment that is used to service students, should be partially built off of weapons manufacturers. Aside from the moral mandate, the investment guidelines are clear and it shocks me that the university would even institute them, they were really shooting themselves in the foot there. Rather than choosing sides among perspectives, divestment here means choosing all humanity over shareholders.*

Cornell should uphold its own values to helping towards a better cause by divesting investments from such investments in the first place.

*Invest in peace not war!*

As a student in the College of Engineering I would never work for a company that I know contributes to the genocide of a people. Cornell should not be supporting these companies or encouraging their students to work there as long as they create weapons that take innocent lives.

*Cornell university never fully divested from apartheid South Africa. The opportunity to do the right thing has presented itself. Divestment from weapons companies ensures that students tuition is not being used for deplorable means.*

Cornell must follow its expectations of itself. To put profit over people is to forsake humanity. There is blood on the hands of our leaders, our president, and our board of trustees. They are supposed to serve us and their actions are not representative of all the students that continue to call for change and divestment.

*As an alumni I will never give a single penny of my money, nor any form of positive PR, to Cornell while that money and influence could be used to keep Cornell complicit in a genocide. It is a reputational hazard for Cornell to continue to be complicit.*

There are several reasons why Cornell University may consider divesting from companies involved in the production of weapons used in conflicts like the one in Gaza:

- Cornell University, as an institution committed to ethical principles, may feel compelled to align its investment practices with its values. Divesting from companies involved in the production of weapons linked to conflicts like Gaza can be seen as a statement against violence and human suffering.
  - If Cornell University has established guidelines for divestment, as it did in 2016, it may have outlined criteria for divesting from companies engaged in activities contrary to its values or mission. Supporting conflicts or violence could fall under such criteria, prompting divestment actions.
  - Companies involved in the production of weapons used in conflicts contribute to the perpetuation of violence and human rights abuses. Divesting from these companies can demonstrate a commitment to promoting peace and human rights, including the protection of civilians affected by conflict.
  - Cornell University's investment practices are subject to public scrutiny, and its decisions regarding divestment can impact its reputation and public image. By divesting from companies involved in supporting conflicts, Cornell can demonstrate its commitment to responsible and socially conscious investment practices.
  - As an educational institution, Cornell University should prioritize values such as peace, dialogue, and conflict resolution. Divesting from weapons manufacturers associated with conflicts aligns with these values and reinforces the university's commitment to academic principles.
- Divesting from companies involved in the production of weapons associated with conflicts like Gaza aligns with ethical, moral, humanitarian, and institutional considerations. By adhering to its guidelines for divestment and taking a stance against violence, Cornell University can demonstrate its commitment to promoting peace and responsible

*Israel's actions against Gaza and Palestinians in general patently constitutes genocide. Divesting from weapons manufacturers*

*will ensure that Cornell is not complicit in further loss of human life.*

Cornell has a clause established that holds them accountable for divesting in any companies contributing to genocide or apartheid. However, they are not holding themselves to this rule, and going back on a clause they made themselves is ridiculous. They need to divest NOW, there is no more time to waste.

*If it's literally written in the university's very own guidelines, why hasn't Cornell divested from these companies yet? It seems like a no brainer.*

Wars don't stop unless you stop funding them.

*Regardless of any individual's ideological position on the morality of killing women, children, aid workers, and journalists, the fact of the matter is that Israel is committing such actions within its military operation within Gaza, and Cornell University should not associate itself with it. It's that simple to me. Why are we as a university so incessant on defending our involvement with a foreign ethnonationalist settler colonial pariah state in consistent violation of international law? Cornell University should not be involved with ANY state that sets records in the killing of children and journalists. The state of the matter absolutely blows my mind.*

I think the fact that you had to take a consensus of your students and faculty to understand that you are financially CONTRIBUTING to the progress of a civil war that employees the rape and sexual assault of MINORS as its main battle strategy is

both profoundly ignorant and selectively naive. Only toddlers need to be told as much after they've been caught with their hands in the cookie jar. Adults, especially those in charge of this ivy league institution should know much better. And the fact that it's taking this long to take any kind of action is alarming. People have been suffering in Gaza for much longer than this Qualtrics survey was emailed out.

