

1. CALL TO ORDER

Call to Order – 4:42 PM

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that the SFSS is located on the traditional, unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples, including the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), Selílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem) and q̓ícəy̓ (Katzie) Nations. Unceded means that these territories have never been handed over, sold, or given up by these nations, and we are currently situated on occupied territories.

3. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 Council Composition

Student Union Representatives

Applied Science.....	Vacant
Archeology	Damon Tarrant
Art, Performance, and Cinema Studies.....	Vacant
Asia Canada Studies	Vacant
Bachelor of Environment.....	Tiana Andjelic
Behavioral Neuroscience	Aarthi Srinivasan
Biology	Nicolas Bonilla
Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology.....	Kashish Mehta
Business	Vacant
Chemistry	Vacant

Cognitive Science.....	Gurmehar Singh
Communications.....	Ashran Bharosha
Computing Science.....	Vacant
Criminology	Charlotte Taylor-Baer
Dance	Vacant
Data Science Student Union.....	Vadym Shakhraichuk
Earth Science.....	Vacant
Economics	Rafid Rahman
Education.....	Jihye (Jin) Choi
Engineering Science	Sarah Raisuddin
English Councillor	Liz Giardin
Environmental Science	Paige Ripley
Faculty of Applied Science.....	Vacant
Faculty of Communications, Arts and Technology ...	Vacant
Faculty of Environment Event	Vacant
Film Student Union	Vacant
Fine and Performing Arts.....	Vacant
French	Kylee Pocrnich
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.....	Sophonie Priebe
Geography	Natasha Kearns
Gerontology Student Union	Vacant
Global Asia Studies Student Union.....	Eunice Kwok
Health Science	Jocelle Refol
History	Vacant
Humanities	Vacant
Indigenous Studies Student Union	Anita Shen

Interactive Arts and Technology	Jeremy Felix
International Studies Student Association	Deanna Short
Labour Studies	Justin Chen
Latin American Studies	Vacant
Linguistics	Alev Maleki
Mathematics	Ben Tischler
Mechatronics System Engineering	Ryler McWilliams
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	Avneet Kaur
Music Student Union	Vacant
Operations Research	Ashutosh Dubal
Performing Arts	Vacant
Philosophy	Nicole Kirigin
Physics	Vacant
Political Science	Abhishek Parmar
Psychology	Tiffany Liu
Public Policy	Vacant
Science Undergraduate Society	Vacant
Semester in Dialogue	Vacant
Society of Arts and Social Sciences	Akum Sidhu
Sociology and Anthropology	Kayla Chow
Software Systems	Shashank Thanalapati
Statistics and Actuarial Science (SASSA)	Jia So
Sustainable Community Development	Vacant
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society	Mohammad Al-Sheboul
Theatre Student Union	Vacant
Visual Arts	Vacant

World Literature Vacant

Constituency Group Representatives

Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance Vacant
First Nations, Métis & Inuit Student Association Keianna James
International Student Advocates Quynh Chi Bui
Out on Campus Collective Vacant
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry Linda Kanyamuna
Women Centre Collective..... Nim Basra

Affiliated Student Groups

Residence Hall's Association (RHA) Vacant
Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Paul Ursu

SFSS Executive Committee

Acting President (Chair)..... Corbett Gildersleve
Acting VP Internal & Organizational Development... Chloe Homenuke
VP Finance and Services..... Almas Phangura
VP University and Academic Affairs Serena Bains
VP External and Community Affairs Matthew Provost
VP Equity and Sustainability..... Marie Haddad
VP Events and Student Affairs..... Jess Dela Cruz

3.2 Society Staff

Operations Organizer Ayesha Khan
Board Organizer..... Emmanuela Droko

Policy, Research, Community Affairs Coordinator.... Beaty Omboga
Administrative Assistant..... Simar Thukral
Building Manager John Walsh

3.3 Alternates

Cognitive Science Student Association Hilary Tsui
Society of Arts and Social Science Judit Nagy

3.4 Regrets

Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Kashish Mehta
Behavioral Neuroscience Aarthi Srinivasan
Health Science Jocelle Refol
Mathematics Ben Tischler
Society of Arts and Social Science Akum Sidhu
Software Systems Shashank Thanalapati
Data Science Student Union..... Vadym Shakhraichuk
French Kylee Pocrnich
Labour Studies Justin Chen
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Avneet Kaur

3.5 Leave of Absence

Communications Student Union..... Ashran Bharosha

3.6 Guests

Member..... Judit Nagy
Member..... Hilary Tsui

3.7 Absents

Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies Student Union Sophonie Priebe
Global Asia Studies Councillor..... Eunice Wing-Lam Kwok
Indigenous Studies Student Union Anita Shen
International Studies Student Union..... Deanna Short
Operations Research Ashutosh Dubal
Philosophy Councillor Nicole Kirigin
Sustainable Energy Engineering Student Society Mohammad Al-Sheboul
First Nations, Metis & Inuit Student Association Keianna James
Students of Caribbean & African Ancestry Linda Kanyamuna

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 CONSENT AGENDA

Be it resolved to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.1.1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES-Committee Minutes-MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:01

Be it resolved to receive and file the following Council minutes:

- BIPOC 2022-03-16
- EXEC 2022-03-21
- EXEC 2022-03-22

4.1.2. RATIFICATION OF REGRETS-MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04- 13:02

SUBMITTED BY: Acting President “Corbett Gildersleve”

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets for the April 6th Special Council

Meeting from Interactive Arts and Technology Councillor “Jeremy Felix” and Geography Councillor “Natasha Kearns”

Be it resolved to ratify the regrets for the April 13th Council Meeting from Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Councillor “Kashish Mehta”, Behavioral Neuroscience Councillor “Aarthi Srinivasan”, Health Science Councillor “Jocelle Refol”, Society of Arts and Social Science “Akum Sidhu”, Software Systems “ Shashank Thanalapati”, Data Science Student Union Councillor “ Vadym Sakhraichuk”, French Councillor “Kylee Pocrnich”, Labour Studies Councillor “Justin Chen”, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Councillor “Avneet Kaur”, and Mathematics Councillor “Ben Tischler”.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:03

Corbett / Marie

Be it resolved to adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- VP Equity moved to include new business item 9.1.
- VP Equity moved to include discussion item
- Acting President moved to include regrets from Biomedical Physiology & Kinesiology Councilor, Behavioral Neuroscience Councilor, Health Science Councilor, Society of Arts and Social Science Councilor, Software Systems Councilor, Data Science Student Union Councilor, French Councilor, Labor Studies Councilor, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry Councilor, and

Mathematics Councilor.

- Acting President moved to include new business item 6.1.
- Acting President moved to strike item 8.1.

6. NEW BUSINESS

**6.1 Special Council Meeting on April 20th, 2021 to Discuss IP-10:
Palestinian Liberation Issues Policy- MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:04
SUBMITTED BY: Acting President “Corbett Gildersleve”**

Corbett / Marie

Be it resolved to amend the agenda to include the following motion as the first item of the meeting and to remove the current motion to consider the approval of the drafted Issues Policy 10;

Whereas tactics are being used to attempt to discredit and misrepresent the IP-10: Palestinian Liberation Issues Policy;

Whereas the SFSS Free Palestine Working group has worked on this policy since May 2021, which is in line with the SFSS Statement on Israeli Colonization of Palestine unanimously passed by the Council;

Whereas SFSS can ensure that the motion has a thorough discussion and vote solely based on what the policy and as such a dedicated session would be best;

Be it resolved that the Chair call a special meeting of Council on April 20th at 4:30 PM;

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Free Palestine working group be delegated to formulate a final draft after consulting with the lawyer to

ensure the legal soundness of the policy, and take amendments of said policy without materially deviating from this policy currently written and attached as well as the SFSS Statement on Israel Colonization of Palestine;

Be it further resolved that Council suspend PM 1.2 for the April 20th Special Council meeting to allow Council to amend the policy at the meeting based on discussion and feedback if needed without requiring a 2-week Notice of Motion period;

Be it further resolved that if any amendments are made ahead of the April 20th Special Council meeting based on feedback that they are provided to Council and members through a Notice of Motion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Acting president expressed that there have been amendments to the actual motion in terms of the language and apart from that, they mentioned that this motion should have a dedicated time as there is a lot to discuss about this motion.
- VP Equity expressed that it is crucial to assure that this issue policy is not being used in a harmful manner, so, ensuring that it has been taken care of, is something we need to consider.
- Political Science Councillor spoke in favour of this motion and expressed that the members can get some time to fully understand the rationale behind IP.
- Acting President of SFU DNA mentioned that the DNA is one of the constituency groups that had endorsed the IP draft that they received - their members voted unanimously in support. They expressed the importance of understanding the time for thorough understanding and discussion on such an important policy that supports Palestinian Liberation.

