

**TO:** All MUNFA Members

**FROM:** The MUNFA Executive Committee

**DATE:** May 16th, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Right to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Protest on Campus

---

MUNFA's Collective Agreement enshrines academic freedom, the defence of which includes, "an obligation on all members of the University community". Moreover, academic freedom, "does not require neutrality on the part of the individual, nor does it preclude commitment. Rather it makes commitment possible." [See Article 2.02.](#)

[Criticizing the State of Israel is not equivalent to anti-semitism.](#) MUNFA supports non-violent protests, including those that criticize the State of Israel.

MUNFA stands with our CAUT colleagues and ["defends the right to free expression and assembly on university and college campuses and condemns those institutions that have or are threatening to have police forcibly remove and arrest peaceful protesters."](#)

Non-violent protests, including those that inhabit physical space on campus, are forms of academic freedom. MUNFA defends academic freedom and supports non-violent protests.

The MUNFA Executive further points to several statements that have been released by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), of which MUNFA is a member:

- [CAUT Statement on Academic Freedom in Times of Conflict](#)
- [CAUT statement on the right to freedom of expression and peaceful protest on campus](#)
- [CAUT statement on police actions against peaceful protesters on campus](#)
- [Commentary / Criticizing Israel is not antisemitic — it's academic freedom | CAUT](#)