*The 2016 Guidelines for Divestment, a rule set established by the Board of Trustees themselves, requires that the trustees must consider divestment from a company when that company's actions or inactions constitute genocide, apartheid, or systematic cruelty towards children. The 10 arms dealers listed above supply Israel with the tools of death they need to perpetrate these three crimes against Palestine. Israel is guilty of genocide: they have murdered more than 33,000 Palestinians, half of whom were children. Israel is guilty of apartheid: Gaza has been called 'the largest open air prison in the world' by leading scholars on the subject. Israel is guilty of systemic cruelty towards children: they have arrested over 500 Palestinian children every year since 2001. Cornell's own rules require the trustees to consider divestment, and the possession of even a shred of human soul requires them to vote in favor of it.*

It is not enough to make blanket statements without any action. The only way to end the genocide in Gaza, where over a million civilians are being starved and bombed, is to divest from the very forces backing this genocide. It is not enough to say the IDF is committing terrible crimes, Cornell must follow its own guidelines to help end its complacency in Gaza's annihilation. Investing in weapon's manufacturers, which are funding the wholesale slaughter of Gazans, is investing in crimes against humanity. These companies have also been involved in crimes against humanity elsewhere: Thyssenkrupp literally made guns

for Nazi Germany and used slave labor and Boeing makes faulty planes that break apart and injure passengers.

*Not sure how much students money goes to Cornell investments but it is really unfair to use students money to fund something so controversial. If not, it is unfair to make Cornell students okay with the idea of their institution, that they pay for, funding weapons to kill children and innocent people.*

*Since Cornell is big on rules, not following their own rules is hypocritical. I mean they arrested students based on their rules and this rule is clearly in their guidelines so not following it just shows how more hypocritical they are on their own word. Cornell must hold these companies accountable for their involvement in the genocide in Gaza. This can only happen with direct action.*

In order to take a stand and support the values that has been integral in shaping countless students' lives, Cornell University should divest from companies who are giving aid to those committing a genocide.

*At the time of this comment, at least 33,482 Palestinians have been murdered, more than 12,300 of whom were children, and 76,049 wounded. A significant number of children have lost one or both parents. Every day, children experience severe burns and wounds from Israeli air strikes, face amputation of limbs without anesthesia, and are traumatically separated from their family members. These atrocities committed by the IDF are directly enabled by Cornell's investments in the weapons companies listed.*

Cornell's 2016 Guidelines for Divestment state that it must divest from companies whose actions are morally



reprehensible, where ""morally reprehensible"" activities include genocide, apartheid, systematic cruelty to children, human trafficking, and slavery. All of the companies listed manufacture weapons for Israel, strictly for the purpose of being used against Palestinians--with the results previously detailed, along with numerous other modes of destruction. In doing so, they undoubtedly participate in the first three morally reprehensible activities listed: genocide, apartheid, and systematic cruelty to children. In this context, Cornell must divest if it is to remain true to its own guidelines.

*Such a move not only underscores the genuineness of our ceasefire advocacy but also aligns with our institutional values and history of ethical investment decisions.*

Cornell University has previously demonstrated moral leadership and commitment to ethical practices. A notable example occurred in 2006 when Cornell divested from obligations in Sudan, including bonds of the Sudanese government and stocks of oil companies operating there. This decision was made in response to Sudan's illegal and morally reprehensible engagement in genocide. The action Cornell took at that time was a clear demonstration of our commitment to ethical standards and human rights.

If we fail to take similar steps today, there is a risk that our advocacy for peace might be viewed skeptically. It might suggest that Cornell University is apprehensive about opposing weapons manufacturers or succumbing to external pressures. To maintain our integrity and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to peace and justice, divesting from companies that manufacture weapons could be a powerful stance.

Such a decision would not only reinforce our call for a ceasefire but also ensure that our policies are consistent with our

historical values. It would send a strong message that Cornell University remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting peace, justice, and ethical practices on the global stage.

*Cornell should not be invested in war, or genocide. There is blood on the hands of administration.*

Cornell University must completely divest from these horrific industries that fund genocide. As an institution that strives to do good, allowing money to be pooled into destructive companies such as those listed above is a direct violation of human rights and global peace. Cornell must end these divestments now and in their entirety.