7. PRESENTATION

7.1 Executive Transition Plan

PRESENTED BY: Board Organizer “Ella Droko” and Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development “Chloe Homenuke”

- The Board Organizer and Acting VP Internal and Organizational Development presented on the orientation plan. They mentioned that this is from the past two months from the date election have finished and up to the date the incoming executive term starts – May 1st.
- The transition plan is divided into two phases. Where the phase one focuses on the First 30 days and Phase 2 encompasses the 60 days of transition period. This plan has been different from last year’s transition plan where 30 hours were dedicated for 30 days. In this plan the training hours have been doubled with the aim of more smooth and thorough transition.
- Phase one looks to establish foundational knowledge of SFSS membership services, operations, and administrative support. This is crucial as many of the incoming executive have not been a part of Council before and this knowledge would be beneficial. This will help the incoming executive to review SFSS policies and procedures.
- Phase two would be focusing on orienting the incoming executive on what their role would entail. So, this will include position shadowing, organizational planning, introductions, and walkthroughs with the current executives.

7.2 Migrant Student United at SFU Presentation

PRESENTED BY: International Student Advocates “Quynh Chi Bui”

ATTACHMENTS: MSU-at-SFU-Presentation

- International Student Advocates started with introducing MSU as a member-led organization of migrant farmworkers, care workers, students, and more to win worker and immigration justice.
- ISA mentioned that MSU's are required when there is no collective advocacy support for both undergraduate and graduate international students on campus, at times when there is insufficient community and social network support for international students, and when federal nature of systemic barriers is faced by international students that required united action on a national level.

- They expressed the major issue of high tuition fees for international students.

International students pay 3 to 4 times more than the domestic students. The tuition fees have kept on increasing even during the pandemic.

Some of the cost increase in the fees that they mentioned were - earlier international students were charged \$35 for Health Fee whereas now they are charged \$75 this comes to \$1800 per year to \$2700 per year which leads to a financial burden on the students. International Students can only work 20 hours a week which is way low to afford rent and food expenses.

- International Students at times have to deal with time-restricted and non-renewable nature of the post-graduation work permit.
- International Student Advocated mentioned that they are currently working on the PR Campaign to remove the 20 hour work limit, making the nature of PGWP renewable, make the work experience for international students count toward PR in any NOC code, remove unfair age, language, education and health requirements, and ensuring family unity for all types of families by simplifying the partner visa process for LGBTQ+ couples.

- They expressed that the international students are overworked and underpaid and can barely afford the time to advocate for themselves.
- Other major concerns include – the necessity to maintain full-time status during the studies, limited availability of grants and scholarships, and racism and discrimination faced in work and study environments.
- The funding they are requesting would help towards stipends that would alleviate some of the financial stress and free up time for international students to organize and advocate for themselves, and the funding would support more budget to run events, social, and town halls.
- Acting President clarified that the total \$22,850 fund stated in the presentation would come from different groups such as SFSS, TSSU, and GSS.
- VP Equity spoke in favour of this presentation and expressed that this issue affects the international students in terms of time and money to be a part of this education system. Tuition fees have increase for about 2% for domestic students. Whereas, it has increased by 4% for the international students within the pandemic.

8. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8.1 Committee on Councillors Breaching Confidentiality

SUBMITTED BY: Acting President “Corbett Gildersleve”

- Postponed

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Endorse the Kickoff Rally for a BC Tuition Freeze- MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:05

SUBMITTED BY: VP Equity and Sustainability “Marie Haddad”

Marie / Abhishek

Whereas the SFSS Board of Directors, as well as the Council (advisory Council at the time) endorsed the initial iteration of the Tuition Freeze Now campaign in 2019;

Whereas there is now a Tuition Freeze Now campaign provincially growing from SFU to UBC and UVIC which had started at SFU in 2019;

Whereas SFSS Membership endorsed calling on SFU to establish a Tuition Freeze in the 2021 AGM and continually supports initiatives towards the goals outlined in the SFSS constitution for an "universally accessible Post-Secondary education";

Be it resolved to endorse the TFN March on April 14th from 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM and continue to support other such Tuition Freeze Now actions and initiatives.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- VP Equity mentioned that the tuition fees have been a major accessibility issue for domestic and the international students. Previously, there was lobbying in terms of halting the tuition fees to either reduce the tuition, or to freeze the tuition, or to have other meaningful barriers in place to decrease the barriers for education. SFU did not decide to come in favour of this. So, it is important for Student and Labour Union to put forward this initiative.
- SFU DNA Acting Executive mentioned that they support this campaign and are grateful for the advocacy done by fellow students across many universities on this. Education is a human right and the rising costs of tuition is deeply inequitable. Instead of lining the pockets of SFU admins by increasing tuition, SFU and other universities should work alongside the provincial government to find equitable and accessible solutions for

universal education. They encourage everyone to support the action by spreading the word and showing up for the campaign if they can.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

10.1 Budget Review

SUBMITTED BY: Acting President “Corbett Gildersleve”

ATTACHMENT:

BLURB: Reviewing the 3rd draft of the 2022-2023 budget

- Acting President shared the briefing note for SFSS 2022-2023 Budget.

The SFSS is required to approve a preliminary budget for the next fiscal year before the end of April. A final budget will be approved by the new Council early in the summer. The 3rd draft budget is up for review by Council and any changes will be presented to Council for April 27th, 2022 as a final draft.

- Acting president mentioned that the first two drafts of the budget contained the base revenue and a number of departmental budgets provided by different coordinators.
- Acting president expressed that some of initial issues were that the revenue was based on enrollment numbers during the pandemic for both SFU and FIC. SFU enrollment numbers are updated as they do regular reporting. However, a meeting will be held with FIC on Thursday to get a projection on their enrollment numbers.
- SFSS received revenue update from FIC due to a service agreement with them in place. They pay a number of student fees including the membership fee, space expansion fund fee, accessibility fee, Build SFU fee, etc. It was missing projected

investment and SUB monetization revenue, the initial budget had an approximate of \$500,000 deficit.

