

MANITOBA ORGANISATIONS ADDRESS THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT RE: MANITOBA PREMIER'S STATEMENT DISREGARDING PALESTINIAN GENOCIDE



COLLECTIVE LETTER FROM MANITOBA ORGANISATIONS
RE: MANITOBA PREMIER'S STATEMENT DISREGARDING PALESTINIAN GENOCIDE

October 14th, 2026

Premier Wab Kinew
204 Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Premier Wab Kinew and Members of the Manitoba NDP Government,

Re: Manitoba Premier's Statement Disregarding Palestinian Genocide

We are writing to you as part of a coalition of social justice organisations in the province of Manitoba regarding Premier Wab Kinew's statement marking the third anniversary of October 7 (statement attached).

We found this statement alienating and unrepresentative of the shift in broader public sentiment. While we fully recognize the importance of remembering the innocent Israeli lives lost on October 7, 2023, and unequivocally condemn antisemitism, we are troubled by the lack of recognition of mass death and destruction of Palestinians and Palestine reflected in this statement.

Over the past three years, Israel has killed tens of thousands—indeed, some estimates say hundreds of thousands—of Palestinians, including countless children, in Gaza and the West Bank. Entire bloodlines have been destroyed, communities displaced, and neighbourhoods reduced to rubble. Yet, in annual statements that explicitly mourn Israeli victims and recognize the rise in antisemitism, the premier does not ever explicitly acknowledge the Palestinian lives lost or the rise in anti-Palestinian racism that continues to stifle the Charter Rights of many Manitobans—from every community.

The bewildering horrors of Israel's death and destruction of Palestine, and our diplomatic cover for it, is one of the great human rights issues of our time. Yet, in our Premier's statement, Palestinian suffering is reduced to a brief, generalized reference to "devastation and suffering"—the passive voice, as has been the norm for decades, the perpetrator never named.

Of course, this is not the same level of recognition or humanity afforded to Israeli victims elsewhere in the statement, and it is precisely part of the process of dehumanization enacted by our diplomatic cover.

Where is the public commitment to standing with Manitobans—who span every demographic in our province—that support Palestinian human rights?

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In October 2023, it was Israeli historians and scholars who were among the first to point out genocidal intent; on what yearly anniversary will this global failure be named by our government?

We are also troubled by the disconnect between this statement and the broader positions taken by Canada and the federal NDP. Canada has formally recognized the State of Palestine, while the federal NDP has explicitly acknowledged Israel's genocide in Gaza and the devastating loss of Palestinian lives. Yet Manitoba's NDP government appears unwilling to (ever) name the Palestinian victims or directly address the scale of what has occurred with any comparable indignation.

As Manitoban organisations, we should not have to question whether our government considers the lives and safety of some communities more worthy of recognition than others.

Thus, we call on the Premier and the Manitoba NDP government to:

1. Find an annual date to publicly and explicitly acknowledge the untold massacres of Palestinian over the past three years, including the tens of thousands of civilians and children.
2. Recognize and condemn anti-Palestinian racism with at least the clarity and urgency demonstrated in the government's condemnation of antisemitism. Anything less will only extend the 70+ years of suppression and censorship Manitobans and Canadians have endured on this issue.
3. Ensure that future government statements reflect an equal commitment to the dignity and humanity of all Manitoban communities, and start to chip away at what has been long known as the "Palestine exception" in progressive politics.

"One day, everyone will have been against this", as writer and journalist Omar El Akkad read to us at McNally Robinson; we call on the Premier to remember this inevitability and lace his own legacy with honour.

Sincerely,

United Jewish People's Order/Jews for Social Justice Winnipeg

Independent Jewish Voices-Winnipeg

Labour for Palestine-Winnipeg

Manitoba Government and General Employees for Palestine

Faculty for Palestine - Manitoba

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Manitoba Healthcare Workers for Palestine

Peace Alliance-Winnipeg

United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine/Israel-West

Mennonite Church Manitoba Palestine Israel Network

Manitoba Cuba Solidarity Committee

Winnipeg South Centre for Justice

Canada-Palestine Support Network (Winnipeg)

University of Manitoba Muslim Students' Association

Canadian Muslim Women's Institute

Canadian Palestinian Association of Manitoba

Canadian Muslims for Palestine