*I'll keep this statement shorter, as I believe that this question can be solved entirely by looking at Cornell's own policies. Cornell's board has already passed bylaws to allow divestment from any corporations that support policies and ideals antithetical to Cornell's mission and morals. It is my understanding that these bylaws arose after Cornell refused to divest entirely from companies supporting the South African apartheid. If Cornell wants to avoid making the same mistake and to avoid going back on its own policy, then the board of trustees will divest from these corporations.*

Cornell should divest from weapons manufacturers that supply Israel with arms. Cornell should not be profiting off of a genocide.

*Cornell should not be investing in companies supporting a genocide.*

Cornell University is a private institution founded on the basis of education and development of its students. Our university's purpose and function has no place to contribute to manufacturers of highly destructive weaponry - especial ones which contribute to an identifiable genocide.

*I believe that Cornell should not invest in weapons manufacturers, especially those that contribute to the ongoing genocide in Gaza. I don't know much about what it means for Cornell University to have investments in weapons manufacturers, but my first thought about hearing this is confusion. Why would Cornell invest its time, effort, and resources into organizations that produce goods that work against the institution's goal to "do the greatest good"? While weapons can sometimes serve as pinnacles of technological innovation, these products are ultimately used to harm others, and, oftentimes, end lives. I find it sad that our institution has come to believe that building connections with and investing in such groups can be beneficial. I find it sad that Cornell University finds no issue with being complacent in and CONTRIBUTING to a genocide. I am not of Palestinian descent, but I can only imagine how those of Palestinian descent must feel to attend a university that supports the destruction of their people. I imagine they feel disgust, horror, and shame to attend such a university. I hope that Cornell will reconsider what it means to be affiliated with such groups and will withdraw their support of companies that contribute to the ongoing genocide in Gaza in order to "do the greatest good" and save the many lives that are being endangered and lost as you read this statement.*

Regardless of opinion on the conflict, should be a no brainer that Cornell doesn't invest in companies that make money by killing people across the globe

*Cornell University should follow their 2016 guidelines and divest from these 10 weapons manufacturers that are contributing to the genocide in Gaza.*

I do not want to be complicit in this genocide

*Cornell is actively going against its own guidelines and, given the board of trustees' actions, it is something they are completely unaffected by. Divesting from these weapons manufacturers calls upon our moral obligations as citizens of the world, to defend the lives anyone regardless of their skin color, religion, or profit value. Cornell's divestment would set a precedent for all universities to follow and we, for once, could be at the forefront of justice. I ask the student assembly to please uphold the value of human life (as well as all other life affected by the bombing in Gaza) and remember that profits do not matter when there is no one left alive.*

These are mostly American companies that Cornell is sending money towards which gives tangible support to arms manufacturing. This money in part comes from our tuition. The Board's own guidelines to divestment warrant the end of this support, as it has done before in the past. As a Jewish student, I personally don't find ending financial support to companies manufacturing weapons of war to be antisemitic. This money could be invested elsewhere away from a conflict that many of my fellow students are extremely against. We are here to get an education, not support violent bombardment overseas.

*Cornell has been complicit in genocide and needs to take accountability by divesting.*

It is literally a matter of following our own pre-determined guidelines. This is simply about actually sticking to our own values.

*I will not waste my words reiterating the atrocities that Israel has committed. At this point, the evidence is so clear that refusing to accept it amounts to genocide denial. I will also not discuss the crimes of Hamas because it is evident from any sane analysis of the situation that the two are not equal, and condemning one does not preclude condemning the other. Instead, I will focus on Cornell's guide to divestment in order to show that divestment, in this case, is nothing more than consistent with Cornell's policies. The standards for divestment are when a company's actions are morally reprehensible, the divestment will likely have a meaningful impact, and the company contributes to harm inconsistent with the values of the university. First, whether these companies' actions are morally reprehensible isn't debatable. They are arming a state that is currently carrying out a genocide. In the same circumstances, Cornell divested from Sudan in 2006. Second, the divestment will likely have a meaningful impact. I would bet that Cornell has significantly more money invested in these 10 firms than they did in the Sudanese government in 2006, and obviously the administration thought it would make an impact then. Further, a prominent university such as Cornell divesting would surely bring a lot of awareness and negative press to these firms. Pressure from divestment movements has historically been effective. South Africa is illustrative, and Cornell never formally divested from South Africa. We should be on the right side of history this time. Lastly, these firms contribute to harm that is inconsistent with Cornell's values. Unless Cornell values apartheid and*

*genocide against Palestinians. This resolution forces Cornell to make that choice. If we refuse to divest, we are really saying that this genocide is consistent with our values. Is that the statement we want to make? Funding arms to Israel is complicity in genocide, plain and simple. Never again means never again.*

Cornell has guidelines which state that they should not invest money that funds genocide. As per the university's own guidelines the trustees and president are obligated to divest and should.