- However, with setting the membership fee revenue to pre-pandemic levels for SFU and FIC, as well as taking conservative estimates on investment revenues and SUB monetization targets, the deficit is now projected at around \$170,000. This is within the 5% of revenue.
- It is common for SFSS to predict a deficit or small surplus at the start of fiscal year, and then have a surplus by the end, due to a combination of operational underspending or higher than expected enrollments. Additional areas where projected deficit could be lowered by is with carrying over some operational surplus from this fiscal year.
- The SFSS has a number of dedicated fees that the undergraduate students pay each term. These fees have their own funds and can only be used in specific ways as laid out in the referendum question. For instance, the SFSS membership fee goes to their general fund which funds the majority of the organization, its services, and supports. The Build SFU fee goes towards funding the operation of the SUB, its support staff, construction loan payments, contributions to the SFU stadium, etc. the accessibility fund goes towards supporting making SFSS events and activities more accessible and reducing barriers for students. Our dedicated equity fees for FNMISA, SOCA, and DNA goes towards supporting programming and initiatives out of those spaces. The staff costs for those spaces comes from the SFSS general fund.
- The acting president mentioned that the SFSS needs to expand its service and support offerings to take advantage of the SUB. The

current budget and fees that are in place are set at a similar level to when they were operating in the MBC for the past 20 years. During that time, operations more or less worked on a 9 to 5 pm work schedule from Monday to Friday. However, if they want to have more flexibility in terms of evening and weekend support for events, services, and supports they will need new stable revenue to cover those costs. There are number of ways to do that, and they will make recommendations for the April 27th meeting.

10.2 Council Retention Survey

SUBMITTED BY: VP Equity and Sustainability “Marie Haddad”

ATTACHMENT:

- VP Equity and Sustainability mentioned that the survey is due by the end of today. However, they feel more responses could be obtained if the council members are given more time to complete the survey by next Wednesday or Sunday.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

11.1 IP-11: Accessible and Equitable Events– MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:06

SUBMITTED BY: VP University and Academic Affairs “Serena Bains”

ATTACHMENTS: IP-11_ Accessible and Equitable Events

Mover / Seconder

Whereas the Vice-President Events and Student Affairs Jess Dela Cruz, the Accessibility Coordinator Brianna Price and the Vice-President University and Academic Affairs Serena Bains have collaborated on developing Issues Policy 11: Accessible and Equitable Events,

Whereas the issues policy has received feedback from members of the SFU Disability and Neurodiversity Alliance (DNA) resulting in revisions,

Whereas there is a need for an issues policy to ensure any and all SFSS events are equitable and accessible for all attendees, organizers and staff,
Be it resolved that Council approve Issues Policy 11: Accessible and Equitable Events,

Be it further resolved that the SFSS Issues Policy document be updated to reflect the more recently approved issues policies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. ATTACHMENTS

12.1 MSU-at-SFU-Presentation

12.2 [FINAL DRAFT] SFSS Uyghur Solidarity Statement (1)

12.3 IP- 10_ Palestinian Liberation Draft formulated by the SFSS

12.4 IP-11_ Accessible and Equitable Events

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.1 MOTION COUNCIL 2022-04-13:07

Marie / Abhishek

Be it resolved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Migrant Students United at SFU

Presentation to Simon Fraser Student Society Council
April 13th, 2022

Who are we

- Group of former and current international students (undergrad & grad) fighting for fair rights
- Supported by TSSU and GSS
- Part of a larger movement under Migrant Students United, and Migrant Worker Alliance for Change





Migrant Workers Alliance for Change

A member-led organization of migrant farmworkers, care workers, **students (Migrant Students United)**, and more to win worker and immigration justice.

GET SUPPORT AND ORGANIZE WITH OTHERS LIKE YOU!

Migrant
Students



CONNECT

Care
Workers



CONNECT

Farm
Workers



CONNECT

Trabajador@
agricolas



CONNECTAR

Other
migrants



If you are a migrant or undocumented person, but are not a student, care worker,

Supporters



Take action with the Migrant Rights Network to build a people's movement for status for all.

Why do we need MSU?

- No advocacy support for undergrad and graduate international students on campus
- Insufficient community and social network support for undergrad and graduate international students
- Federal nature of some of the systemic barriers faced by international that requires united action on national level

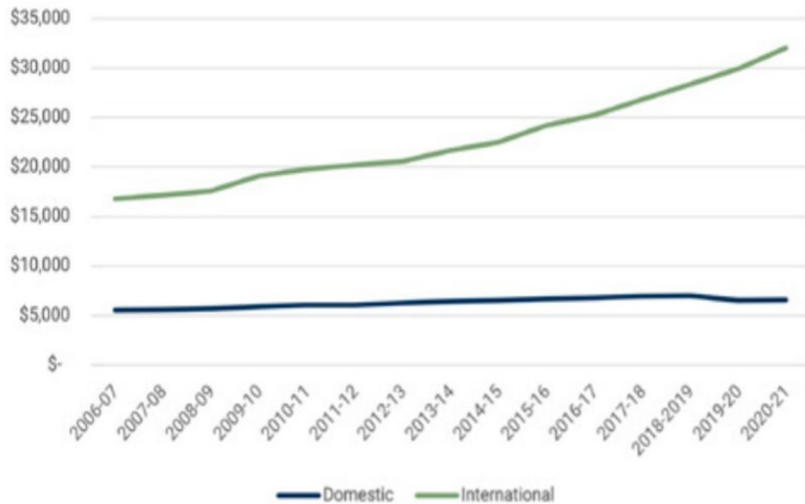


Major Problems

- High tuition fees
 - International Students Health Fee
 - 20 hour/week work limit
 - Unfair and exclusive Permanent Residency Rules
 - Time-restricted and non-renewable nature of Post-Graduate Work Permit
 - The necessity to maintain full-time status during studies
 - Limited grants and scholarships
 - Less job opportunities available to international students and graduates
 - Facing racism and discrimination in work and study environments
 - Exploitation, over-work, and underpaid in work environments
 - ...
-

Tuition Fees

Figure 5.5 — Domestic vs. International Student Tuition, Canadian Universities, 2006-07 to 2020-21, in \$2020



- International students pay **3 to 4 times more** than domestic student
- Post-Secondary Education (PSE) funding is over-reliant on international tuition fees
- International students paid 40% of all tuition fees and accounted for almost \$4 billion in annual revenue for Canadian universities in 2017/2018
- In 2020/21, international undergrads paid an average tuition of \$32,041, almost **five times** the average for domestic students (\$6,610)
- Tuition increase even during the pandemic

Past Work and Wins



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ARE ORGANIZING AND WINNING!

Join our panel event to hear more about our rights, the changes we've won, and what's next!

TUES MAR 30
5PM PST / ONLINE
Registration required, click to RSVP

2-MINUTE SURVEY: [MIGRANTWORKERSALLIANCE.ORG/MSU2021SURVEY](https://migrantworkersalliance.org/msu2021survey)



PGWP campaign Oct 2020 to Jan 2021

SFSS and GSS aid in extending post-graduate work permits for international students

The new policy helps former international students continue to live and work in Canada

By News - January 26, 2021

251 0



Written by: Jaymee Salisi, News Writer



**City
News**

Current Work

PR Campaign

- Removing 20 hour work limit
- Making PGWP Renewable
- Count work experience towards PR; in any NOC code, in any job, and while in school
- Offer automatic work permits to private college students
- Remove unfair age, language, education and health requirements
- Ensure family unity for ALL types of families by simplifying the partner visa process for LGBTQ+ couples



Plan for Summer and Fall 2022

- Next steps of PR campaign
 - Reachout to other universities, Meet with MPs, Hold events and Rallies, Media outreach, etc.
 - Active participation in the national Status for ALL campaign
 - International Students Health Fee Campaign
 - Creating a Migrant and International Students Rights Issues Policies
 - Actively connecting with and mobilizing international students through hosting events and town halls to discuss international students issues, hear their concerns and priorities.
-

Why we need funding to support our work and international students?

- International students are overworked and underpaid and can barely afford time to advocate for themselves
- Funding towards stipends would alleviate some of the financial stress and free up time for international students to organize and advocate for ourselves
- More budget to run events, socials, town halls, and etc
- Majority of international students are undergrads and members of the SFSS

EDUCATION

Pandemic takes tragic toll on international students with rising deaths by suicide: report



By Neetu Garcha • Global News

Posted April 7, 2021 8:08 pm

Global News Hour at 6 BC

COVID-19 taking tragic toll on mental health of international students



International students are increasingly struggling with their mental health during the global pandemic, and with tragic consequences. Neetu Garcha has more on the problem, and how a Surrey Khalsa school teacher is providing hope to students after he survived a very dark year – Apr 7, 2021

How much TSSU and GSS have contributed to the background work and creation of MSU Chapter so far?

