NWSA's Statement on the 75th anniversary of the Nakba

NWSA stands in solidarity with Palestinians commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Nakba (Arabic for “catastrophe”), the violent uprooting of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland. As we mourn the intergenerational trauma that resulted from the historical destruction of more than 400 villages and towns and the killing of thousands, we recognize the "ongoing Nakba" that continues to inflict violence and suffering on Palestinians in Palestine and the world over. We condemn the continuing Israeli annexation of Palestinian land, the violent attacks launched regularly against their homes and the persistent violations of their human rights, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as in Israel. The 75th anniversary of the Nakba comes at a critical and dangerous juncture that has seen a relentless escalation in Israeli violent interventions against Palestinians in the occupied territories and Gaza. The violence has been exacerbated by the return to power of Benjamin Netanyahu, at the end of 2022, and his close alliance with extremist religious-nationalist Israeli factions and ultra-nationalist politicians.

At this moment of grave crisis, we reaffirm our commitment to justice in/for Palestine and insist that Palestinian Liberation is a Feminist Issue. We recognize that while the ongoing Nakba, fueled by violent settler colonial ideologies, has devastating effects on all Palestinians, it has inflicted gendered and sexualized harms on women and queer, trans and non-binary Palestinians. As feminists committed to intersectional justice and transnational solidarity, we cannot look away while this violence continues to destroy people's lives. The struggle for Palestinian liberation is intertwined with the liberation and resistance movements led by colonized and oppressed peoples everywhere.

Today, we reaffirm our unwavering support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) resolution, which the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) passed in 2015. We pledge to continue to work as hard as we can to educate ourselves and our communities about the historic injustice, suffering and resistance of Palestinians.

Toward this end, the 2023 NWSA Conference Committee has collaborated with Feminists for Justice in/for Palestine to organize several key opportunities, designed to center Palestine and Palestinian Liberation as Feminist Issues, including the Palestine is a Feminist Issue Teach In and a Presidential Session on Palestine.

Today, we resolve not to look away and we ask that you stand with us and do the same.
National Women's Studies Association

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