*It is important that Cornell University follow their 2016 Guidelines for Divestment and divest from the following weapons manufacturers: BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp because these investments are not reflexive of the institutions morals and values. These weapon manufactures undertake actions that are not representative of students, faculty, and staff within Cornell and as such the institution should hear the voices of its community and take actions that address their concerns like divesting from the aforementioned manufactures whose weapons are supporting the ongoing war in Gaza, which has been deemed as a plausible genocide by the International Court of Justice in South Africa v. Israel. By divesting from these companies, Cornell avoids complacency and facilitation of a genocide through financial support. It is a known fact that money and financial capital makes modern society go round, with less money due to Cornell's divestment from these companies, the deaths and casualties in Gaza can be mitigated and innocent civilians can be given an opportunity to survive and hopefully rebuild a future. Due to these reasons, I think it is necessary that Cornell University follow their 2016 Guidelines for Divestment and divest from the following weapons*

*manufacturers: BAE Systems, Boeing, Elbit Systems, General Dynamics, L3Harris Technologies, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, RTX, and ThyssenKrupp*

Donald Opatrny '74, a Board Trustee stated, ""The university's endowment must not be regarded primarily as an instrument of political or social power; its principal purpose is to provide income for the advancement of the university's educational objectives."" Cornell's continued investment in the aforementioned weapon manufacturers directly violates this purpose, and only divestment can rectify it.

The University's mission is to ""discover, preserve and disseminate knowledge, to educate the next generation of global citizens and promote a culture of broad inquiry throughout and beyond the Cornell community. Cornell also aims... to enhance the lives and livelihoods of students, the people of New York and others around the world."" How will we educate a new generation of global citizens in Palestine that no longer live? How does funding these companies enhance their lives? And if their lives are not the focus, how does Cornell which lives are worthy of its service?

In 2006, Cornell decided Sudanese lives were worthy of service. The decision to divest from oil companies supplying revenue to Sudan's government was made in the face of rejecting the ""human tragedy."" Over the course of that genocide, an estimated 200,000 civilians died in two years. In just 189 days since October 7, 2023, nearly 34,000 Palestinians have been killed. This puts Palestine on track to lose devastatingly similar numbers of civilians if this crisis does not end soon. Divestment does not need to be the pinnacle of political or social action Cornell fears it is. The loss of Cornell's investment in these companies will not tell the world our stance on all of Israel's people, nor will it ""unfairly"" elevate Palestine. It will simply

say they deserve to live in safety. Divestment is Cornell rejecting ""human tragedy.""

The returns of these investments are easy to understand: they provide livelihoods and resources for people who need them. Are these worth the lives they take away?

*BDS was already defeated by the SA for unfairly singling out one country.*

The ICJ declined to order a ceasefire in Gaza. If they actually thought that there was a genocide actively happening, they would have ordered a ceasefire. What they did order was for Hamas to release all of the hostages unconditionally, something which Hamas has yet to do.

Further, there is no actual purpose to this referendum. Everyone agrees that we shouldn't be investing in war profiteers. The Student Assembly established a committee for this. This resolution singling out Israel, the only Jewish state, is redundant, and only serves to alienate our campus Jewish community. The division this will cause is simply not worth it.