- TSSU has donated around \$14,000 in 1 fiscal year
 - GSS donated around \$8000 in the past 2 fiscal years
-

Financial support needed for this work

Summer and Fall 2022

1. Stipend for 6 members, 5 hrs/week

$34.76 \text{ weeks} * \$20/\text{hour} * 30 \text{ hour/week} = \$20,856$

1. Campaigns and events: \$2000
-

What's Next

MSU will be bringing forward a motion through the ISA council rep at the next council meeting with a briefing note

Trigger Warning (TW): Genocide, ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, rape, forced labour, violence against women

RE: Uyghur Solidarity, condemning the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) as perpetrators of genocide, commitment to divesting from companies tied to the CCP, calling out local SFU professor for spreading misinformation on the genocide against Uyghurs

“All I hoped for was to liberate my people. To stop the tears from flooding their eyes, and let them live the lives that other people are living. Living without fear, talking without fear, and feeling that they are human beings who can live with dignity and freedom. Who won’t be refugees from their own homeland, but who can live peacefully in their own homes.”

- *Rebiya Kadeer (2010), Prominent Uyghur Activist & Five-Time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee*

The Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS) advocates for, and stands in solidarity with, the Uyghur people in condemnation of the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) human rights violations, state violence, forced labour, and genocide against the Uyghur people. We condemn the ongoing efforts of the CCP in destroying Uyghur culture, forcibly sterilizing their women, and for furthering the traumatic practice of ethnic cleansing by mass-detaining Uyghur individuals into internment camps where they are forced to assimilate in Chinese-Han culture by denouncing Islam¹. Furthermore, the SFSS also calls out on the harm caused by local lecturers at Simon Fraser University (SFU) who have publically spread misinformation against egregious realities and traumas experienced by Uyghur communities a part of our student body.

Brief History – Massacres to Internment Camps

With a population larger than 11 million, the Uyghur peoples are largely Muslim-dominated and Turkic-speaking demographic indigenous to East Turkestan – which is globally officiated as so-called “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR)” – located in northwestern China². In attempts to reclaim their autonomy from China with various independence movements dated as far back as the 1930s, the Uyghur peoples continue to live out a traumatic decades-long history of racism, discrimination and displacement perpetuated by the CCP’s political agenda³.

The Uyghur peoples have experienced two majorly violent massacres perpetuated against them by

¹ Zenz, A. (2019). 'Thoroughly reforming them towards a healthy heart attitude': China's political re-education campaign in Xinjiang. *Central Asian Survey*, 38(1), 102–128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2018.1507997>

² Roberts, Sean R. 2020. “The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy and the ‘People’s War on Terror,’ 2013–2016.” In *The War on the Uyghurs*, 78:161–98. Princeton: Princeton University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9780691202211-009>.

³ Ibid.

the CCP. In February of 1997, the Ghulja Massacre occurred when CCP police forces brutally beaten, tortured and murdered large masses of Uyghur peace protestors in the city of Ghulja⁴. These Uyghur-lead peaceful demonstrations were sparked by feelings of religious and cultural repression due to the CCP banning Uyghur social gatherings called *meshreps*⁵. Since the Ghulja Massacre, Uyghurs in Ghulja experienced stricter CCP crackdowns, curfews, transportation cut-offs to various regions in East Turkestan, and a vicious bus bombing killing nine Uyghurs and severely injuring twenty-eight more⁶.

In 2009, the Uyghur peoples conducted another peaceful protest in Urumqi. This was in response to the killing of two Uyghur labourers in a Guangdong toy factory that wrongly accused by Chinese-Han factory labourers for allegedly raping Chinese-Han women⁷. That same year, on July 5th, the Urumqi Massacre occurred when CCP police forces shot an estimated 1000 of these Uyghur peace protestors, and later detained up to 5000 Uyghur males in the city of Urumqi⁸. Before they were attacked, the World Uyghur Congress notes that Uyghur peace protestors were carrying the Chinese flag as a symbol for peace⁹. The day following the massacre, thousands of Chinese-Han mobs destroyed Uyghur-owned businesses and mosques in Urumqi¹⁰.

Today, the impact of the CCP's racism and inhumane treatment against the Uyghur peoples have resulted in over one million Uyghurs being detained in mass internment camps – deemed as “re-education facilities” according to the CCP – located in East Turkestan, which is the preferred term to the colonial name “Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region”, where they are murdered, tortured and forcibly taught to assimilate into the dominant Chinese-Han culture¹¹. Studies report that over 90% of the China's population is ethnically Han¹². Furthermore, cities in occupied East Turkestan – such as in Kashgar – have reported the egregiousness of Uyghur internment where they have over 120,000 detained Uyghurs forced to denounce Islam and thought only to speak Mandarin¹³. Due to these harsh realities, the SFSS affirms its solidarity with Uyghur communities and stands against the ongoing genocide against their people.

CCP Misinformation Campaigns

The CCP is engaged in a campaign to disseminate misinformation and undermine Western humanitarian responses to the ongoing Uyghur genocide, including through official statements made on behalf of the CCP¹⁴. These claims include denials of the scope and scale of the

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/the-urumqi-massacre/>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Tristin Hopper. 2021. “A 21st Century Holocaust; The Genocide of the Uyghurs by China.” *National Post (Toronto)*, 2021.

¹² Anderson, Amy, and Darren Byler. 2019. ““Eating Hanness”: Uyghur Musical Tradition in a Time of Re-Education.” *China Perspectives* 2019 (3): 17–26. <https://doi.org/10.4000/chinaperspectives.9358>.

¹³ Zenz, A. (2019). 'Thoroughly reforming them towards a healthy heart attitude': China's political re-education campaign in Xinjiang. *Central Asian Survey*, 38(1), 102–128. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2018.1507997>

¹⁴ https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1794581.shtml

humanitarian crimes committed, false comparisons with American, European, and Canadian programs, accusations of Uyghur groups for housing and supporting religious extremism, and the coercion of interned Uyghur Muslims and other captives to produce propaganda¹⁵.

The CCP also attempts to coerce and blackmail foreign nationals, including Canadian citizens, through falsified contacts and the detainment of family members. These actions are taken with intent to dissuade humanitarian and activist activity, and actively harm, disrupt, or culturally isolate marginalized and immigrant communities in Canada and elsewhere¹⁶. Additionally, the use of prisoners under duress for the creation and distribution of propaganda, including those intended to be “viral” on western platforms¹⁷. Furthermore, we recognize the financial influence of the CCP in halting collective human rights intervention in so-called XUAR and other parts of disputed East Turkestan, and its use of economic suppression to halt United Nations humanitarian efforts, as well as the corruption evident by the influenced parties¹⁸.

Monetary Harms

The CCP benefits greatly under the harmful morals that they inflict on the Uyghur peoples. The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) identified 83 major brands who are benefiting off of potentially dangerous forced labour conduct. Including brands like Zara, Nike, H&M, and BMW¹⁹. Furthermore, the ASPI predicts at least 80,000 Uyghurs were transferred out of East Turkestan and into these companies' factories under a central government policy called ‘Xinjiang aid’²⁰.

Experts have also discovered how repression in occupied East Turkestan is positively correlated with the CCP’s development in Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) projects²¹. East Turkestan is a key area for the Belt and Road Initiative as it connects China with the Middle East and Central Asia. This makes China economically invested in maintaining control over the Uyghur region and interested in minimizing external influences from countries in Central Asia²². BRI projects also provide incentive for other countries to dismiss the repression of the Uyghurs since they profit billions of dollars from Chinese investments in these projects²³.

