

# LATIN+ FEMINIST MANIFESTO AGAINST GENOCIDE AND REPRESSION

*This is a Living Document, which will continue to develop collectively.*

*May 24, 2024*

*[edited June 18, 2024]*

As feminists of or descended from Latin America/Abya Yala and the Caribbean,

- we recognize the centrality of identifying how our subjectivities, positionality and experiences influence our vision and activism;
- we empathize with the pain and struggle of other communities that are also colonized, marginalized, racialized, and historically and systemically abused;
- we are committed to maintaining and promoting a critical vision from feminism, critical race, ethnicity and migration studies, decolonial studies/praxis/knowledge, and academic activism;
- we stress the importance of understanding wars, genocide, femigenocide, and the multiple ethno-racial, economic, political and socio-cultural violences in a way that exposes their texture, complexity, contradictions, thus avoiding falling into the dominant narratives that present simplistic, nationalistic, binary, and in fact, fictitious readings; and
- we believe that passivity, apathy and silence are unsustainable, especially at a time like this where the most vulnerable peoples and groups, as well as humanity and the planet itself, are at risk of being destroyed.

Therefore, in the face of the genocide of the Palestinian people and the massive and violent repression of the demonstrations for the ceasefire and the liberation of Palestine in the world, as feminists of or descended from Latin America/Abya Yala and the Caribbean, we declare:

- Genocide is a feminist issue.
- Violence, and gender and sexual violence, is never admissible. We repudiate violence of all kinds and forms wherever it occurred, occurs and will occur.
- Neither neutrality nor silence can be maintained in times of war, genocide, and a process of escalating abuses by colonizing projects.
- We recognize and celebrate the social mobilizations and the multiple actions of resistance that have been developed against them around the world.
- The ongoing genocide of the Palestinian population is absolutely unacceptable.

- The present situation in Palestine not only has historical roots, but also represents the colonial settlement model of theft of Palestinian land; a model that has been practiced against many other indigenous peoples and is well known in Latin America/Abya Yala.
- The genocide in Gaza not only affects individuals and communities by ethnoracial and religious differences or identities, but also by gender, sexuality, ability, socio-economic status, nationality, migration status. The victims of this conflict extend beyond national borders and personal beliefs.
- Genocide is also a matter of environmental justice.
- We denounce the criminalization and militarization of demonstrations, and the arrest of activists, especially students and vulnerable people based on ethnoracial, religious, migratory, nationality, gender, sexual and other issues.
- We also denounce the social harassment, the degree of state and higher education institutions' violence, as well as the harassment on social networks of those anti-war students who have raised their voices to question the meaning of being a student today.
- We denounce [the unconstitutional silencing of pro-Palestinian student groups and protesters](#) by university administrators and [political actors](#).
- We denounce the use of police force that has a long history of training with [Israel's military forces](#) to repress the free speech rights of students that are protected by the U.S. Constitution.
- We urge university faculty and staff to support the students who have decided to demonstrate because they know that history has taught that progress is made collectively and not individually. We ask them to reflect on what is the purpose of education and educators in times of war.
- Our universities, students and academics are rising because our spaces belong to the people and we cannot give up, especially in the South.
- We emphasize the devastating force of systems of exclusion, fear and disinformation in which apathy is the most common and paralyzing attitude.
- We denounce the pro-war bias exhibited by the mainstream media, even those who present themselves as neutral or moderate.
- It is essential to disseminate information, historicize the conflict, learn from other social movements, and create alliances against hegemonic power.
- Our identities do not determine our political beliefs: we recognize that we can create alliances with those who believe in and fight for peace and liberation and are against the wars and the many forms of violence we are experiencing today. We must not adopt essentialist positions.

- We resist the normalization of war, indiscriminate violence and the dehumanization of marginalized and vulnerable peoples and individuals, the destruction of the planet and economic profit as inevitable.
- Those who have been involved in dictating and executing war crimes and related repressive acts must be brought to justice and not go unpunished.
  - We note how the International Court of Justice has [initiated](#) formal proceedings for war crimes and crimes against humanity and we will be watching for similar proceedings.
- We must remain alert to the stories that are being assembled about this historical moment and ensure that counter-history and collective memories are generated and preserved.
- We are living in a new world order in which dehumanization and de-democratization are part of the same strategy. The suffering of the Palestinians amid this genocide transmitted in real time to the world is part of this strategy in which the ultra-right and fascism seem to advance without counterweights.
- As a matter of urgency, we also focus on the many ongoing wars and the unacceptable deaths they have generated, including inter-state wars, border disputes, civil wars, terrorist insurgencies, political unrest, ethnic violence, gang wars and narco-guerrillas. Among them, and recognizing that this list, constructed based on data from [Uppsala Conflict Data Program](#), Rule of Law in Armed Conflicts project ([RULAC](#)), World Population Review ([1](#)) and ([2](#)) and a compilation published on [Wikipedia](#), may inadvertently include omissions (which we thank you for pointing out for correction), are:
  - With more than 10,000 combat-related deaths accounted for in 2023 and 2024:
    - Myanmar Conflict (including Kachin, Karen, Rohingya, Karen-Mon, Rakhine State, Myanmar Civil War, and Kalay)
    - Arab-Israeli conflict (including Israel-Palestine [Israel-Hamas, Red Sea Crisis and Iran-Israel]; and Israel-Lebanese [Israel-Hezbollah] conflicts). - location: Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen
    - Insurgency in the Maghreb (including insurgencies in Sahel, Niger, and Burkina Faso, the War in Mali [Azawad conflict]) - location: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Algeria, Tunisia, Chad, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Morocco, Libya
    - Russia-Ukraine war (including Russia's invasion of Ukraine) - War in Sudan
  - With 1,000 to 10,000 combat-related deaths accounted for in 2023 and 2024:

- Colombian conflict (including the Catatumbo, Apure, and Pemón campaigns) - location: Colombia, Venezuela
  - Afghan conflict (including Afghanistan-Pakistan border disputes, Taliban-Islamic State conflict, and Afghanistan's Republican resurgence) - location: Afghanistan, Pakistan
  - Civil war in Somalia (including the Anod) - location: Somaliland, Kenya
  - Allied Democratic Forces Insurgency - location: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda
  - Communal conflicts in Nigeria
  - Conflict in Iraq (including the insurgency of the Islamic State)
  - Insurgency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - location: Pakistan
  - Kivu Conflict - location: Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi
  - Drug war in Mexico<sup>\*1</sup>
  - Sudan nomadic conflicts - location: Sudan and South Sudan
  - Boko Haram insurgency - location: Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Niger
  - Civil war in Syria
  - Civil war in Yemen
  - Anglophone Crisis - location: Cameroon, Nigeria
  - Civil conflict in Ethiopia (including Amar-Somali, Oromo and Amhara conflicts) - location: Ethiopia
  - Gang war in Haiti
- We also emphasize that systemic violence manifests itself in mass incarceration and police brutality, denounced by international organizations such as the [United Nations](#) and [Amnesty International](#), among others, which despite a lack of coordinated efforts to count its victims worldwide, has undoubtedly resulted in an unacceptably high number of fatalities and continues to increase in multiple countries.

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<sup>\*1</sup> We thank a colleague for her observation of the imperative need to delve deeper into the narco-war, which in her words includes "the suffering and anguish of the indigenous women of southern Mexico who are condemned to migrate to other states in conditions of extreme poverty, they migrate with their small children and entire families terrorized by the invasion they suffer from organized crime, today they find themselves in the streets of my state more exposed to the violence of the cities, to the extreme climate, without guaranteed food and without possibilities of development since in most cases they speak little or no Spanish. As I write, violence has been exacerbated in the municipalities of Chiapas, death, fear, sexual abuse, forced displacements are not counted, let alone sound like news. In the cities of central Mexico, violence has reached unimaginable levels, femicides and disappearances of women are so commonplace that they no longer cause astonishment, sadly diluting the astonishment and indignation that should cause us human misfortune" (June 11, 2024).

- We also point out the systemic gender-based violence. We condemn the increase in femicides, which in [2022 reached 89,000 worldwide](#), for which they have already been described as an epidemic and conceptualized as "[femigenocides](#)."

**There is no room for apathy.**

**Nor passivity.**

**There are many ways to resist: we must not give up!**

The Latin+ Feminist Sociology Collective will continue to organize meetings to reflect on this situation, among which will be a series of talks including texts by Latin American, Caribbean and Latin+ feminists on the following topics:

- Manipulation of gender and sexual violence
- Terrorism as a historical process
- Socio-political history of peace
- Metanarratives of war and violence and counter-narratives
- The university as a public space for criticism and mobilization
- Transnational connections of oppression and resistance
- Positionality, thought and action
- Flexible solidarity and transnational mobilization

We invite you to be part of the Collective: <https://www.latinplusfeministcollective.org/>

### ***Groups, Actions and Resources***

- Feminist Global Action for Palestine: <https://linktr.ee/accionglobalfeminista>
- Palestinian Feminist Collective: <https://palestinianfeministcollective.org/>
- Faculty for Justice in Palestine Network: <https://www.fjp-network.org/>
- Sociologists for Palestine: <https://www.sociologistsforpalestine.org/>
  - <https://www.sociologistsforpalestine.org/solidarity>
- National Women's Studies Association - Call for an End to Israel War on Gaza: <https://mailchi.mp/nwsa/nwsa-calls-for-a-ceasefire-and-negotiations-to-end-gaza-siege-and-israeli-apartheid-450830>
- Palestine Solidarity Campaign: <https://palestinecampaign.org/>
- Palestine Resource Guide: <https://ca.cair.com/losangeles/palestine-resource-guide/>

- Palestinian Community of Chile: <https://www.comunidadpalestinachile.cl/?playlist=23e7d16&video=19b7cb8>
- Artists for Palestine Collective: <https://www.eldesconcierto.cl/tipos-moviles/letras/2023/05/15/colectivo-artistas-por-palestina-se-unen-para-denunciar-violencia-contra-los-refugiados.html>
- Against the crime of silence: <https://lom.cl/blogs/blog/en-contra-del-crimen-del-silencio>
- Jewish Voice for Peace: <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/>

Suggestions are welcome! Send us an email to [latinplusfeministcollective@gmail.com](mailto:latinplusfeministcollective@gmail.com)