*The guidelines for divestment outline the following as two points that provide a basis for the consideration of divestment:*

- 1. ""a company's actions or inactions are 'morally reprehensible' - Is the support of a genocide not morally reprehensible?*
- 2. ""the company contributes to harm so grave that it would be inconsistent with the goals and principles of the university"" - The university holds ""respect for the natural environment"" as one of their core values. What is happening in Gaza is not only the murder of civilians, but extreme degradation of the environment. ""Changing Lives through Public Engagement"" is*



*another one of Cornell's core values, more specifically ""applying the knowledge we create for the benefit of society."" The benefit of society should include the protection of all in said society, which would include the safety of civilians and, especially, children.*

The pursuit of education should not come with the requirement of death to others. Cornell prides itself of "any person, any study" but how is that true if we are actively participating in funding the deaths of thousands of people, the destruction of schools, and decimation of environments? We are killing our own community. To value the lives of one group over another is unacceptable. We are all people and we all deserve the right to seek out education without the fear of death. We are privileged with our resources and we have the opportunity to make drastic changes. We have the power to dictate the future, so let us work towards a future based on morality and compassion rather than profit and destruction.

*I am in favor of Cornell cutting ties with companies that profit from war.*

I don't support my tuition money going to investments in arms and violence

*As an academic institution we should not be investing in military contractors*

The board of trustees should follow the guidelines they have set fourth

*Cornell is acting against its own guidelines by investing in weapons manufacturers that not only profit from genocide and apartheid states but negatively impact the lives of their students, knowing that they have no autonomy as to where their tuition goes. It demoralizes students at the deepest level to understand that they came to Cornell to liberate themselves spiritually and academically through this institutionally only to discover that they are financially complicit in this genocide through their university's investments.*

Cornell has a duty to its student body. Its student body is composed of thousands of people whose identities tie them to the ongoing occupation of Palestine. This conflict is fed by the United States, who fund many companies that invest in this genocide. Because of that, its universities have a duty to stop being complicit, and a second form that takes is calling for Cornell to divest from the companies that are supporting and supplying these weapons.

*As a mechanical engineer, I believe that our skills are much more valuable spent literally anywhere else but companies like these. These companies are evil and have fed murder and war around the world since their inception. Gaza is only the latest addition to their long list of victims. Cornell, and the college of engineering, would be far better off without them. We should not be investing money in war and murder when we claim to support the greatest good and to be a safe space for any person. As it stands right now Cornell feeds war across the world and pushes its students to continue this evil work long after we graduate. End these evil investments and partnerships immediately! Divest now!*

I am advocating for divestment because it is a concrete action I can take as a student at one of the richest institutions in the country to prevent the flow of my tuition dollars to the international war machine, which has not only harmed Palestinians but Iraqis, Syrians, Lebanese people, and all people who have confronted indiscriminate military siege in their home countries under the guise of protecting democracy and national security. I am voting for divestment because I envision a future where I can say that my educational institution does not contribute a single dime to the destruction of people's means of survival. A vote for divestment is not responsible for creating a hostile campus climate this administration's continuous denial of empathy, care infrastructure, and protections for Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian students in the same way they have rightfully provided these things to Jewish students is what creates a hostile climate. Vote yes to divest.

*Cornell must abide by their own 2016 divestment guidelines and divest from genocide.*

Cornell has a \$10 BILLION dollar endowment and much of it is invested into defense and/or arms companies who are ACTIVELY making weapons that are used on the civilian population of majority CHILDREN in Gaza. Cornell needs to divest because of its moral duty to do so as well as its duty to adhere to its OWN 2016 guidelines for divestment that say explicitly that in instances of "cruelty to children, genocide, and apartheid," that divestment would be considered. All of these circumstances are present in Palestine today. There are men, women, and children being purposefully starved, killed, and tortured and Cornell still invests its money into these Arms Companies perpetrating this violence. This is YOUR tuition money going towards supporting this violence. The money you get from Cornell also comes from these investments. We

seriously need Cornell Administration to respond to this dire situation as soon as possible.

*Regardless of whether the war in Gaza is a genocide, the number of children being murdered is unacceptable and unjustifiable. According to MSNBC, more children have been killed in Gaza in four months than in four years of war globally. More generally, investment in weapons development creates a hegemony in which those of us in the USA can choose who dies while profiting from the murder. This divestment is not remotely similar to the mainstream BDS movement, as it first and foremost targets major American weapons companies. For these reasons, supporting this divestment would put Cornell at the forefront of a political movement envisioning a better world for all of our children, one where we can believe in the possibility of an end to political rule by force and surveillance and what could be more important than that?*

Cornell University is complicit in the slaughter of 33,000 Gazan innocents and children through its investments in and corporate partnerships with weapons manufacturers who provide services to occupying Israeli forces. Cornell must follow its 2016 divestment guidelines and do its part to end the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

*Divesting is the morally just action to take if we want to create peace.*

The question pertains to the divestment from arms manufacturers. These are companies whose only aims are driven by profit motives and whose profit motives are driven by death and destruction. The specified arms manufacturers have produced the majority of weapons that are used on all sides of

war and taking a stance against them means that more lives on all sides will be spared. It is on us to dare to imagine a world where war is not something to be profitted off of, but something to be shunned.