¹⁵ <https://www.icij.org/investigations/china-cables/huge-uptick-in-chinese-propaganda-over-uyghur-camps-report-finds/>

¹⁶ <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-csis-warns-chinas-operation-fox-hunt-is-targeting-canadas-chinese/>

¹⁷ <https://www.propublica.org/article/how-china-uses-youtube-and-twitter-to-spread-its-propaganda-version-of-life-for-uyghurs-in-xinjiang>

¹⁸ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-un-rights-idUSKBN1990FP>

¹⁹ <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/china-83-major-brands-implicated-in-report-on-forced-labour-of-ethnic-minorities-from-xinjiang-assigned-to-factories-across-provinces-includes-company-responses/>

²⁰ https://www.aspi.org.au/report/uyghurs-sale?_cf_chl_jschl_tk=__pmd_kusU2onfhraTwZG1P_6bIPZPPZgljeYyfP7XEUgYHM0-1634694023-0-gqNtZGzNAhCjcnBszOil

²¹ <https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/JIPA/Display/Article/2441685/the-economics-of-repression-the-belt-and-road-initiative-covid-19-and-the-repre/>

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

Destruction of The Family

The Uyghur peoples have also experienced the harmful and systemic tactics actioned by the CCP to intentionally separate Uyghur families from themselves and their cultural roots. The Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project (URAP) reports that CCP policies – such as coerced divorces between Uyghur couples, forced marriages into Chinese-Han families, and the denying of passports and visas for unifying Uyghur family members – have all added to the ongoing genocide against Uyghurs²⁴. For instance, Uyghurs taking refuge in Turkey have been told by the Chinese Embassies that they must travel back to China in order to receive government-issued travel documentation²⁵. The issue, however, is that Uyghurs who do take the journey back to China run the risk of being imprisoned by the CCP and lose all connection to their families elsewhere in the world²⁶.

The Forced Sterilization of Uyghur Women

The CCP has also instilled draconian measures to curb the Muslim population by forcibly sterilizing Uyghur women. In 2020, the Associated Press (AP) reported that the Chinese state conducted regular pregnancy screenings on Uyghur women while forcing them to wear intrauterine devices (IUD's)²⁷. If a woman refused to comply with wearing an IUD, or if she had three or more children, the CCP would place punishments in the form of paying large fines, raiding homes to, ripping children from their families or place these women in mass detention camps²⁸.

There is also emerging global discourse that agrees on the notion that the practices of lowering Uyghur birthrates are an instrument of genocide. Global coalitions formed with up to 282 non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International, have written open letters to the United Nations Secretary-General to condemn the human rights abuses and genocidal actions perpetrated by the CCP on the Uyghur peoples²⁹. The issue also raises concern for China's handling of human rights and gender rights being that China had signed and ratified both the 1948 *United Nations Genocide Convention* (UNGC), and the 1979 *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW)³⁰.

Call Out to SFU Lecturer

The SFSS would also like to address the July 2021 article composed by Dr. Yuezhi Zhao, for the Chinese state-run media *China Daily*, titled *Canada should reflect on its struggle with racism*. The

²⁴ Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project. (2021). "Uyghur Family Destruction: China's Continual Instrument of Genocide."

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ <https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-international-news-weekend-reads-china-health-269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/09/09/global-call-international-human-rights-monitoring-mechanisms-china>

³⁰ https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=36&Lang=EN

article writes at length on how Canada fuels anti-Chinese discourse by “attacking” the country for “alleged human rights abuses” while failing to address its own racist tendencies³¹. Currently, Dr. Zhao is a Communications professor representing SFU, and a current Canada Research Chair in the research field of political economy of communication. These assertions by her completely disregard the work of academics at SFU and around the world. These academics have not only contributed to the joint SFU-UBC Xinjiang Documentation Project, but have also done significant research into China’s colonial-like practices upon its minorities. We condemn her statements and urge that Dr. Zhao, as a representative of SFU, to do better. There is no excuse for ignorance when a wealth of scholarly research exists on the ongoing internment of the Uyghur population, and subsequent decline.

This is extremely disappointing to see from an appointed professor in SFU Communications department, and a traumatic invalidation towards Uyghur students at SFU. The assertion that partaking in discourse to raise awareness of the ongoing genocide is equivalent “anti-China discourse” falls into the typical CCP propaganda playbook. Throughout history from the Qing Dynasty, to the Cultural Revolution, to the present-day, the CCP has carried out assimilationist measures on their ethnic minorities and a “People’s War on Terror” on the Uyghurs in East Turkestan³². We have the capacity to condemn both of these atrocities, simultaneously holding governments and people in power accountable. When we look at Canada’s current and present history of attempts to wipe out Indigenous language, culture and spiritual beliefs, we see as Canadians how brutal and traumatic these actions are. When we witness the likewise occurring in the so-called “XUAR” with the crackdown upon religious freedoms, the razing of mosques, forced labor, sterilization, re-education and more, we must also shed light on this condemn it. When you witness human rights abuses, do you ignore it and look away?

Action Items

The SFSS stands in solidarity with Uyghur communities fighting for justice and liberation. We stand against the CCP’s racist and systemic erasure of the Uyghur peoples and implore them to do better. We also ask that other student societies, universities, and institutions to join in taking concrete steps to support efforts that center Uyghur voices. To learn more about this issue, we encourage students to look into resources such as:

- The Shukr Foundation: <https://www.shukrfoundation.org.au/>
- The SFU-UBC Xinjiang Documentation Project: <https://xinjiang.sppga.ubc.ca/>
- The Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project: <https://www.urap.ca/>

In Solidarity,
Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS)

³¹ <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-sfu-academic-assails-canadas-criticism-of-china-on-human-rights/>

³² Roberts, Sean R. 2020. “The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy and the ‘People’s War on Terror,’ 2013–2016.” In *The War on the Uyghurs*, 78:161–98. Princeton: Princeton University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9780691202211-009>.

IP-10: Palestinian Liberation

Preamble

Palestinian liberation refers to resistance against Israeli settler colonialism and ending the occupation within Historic Palestine which includes the 48 territories (present-day State of Israel), West Bank, and Gaza.

The State of Israel was built through the dispossession and ethnic cleansing of over 700,000 Palestinians from their homes, villages, and lands. Since 1948, the State of Israel has been occupying and colonizing Palestinian land, discriminating against Palestinians across the entirety of Palestine—displacing and denying the right of return to over 7 million Palestinian refugees across the world. The reality of Palestinian displacement by Israeli colonialism and expulsion is at the core of the Palestinian liberation movement and experience, especially in reference to Palestinian refugees and the right of return.

Israel enforces its settler-colonialist regime of occupation, forced expulsions, dispossessions, and ethnic cleansing—core components of eradicating the Indigenous population that contribute to the entirety of settler-colonialism—through segregation and discrimination with policies of apartheid. This state of oppression has historically organized itself through discriminatory and colonial policies of ethnic supremacy for Jewish citizens of Israel and the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their rightful home. Furthermore, Palestinians at home, in exile, and the diaspora (as well as their allies) are subject to censorship and doxxing (i.e., online dossiers and blacklists such as “Canary Mission”), leading to assaults on their careers, education, and livelihoods.

As outlined in the Human Rights Watch report ["A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution,"](#) the B'tselem report ["A regime of Jewish supremacy from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea: This is apartheid,"](#) and the Amnesty International report ["Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: A Cruel System of Domination and a Crime Against Humanity,"](#) the State of Israel is in clear violation of public international law and its most foundational, universal norms.

The State of Israel violates international humanitarian law and international human rights law; provisions in the [Fourth Geneva Convention](#), the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), the [International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid](#), the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#), and the [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court](#) (to name but a few) are breached wherever Israeli civil and military institutions practice effective control.

