



**PRIDE TORONTO'S STATEMENT  
ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA**

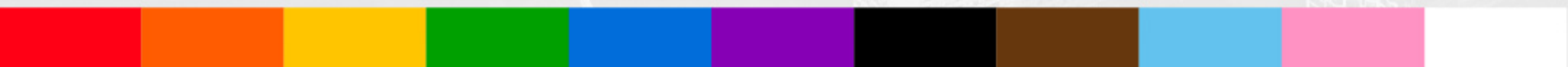




## **Pride Toronto's Statement On The Humanitarian Crisis In Gaza**

**[March 28, 2024] Earlier this week, the United Nations Security Council issued its first demand for an immediate and sustainable ceasefire in Gaza<sup>1</sup>, acknowledging the enduring and undeniable suffering of the people in the region. Pride Toronto stands in solidarity with the innocent civilians, including LGBTQI+ Palestinians who are already deeply marginalized, affected by the devastating consequences of the ongoing conflict, as we bear witness to the immense human tragedy unfolding before our eyes.**

**After more than four months of relentless conflict, the statistics paint a harrowing picture: through the end of February over 30,000 Palestinians<sup>2</sup> have lost their lives, including more than 13,000 children<sup>3</sup> and approximately 1.7 million people<sup>4</sup>, almost**







three-quarters of the population, have been forcibly displaced, enduring unimaginable hardships in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. The indiscriminate bombing and attacks by the Israeli Defence Forces have left countless individuals facing infected wounds and diseases, with access to basic healthcare becoming increasingly scarce as medical facilities fall victim to the conflict. The International Court of Justice delivered a ruling last month that strongly criticized Israel's actions, contributing to increasing international pressure to cease their military offensive.<sup>5</sup>

The situation is dire. Basic services are obstructed, and the entry and distribution of essential aid have been severely hampered by these attacks. The UN Secretary General accused the state of Israel of committing “clear violations of international humanitarian law”<sup>6</sup> and multiple UN Human Rights experts have identified alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.<sup>7</sup> The deliberate deprivation of food, medical supplies, and fuel further exacerbates the humanitarian crisis, leaving vulnerable groups facing



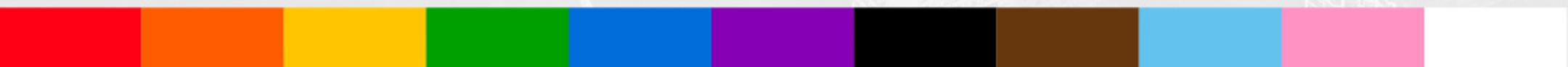




severe food poverty.

The recent findings revealing that half of Gaza's population is on the brink of catastrophic hunger and starvation underscore the urgent need for immediate action. Reports from reputable organizations such as the United Nations Children's Fund and Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières paint a grim picture of the dire humanitarian situation, with 90 percent of children under the age of 2 and 95 percent of pregnant and breastfeeding women facing severe food poverty while attacks continue.<sup>8</sup>

In addressing the General Assembly earlier this month, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA stated that the people of Gaza have “no safe place to go”.<sup>9</sup> Despite all the horrors that they have already endured - and that we have watched - the worst might still be to come for the people of Gaza with the impending Rafah offensive unless urgent and decisive action is taken today against the indiscriminate violence inflicted upon innocent civilians.







**We recognize that the urgency of the situation demands action. As an organization committed to humanitarian principles, we urge all stakeholders to prioritize the protection of civilian lives and ensure unhindered access to life-saving aid. The Government of Canada, along with the international community, must come together not only to alleviate the immediate suffering but to work towards a just and lasting peace for the region.**

**That is why Pride Toronto is adding its voice to the multiple calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. A diplomatic solution must be reached that prioritizes first and foremost the humanitarian basic needs of food, healthcare, and shelter for the innocent Palestinians who have been displaced and impacted by this humanitarian crisis. Additionally the release of innocent Israelis taken captive by Hamas as called for by both the United Nations and International Court of Justice.**







## Sources:

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- 2) <https://www.npr.org/2024/02/29/1234159514/gaza-death-toll-30000-palestinians-israel-hamas-war>
- 3) <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/unicef-says-over-13000-children-killed-gaza-israel-offensive-2024-03-17/>
- 4) <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/latest/our-response-israel-gaza-war>
- 5) <https://apnews.com/article/israel-gaza-genocide-court-south-africa-27cf84e16082cde798395a95e9143c06>
- 6) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/israel-must-rescind-evacuation-order-northern-gaza-and-comply-international>
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- 9) <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca/msf-to-un-security-council-the-people-of-gaza-need-an-immediate-and-sustained-ceasefire-now/>  
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