*Cornell should not profit from the murderous actions of the United States or any of its proxy states. This assertion is one of basic morality and is in no way antisemitic. What is antisemitic is to associate all Jews with a rogue apartheid state that openly flouts international law.*

Yes, if Cornell has created guidelines for divestment, I believe they should follow the guidelines that they themselves created. I undeniably believe that what is currently happening in Palestine is a genocide and falls under the boundaries of morally reprehensible." I would genuinely be deeply disappointed and disgusted if the thousands of dollars that myself and my family have given to this institution were actively funding the destruction and murder of a whole nation of people. As an academic institution, we do not need to have as active a role in the development of military grade weapons, especially when those weapons are being used to facilitate what has been deemed a, "plausible genocide."

*24 peaceful demonstrators were arrested at Day Hall last month because of one simple ask: for the Trustees to follow its 2016 Divestment Guidelines. In their complicity, Cornell has endangered the lives of their students and caused permanent divides in the community that will affect their alumni connections for decades. How much longer will Cornell divide and endanger the community to line their pockets? What will it take for Cornell to follow its own rules? This is the first referendum in 25 years on this campus, signifying the broad support and energy of the student body around this historic*

*vote. I am voting YES to Question 2 because no institution should be complicit in war, let alone a genocide.*

Weapons that are made by companies Cornell invests in are being used on Palestinians that the terrorist nation of Israel wants to attack. Cornell's money is being used and invested in a genocide. Is this what Cornell University wants to be known for? Aiding in the killing of civilians? The United States has been compliant and is not holding Israel accountable even when the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has confirmed that Israel should prevent genocide from happening, but then they accused the ICJ of working with HAMAS. Israel has proven time and time again that they do not want peace; they want to ethnically cleanse Palestinians from their land because they believe they are the chosen people. They have broken numerous human rights laws and continue to do so because they know they can get away with it. The terrorist nation of Israel has a victim complex and is a bully; they think it is acceptable to hurt others, but when their victims retaliate, they hide and cry, confused about why they are being attacked. Cornell coddles Israel when they commit war crimes by not speaking out and condemning their actions. I have seen videos where deranged Israel Defense Forces shot civilians rushing to get aid that was being dropped. People who were starving were going to retrieve food, and terrorists fired at them. These weapons are being tested on Palestinians and have long-lasting effects. White phosphorus is being used on civilians, which is extremely dangerous. The hospitals in Gaza have all been bombed; those who are injured have nowhere to go, and they have minimal resources. Doctors have to perform amputations of their patients without any medication. Illegally occupying European settlers are preventing aid trucks from getting into Gaza, which has medical supplies, food, and water for Gazans. Israel has confined civilians in open area prisons, continues to bomb them, and refuses to take the blame.

*A recent UN human rights report exclaims that there is reasonable grounds that Israel is committing genocide. Divesting from these corporations would make me feel safer and more welcome on campus, because currently the university endorses murdering people like me. I'm so scared to go outside of my dorm and have many restless nights because other Cornellians want to murder me because of my ethnicity. One time a Cornell student violently threatened me based on my ethnicity because I said I felt unsafe to be on a campus that endorses murdering people like me. This incident gave me a severe mental breakdown, and made me fail a test because of it, I was very scared for my life because a Cornell student violently threatened me just because of the way I was born. Lastly, over 15,000 children have died since last October. Obviously this is considered systemic cruelty to children, which means we should divest under the divestment guidelines.*

Cornell is an educational institution. It should not be investing in companies that perpetrate violence regardless of whom the violence is being directed upon. This is shameful.

*The plausible genocide ruling is a warning sign that the situation in Gaza may soon meet Cornell's standards for divestment. Cornell is an influential institution that has an opportunity to be a leader in condemning genocide before the tragedies mount any further.*