There have been numerous [UN resolutions](#) denouncing the continuation of illegal settlements in Occupied Palestine, but these have been ignored by the State of Israel and international supporters. Governments around the world fail to hold Israel accountable. Multinational companies and global

institutions assist in the Israeli oppression of Palestinians. Individuals, as outlined under the Nuremberg Principles [I](#) and [II](#), are responsible for adhering to the principles of international law. Accordingly, the Simon Fraser Student Society is obligated to support the Palestinian pursuit of self-determination and resist the illegal actions of the State of Israel, guided by Nuremberg Principle [VII](#).

In response, since 2005, Palestinian civil society has called for adherence to the grassroots Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as one of the several acts of resistance in the overall fight for Palestinian liberation. International law, governments, and other legal apparatuses have failed to achieve justice for Palestinians, hence the grassroots organizing for BDS.

Boycott: Academic, Cultural, and Economic

- *Academic Boycott:* Palestinian civil society calls for an academic boycott of complicit Israeli academic institutions. Refusing to normalize oppression, many academic associations, student governments, and unions, as well as thousands of international academics, now support the academic boycott of Israel. In North American campuses, this can look like ending ties with university “Go Global” programs at Tel Aviv or Haifa University.
- *Cultural Boycott:* Israel overtly uses culture as a form of propaganda to whitewash or justify its regime of occupation, settler-colonialism, and apartheid over Palestinians. Just as South African anti-apartheid activists called on international artists, writers, and cultural institutions to [culturally boycott South Africa](#), the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) urges international cultural workers and cultural organizations, including unions and associations, to boycott and/or work towards the cancellation of events, activities, agreements, or projects involving Israel, its lobby groups, or its cultural institutions. International venues and festivals are asked to reject funding and any form of sponsorship from the Israeli government. Thousands of artists across the world now refuse to perform in Israel, including Roger Waters and Lauryn Hill.
- *Economic Boycott:* International companies aid and abet Israel’s violations of international law, including operating in Israeli settlements and acting as contractors for the Israeli military and government. Campaigning has led to major companies such as Veolia and Orange selling and leaving Israel altogether, and a range of investors divesting from Israeli and international companies (including [112 companies](#) named by the UN). The UN and the World Bank say that BDS is having an important economic impact on Israel and this could well grow as the movement develops.

Divestment: To divest is to withdraw funds. International companies such as G4S and HP profit from helping Israel maintain its system of settler colonialism, therefore divestment campaigns increase international pressure to end complicity with Israeli’s oppression of Palestinians.

Sanctions: Sanctions were the final blow to the apartheid regime in South Africa and the BDS movement calls for sanctions against Israel by governments meeting legal obligations not to be complicit in Israeli crimes. Some governments have responded by taking forms of sanctions against Israel or steps to ensure they do not contribute to its crimes. These sanctions could include a military embargo, an end to economic links, and the cutting of diplomatic ties. This also includes for states to end all trade that sustains Israeli settlements in all of Occupied Palestine and the suspension of free trade agreements and bilateral agreements with Israel.

BDS has three demands: 1) End Israeli occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantling [the Wall](#); 2) Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and 3) Respect, protect, and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.

The Palestinian Liberation Issues Policy is an opportunity for the SFU community to follow in the footsteps of other leading Canadian academic institutions where their community has supported divestment. Previously, the University of Toronto's Student Union [passed](#) a motion mandating that it divest from "all firms complicit in the occupation of Palestinian Territory." Two universities in Montreal followed a similar approach: the McGill undergraduate student body [voted](#) in favor of the Palestine Solidarity Policy, with a 71% majority, alongside Concordia University's Student Union passing a motion against Apartheid. Additionally, UBC's student union, the AMS, voted to call for UBC's divestment of 9 companies that operate and profit from Israeli settlements and condemn Israeli apartheid and occupation of Palestine.

Definitions

Zionism: Zionism is a colonial ideology and political movement that calls for establishing a Jewish nation-state in Palestine with a Jewish majority. Zionism in Palestine meant ethnically cleansing the Indigenous population during the [1948 Nakba](#), maintaining settler-colonialism through policies of apartheid. There were barely any Zionists present before the 20th century; this necessitated the oppression and expulsion of the Palestinians to create the necessary conditions for an apartheid state. Read more [here](#).

Anti-Zionism: Opposition to the establishment and sustenance of the state of Israel that maintains a system of Jewish supremacy and colonization of Palestinian land through home demolitions, checkpoints, imprisonment, segregation, ID system, and overall subjugation of Palestinian life and dignity. Anti-zionism fits in the wider anti-colonial framework globally, including within Turtle Island.

Anti-Palestinian racism: The Arab Canadian Lawyers Association defines anti-Palestinian racism as "racism involving attacking, smearing, silencing or stereotyping of Palestinians. This racism can be implicit, overt, or systemic and can be perpetrated against Palestinians and non-Palestinians. Anti-Palestinian racism takes various forms, including: violence or the justification of violence against Palestinian lands, property, or persons; failing to acknowledge Palestinians as a people with a collective identity, belonging, and rights in relation to occupied and historic Palestine; excluding or

pressuring organizations, governments or individuals to exclude Palestinians or Palestinian perspectives; denying or causing to be denied the human rights and equal dignity and worth of Palestinians; and smearing Palestinians with tropes such as being antisemitic, terrorist sympathizers, or opposed to shared national/democratic values. This also includes denial of the 1948 Nakba and enforcing the Palestinian exception to progressive politics.” Read more [here](#).

Anti-semitism: Antisemitism is racism, hostility, prejudice, vilification, discrimination, or violence, including hate crimes, directed against Jewish people, as individuals, groups, or as a collective—because they are Jewish. Its expression includes attributing to Jewish people, as a group, characteristics or behaviours that are perceived as dangerous, harmful, frightening, or threatening to non-Jewish people. This is in specific contrast to problematic definitions, such as the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which is designed to stifle criticism of Israel and of Zionism by equating it with antisemitism. Read more at www.noihra.ca.

The Boycott, Disinvestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement: a non-violent movement formed in 2005 by over 170 Palestinian non-governmental organizations, unions, and civil society groups aimed to campaign for and protect the rights of Palestinians through the application of international pressure on the of Israel until it complies with international law.

Policy

1. The SFSS supports:

- a. The liberation and self-determination of all Palestinian people in their quest for freedom, justice, and land back, including all forms of resistance. We shall amplify the efforts of the Palestinian diaspora to bring international pressure and focus on the lived experiences of the Palestinians living in all of Palestine.
- b. Working with anti-colonial, Palestinian, and anti-Zionist Jewish groups and organizers, allied student groups in solidarity, community groups, and grassroots organizations who are working on or advocating for Palestinian liberation, including initiatives such as, but not limited to: workshops, teach-ins, walk-outs, protests, rallies, and other such actions via:
 - i. Funding, partnerships, and actions that otherwise advance the cause of Palestinian liberation, including the calls for boycotting, divesting, and sanctioning the state of Israel and complicit institutions.
- c. The calls and actions toward the aim of the BDS movement are to:
 - i. End Israeli occupation and colonization of all Arab lands and dismantle [the Wall](#)
 - ii. Recognize the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality.
 - iii. Respect, protect, and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN resolution 194.
- d. The call for initiatives in support of the BDS movement toward Palestinian liberation such as:

- i. Boycotting the state of Israel and institutions, companies, and organizations that fund or support Israeli apartheid and settlements. This involves withdrawing support from Israel's apartheid regime, complicit Israeli sporting, cultural and academic institutions, and from all Israeli and international companies engaged in violations of Palestinian human rights. This includes an academic boycott of Israeli universities within the guidelines outlined in the [PACBI academic and cultural boycott framework](#).
- ii. Divesting from the current state of Israel by encouraging and urging banks, local councils, religious institutions, pension funds, and universities (including internal and external to SFU) to withdraw investments from the State of Israel, as well as all Israeli and international companies that sustain Israeli apartheid.
- iii. Sanctioning the current state of Israel to fulfill their legal obligations to end Israeli apartheid, and not aid or assist in its maintenance, by banning business with illegal Israeli settlements, ending military trade and free-trade agreements, as well as suspending Israel's membership in international fora.

2. SFSS opposes

- a. Laws, policies, and practices that violate international law, such as:
 - i. Divided and separate rule;
 - ii. Immigration for Jewish peoples only and rights specific to Jewish peoples at the expense of Palestinians;
 - iii. The building of illegal settlements on occupied territories;
 - iv. Restrictions on Palestinians' freedom of movement;
 - v. Denial of Palestinians' right to political participation;
 - vi. Inhumane acts and abuse of Palestinians' fundamental rights; and
 - vii. Institutional discrimination and systemic domination.
- b. Discourse that adopts or promotes anti-Palestinian racism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous, anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and any form of oppression.
- c. The coopting of the BDS movement to promote or tolerate any act or discourse which perpetuates anti-Palestinian racism, anti-Arab racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-Black racism, anti-Indigenous racism, sexism, xenophobia, or homophobia, and zero tolerance on any form of oppression in the name of these policies.
- d. Apartheid, genocide, slavery, colonial exploitation, and ethnic cleansing, which are crimes against humanity that are founded on racism and racial supremacy, and we call for the right of their victims, including descendants, to full reparation.
- e. Partnering with, or empowering groups through representation on decision-making bodies that;
 - i. Censor and suppress actions in support of Palestinians;
 - ii. Allow for fostering of a repressive environment for members of such groups who support Palestinian liberation and human rights, on the basis of their members' support for Palestinians—including using tools such as boycotts, divestments, and sanctions, or;

- iii. That have ties to, or seek to or continue to establish, ties with the current state of Israel or any complicit institution as guided by this policy.

Relevant Documents

SFSS and SFU Documents

1. SFSS Anti-Racism Issues Policy
2. SFU Human Rights Policy
3. SFU Responsible Investment Policy

Other Documents

4. Decolonize Palestine:
<https://decolonizepalestine.com/intro/palestine-throughout-history/>
5. B'Tselem:
https://www.btselem.org/publications/fulltext/202101_this_is_apartheid
6. Human Rights Watch - A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution:
https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2021/04/israel_palestine0421_web_0.pdf
7. Israel's apartheid against Palestinians: a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity - Amnesty International:
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/02/israels-apartheid-against-palestinians-a-cruel-system-of-domination-and-a-crime-against-humanity/>
8. UN International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid:
https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.10_International_Convention_on_the_Suppression_and_Punishment_of_the_Crime_of_Apartheid
9. UN Fourth Geneva Convention: Relative the Protection of Civilians in the Time of War
https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf
10. UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<https://treaties.un.org/doc/publication/unts/volume%20999/volume-999-i-14668-english.pdf>
11. UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
https://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/cerd/cerd_e.pdf
12. Implementation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016) - Report of the Secretary-General (S/2021/584) [EN/AR]
[https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/implementation-security-council-resolution-2334-2016-report-2#:~:text=In%20its%20resolution%202334%20\(2016,the%20achievement%20of%20the%20two](https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/implementation-security-council-resolution-2334-2016-report-2#:~:text=In%20its%20resolution%202334%20(2016,the%20achievement%20of%20the%20two)
13. Nuremberg Principles I and II and VII
<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=D4D734820B8BA553C12563CD0051C97A>
<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=A2212CF58764AAAFAC12563CD0051C985>

<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=316D02C8C319DF26C12563CD0051C9D3>

14. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
<https://www.icc-cpi.int/resource-library/documents/rs-eng.pdf>
15. PACBI academic and cultural boycott framework
<https://bdsmovement.net/pacbi/cultural-boycott-guidelines>
16. UN rights office issues report on business activities related to settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory:
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2018/01/un-rights-office-issues-report-business-and-human-rights-settlements?LangID=E&NewsID=22617>
17. SFSS Statement on the Israeli Colonization of Palestine - Simon Fraser Student Society:
<https://sfss.ca/sfss-statement-on-the-israeli-colonisation-of-palestine/>
18. Our definition of antisemitism — No IHRA | Academic campaign — No IHRA:
<https://www.noihra.ca/academic-campaign>
19. UN RESOLUTION 194
<https://www.unrwa.org/content/resolution-194>
20. Statement on Motion to Support Boycott Divestment and Sanction
<https://www.cfs-fcee.ca/blog/statement-on-motion-to-support-boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds-movement>
21. UTSU approves motion to divest from firms 'complicit' in occupation of Palestinian territory
<https://thevarsity.ca/2022/02/21/utsu-approves-motion-to-divest-from-firms-complicit-in-occupation-of-palestinian-territory>
22. McGill undergraduate student body vote in favour of Palestine Solidarity Policy
https://www.instagram.com/p/CbYdHWBv7fF/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link
23. Anti-Palestinian Racism: Analyzing the Unnamed and Suppressed Reality
<https://pomeps.org/anti-palestinian-racism-analyzing-the-unnamed-and-suppressed-reality>
24. The Cultural Boycott: Israel vs. South Africa by Omar Barghouti
<http://hyperallergic.com/212014/the-cultural-boycott-israel-vs-south-africa%E2%80%A8>
25. United Nations Human Rights Council lists 112 complicit companies related to illegal Israeli settlements
[Named: 112 companies linked to illegal Israeli settlements by the UN | Middle East Eye](https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/named-112-companies-linked-to-illegal-israeli-settlements-by-the-un)
26. Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory
<https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/131>
27. Anti-Palestinian Racism: Analyzing the Unnamed and Suppressed Reality
<https://pomeps.org/anti-palestinian-racism-analyzing-the-unnamed-and-suppressed-reality>
28. Except for Palestine
<https://stevesalaita.com/except-for-palestine/>

Accessible and Equitable Events

Preamble

The accessibility and equitability of events determines whether an event is safe for members of marginalized communities to attend. Without accessibility, the event excludes and prevents the participation of Disabled members, as well as any members whose accessibility needs may not be met. Similarly, without equitability the event creates an environment which excludes members of marginalized communities out of concerns for their safety. Regardless of their content, events should be as accessible and equitable as possible. There should be attention paid and processes followed to ensure that events, the content of events and the participants of said events are safer. Events should produce safer environments, where joy, celebration, criticism, knowledge, and discomfort can be shared. It is important to note, however, while criticism and discomfort can be productive, harm is destructive.

Accessibility and equity are processes and not checklists. They must be considered prior to the event, during the event and after the event, and involve ongoing dialogue and collaboration with marginalized communities. This is critical as accessibility and equity oppose the oppression that marginalized communities face, which is also an ongoing process of the use of power to disempower, marginalize, silence or otherwise subordinate one group to further privilege the oppressor. To effectively implement anti-oppression efforts, one must continuously fight to challenge the systems of oppression and to equalize the power imbalances in our communities.

An example of an anti-oppression framework is disability justice, where the ten principles of disability justice are intersectionality, leadership of those most impacted, anti-capitalistic politic, commitment to cross-movement organizing, recognizing wholeness, sustainability, commitment to cross-disability solidarity, interdependence, collective access, and collective liberation¹. Intersectionality is of particular importance to ensuring that accessibility is not just defined by disability, but an active process that prioritizes collective access and liberation for all.

Definitions

Ableism is “a form of systemic oppression that places value on people’s bodies and minds based on societally constructed ideas of normalcy, intelligence, excellence and productivity. Ableism is hostile towards people with Disabilities, and is deeply rooted in anti-Blackness, eugenics, colonialism and capitalism. You do not have to be Disabled to experience ableism.”²

¹ These principles were developed by the queer and trans disabled artists/activists and disabled artists/activists of colour of Sins Invalid. <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>

² This definition was originally developed by Talila “TL” Lewis, and was developed in community with Disabled Black and other negatively racialized people, especially Dustin Gibson, <https://www.talilalewis.com/blog/january-2021-working-definition-of-ableism>

Access/Accessibility is when a service, device, or space can be used by everyone. This includes everyone being able to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and have the same opportunities, with the same effectiveness, integration, and ease of use.

Barriers are anything that prevent a person from fully and comfortably participating in an environment because their needs are not being met. Barriers can be physical, cognitive, sensory, architectural, communications-based, attitudinal, technological, a policy or practice. Barriers are often more common or severe for those who are Disabled or otherwise marginalized due to the influence of structural oppression (such as ableism, racism, classism, misogyny, homophobia/homophobia, transphobia/transphobia, colonialism, etc.)

Collective access is “access that we intentionally create collectively, instead of individually.”³ Since often the onus to create access is placed on the individual who needs it, collective access requires a commitment from everyone to create access for all.

Disability justice is a “multi-issue political understanding of disability and ableism, moving away from a rights based equality model and beyond just access, to a framework that centers justice and wholeness for all disabled people and communities.”⁴ It was coined in 2005 by Black, brown, queer, and trans members of the Disability Justice Collective, including Patty Berne, Leroy Moore, Mia Mingus, Eli Clare, and Sebastian Margaret.

Disabled is a political identity claimed by many people who are barred from full and equal participation in society due to physical, mental, intellectual, sensory and communication **barriers**. The Disabled identity is often used to oppose the idea that something is inherently “wrong” with Disabled people’s bodies and minds, and to instead indicate that it is society which disables people who fall outside its socially-constructed idea of normalcy. Those who are Disabled may only be disabled temporarily, or may be disabled long-term. They also may or may not be disabled in a way that is easily apparent to others.

Equity is fair and just treatment, access, and opportunity that acknowledges diversity and eliminates barriers that prevent certain groups from being included or being able to participate.

Marginalization is the treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant and/or less than.

Wheelchair accessible is any space which provides thirty-six inch throughways and sixty-by-sixty inch turning radiuses for wheelchairs, as well as a lack of stairs or other obstacles that could obstruct the path of a person using a wheelchair.

Policy

³ From Creating Collective Access: Crip made brilliance in Detroit and beyond, by Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha https://alliedmedia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/creating_collective_access.pdf

⁴ Mia Mingus

The SFSS supports:

1. That all online events should have the following:
 - a. Live captioning
 - b. Sign language interpretation
 - c. Options for dialing in by phone
 - d. Options to participate via the chat window, and someone to read out chat responses
 - e. Visual self-descriptions for all people using cameras, modeled and done during opening rounds
 - f. Visual descriptions of slides, photos and any other visual materials shared
 - g. A mute function controlled by the moderator, turned on whenever an attendee is not speaking
 - h. Names and jargon spelled out or put in the chat window
 - i. Speakers to identify themselves by name when they start speaking
 - j. Technical rehearsals/test-runs beforehand to check all relevant accessibility considerations
 - k. Preventative measures to address potential security incidents and breaches, including Zoom-bombing
2. That all in-person events should have the following:
 - a. A wheelchair-accessible venue
 - b. Inclusive physical activities
 - c. Illness prevention protocols, including COVID-19 prevention
 - d. Accessible transportation routes and entrances
 - e. Sign language interpretation
 - f. Gender neutral and wheelchair-accessible washroom access
 - g. Braille or raised signage
 - h. Ways to vary lighting and sound to meet sensory needs
 - i. Options that meet common dietary restrictions for any food provided, including full ingredients lists accessible to all attendees (including Braille and large font lists); gluten-free, dairy-free, nut-free, vegan, certified kosher, and meat options
 - j. Options for more accessible seating (e.g. location of seat, type of seating)
 - k. A well-advertised and enforced scent-free policy, including provision of unscented hand soap in washrooms
 - l. Mandatory use of microphones
3. That all hybrid events (both in-person and online) should meet the criteria for points 1. and 2.
4. That all event organizing teams should have at least one designated accessibility contact person to manage accessibility services and process requests from attendees at least two weeks ahead of time
5. That all accessibility services for events should be professionally done and well-compensated, with preparatory materials (such as agendas, slides, attendee list) shared well ahead of time to service providers
6. That specific requests for accessibility services by attendees or organizers should be met in all cases where it is possible to do so

7. That staff and volunteers working on events are provided with paid disability and accessibility training, led by Disabled experts
8. That event planning should avoid conflicts with cultural and religious holidays and planned ceremonies
9. That events should have frequent and substantial breaks of at least 10-15 minutes every hour
10. Measures for language and communication accessibility, including:
 - a. Explanations for jargon, slang, acronyms and assumed knowledge
 - b. Plain language options for event materials
 - c. Interpretation and translation services into other languages when requested
 - d. Dyslexia-friendly fonts and formatting
 - e. Screen reader-friendly PDFs and digital documents
 - f. Large font (at least 20 pt) and Braille format materials when requested
 - g. Use of nametags and unobtrusive opportunities to use pronoun tags
 - h. Use of [communication badges](#)
 - i. Invitations for attendees to communicate in ways accessible for them, whether that be through speaking aloud, signing, writing, typing, or using Augmentative and Alternative Communication systems
11. Measures for financial accessibility, including:
 - a. Sliding scale options, or, when impossible, funding available for those who cannot afford the cost of an event
 - b. Funding available (e.g. in the form of stipends or vouchers) for those facing barriers to attending the event related to food, transportation, and/or care of a dependent
12. Advertising and/or event material that gives adequate information for disabled attendees, including:
 - a. Detailed location accessibility (or video call platform) information
 - b. Schedule of events and ending time
 - c. Chemical scent policy
 - d. Contact information for your accessibility contact person
 - e. Alternative text, image descriptions and/or captions for all images and videos in event materials
 - f. All other relevant accessibility information
13. Ample warnings for flashing lights and colours to prevent seizures, and avoidance of the use of flashing lights and colours
14. Respectful rules and expectations, including:
 - a. Content warnings for triggering material
 - b. Respectful interaction with disabled participants and speakers
 - c. Bans of flash photography
 - d. Speaking one at a time to prevent crosstalk
 - e. Patience with those who speak slowly or may take a while to answer
15. That speaker lists at events should take equity into consideration, including:
 - a. That marginalized people should be considered expert speakers and presenters on the subjects of their marginalizations

- b. That marginalized experts should be included in lists of speakers and presenters at events that are not solely about their marginalizations
 - c. That organizers should not assume speakers and presenters are not disabled and would not have their own accessibility needs
- 16. That accessibility be planned well ahead of time, and updates be given to attendees prior to the event and on the day of
- 17. The full implementation and maintenance of the Administrative Policy: SFSS Accessibility Standard Policy
- 18. Appropriate consequences for those violating safety and security of the event, including Zoom-bombers, varying dependent on the severity of the transgression

The SFSS opposes:

- 1. Events that create unsafe conditions for marginalized people, including:
 - a. Lack of intentional and collaborative planning for collective access
 - b. Attempts to dictate which accessibility needs are fake or unimportant
 - c. Elevating (without challenging) opinions that are racist, sexist, homophobic/homomistic, ableist, transphobic/transmisic, fatphobic/fatmistic, antiblack or otherwise harmful and violent towards a marginalized group
 - d. Events which feature or allow white supremacists and alt-right extremists
- 2. Requiring medical documentation of disabilities to meet accessibility needs during events
- 3. Evaluating accessibility support for events based on event size or likelihood of profit
- 4. The labelling of events as “accessible” when accessibility has not been properly evaluated