

Convention Program

Free Speech Acknowledgement:

This Convention provides a broad and open platform to the ideologically, and socially diverse Muslim community in the United States to exchange ideas, showcase social and outreach programs, provide networking opportunities, foster interfaith interaction and good relations with other religious communities, and encourage domestic civic engagement in accordance with the free speech rights of all Americans under the United States Constitution.

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MAIN PROGRAM - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2023

11:45 AM	Friday Prayer & Asr (for travelers)
1:00-1:50 PM Main Room	<p>The Future of the Palestinian Liberation Struggle</p> <p>Reconstituting Palestinian institutions and mechanisms of representation Utilizing international law and norms to effectuate Palestinian rights</p> <p><i>Othman Atta, Huwaida Arraf, Tarek Khalil (Moderator)</i></p>
2:00-2:50 PM Main Room	<p>Pillars of Apartheid: Understanding the system of domination and oppression against the Palestinian people throughout historic Palestine and the diaspora</p> <p>Highlighting key findings from human rights reports, especially the 2022 Amnesty International Report Laying the framework of Apartheid under international law Mainstreaming settler-colonialism and apartheid as the overarching framework for conceptualizing the Palestinian struggle for justice</p> <p><i>Alicia Koutsoulieris, Saul Takahashi, Jana Daoud (Moderator)</i></p>
3:00-3:30 PM	Break / Asr Prayer (for locals)
3:30-4:30 PM Main Room	<p>Gaza in Context: The Genocide and Signs of Major Transformations in the Region</p> <p>Impact of Israeli aggression in Gaza for the Arab & Muslim world</p> <p><i>Nihad Awad, Osama Abuirshaid, Deanna Othman (Moderator)</i></p>
4:30-6:00 PM	Break / Maghrib & Isha Prayer (for travelers)
6:00-6:45 PM Main Room	<p>The Role of Media and Social Media in Shaping the Palestinian Narrative during the War on Gaza.</p> <p><i>Enes Yalman, Malak Kanan (Moderator)</i></p>
7:00-7:50 PM	Inaugurations
8:00-8:50 PM Main Room	<p>إِنَّ هَذِهِ أُمَّتُكُمْ أُمَّةً وَاحِدَةً وَأَنَا رَبُّكُمْ فَاعْبُدُونِ</p> <p>مفهوم الأمة الواحدة، والرابط العقدي بفلسطين، ومغزى الإسراء إلى القدس والعروج منها د. عبد الله رشدي، إمام كفاح مصطفى، محمد الناطور (مديراً)</p>

9:00-9:50 PM Main Room	<p>Weaponizing antisemitism as a means of stifling the Palestinian quest for liberation</p> <p>Framing advocacy for Palestinian rights as anti-semitic Conflating anti-semitism with anti-zionism</p> <p><i>Alicia Koutsoulieris, Saul Takahashi, Nihad Awad, Ayah Ziyadeh (Moderator)</i></p>
10:00-11:00 PM Main Room	<p>Al-Quds: The Compass القدس البوصلة</p> <p><i>Sh. Jamal Said, Dr. Abdallah Rushdi, Mohammad Abbasi</i></p> <p><i>Munjed Ahmad (Moderator)</i></p>

MAIN PROGRAM - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2023

10:00-10:50 AM	<p>Civic & Political Engagement of American Muslim Youth & Young Adults</p> <p><i>Mohammad Abbasi, Rifqa Falaneh (Moderator)</i></p> <p>Main Room</p>	<p>Social Media Tools and Skills for Palestine</p> <p><i>Zarefah Baroud, Omar Baddar, Malak Kanan (Moderator)</i></p> <p>CAT Room</p>
11:00-11:50 AM Main Room	<p>Effective Advocacy in the U.S. in light of the Gaza Genocide</p> <p>Exploiting major shifts in U.S. public opinion Mechanisms for influencing elected officials to condition US aid to Israel Utilizing the changing dynamics as a tool of advocacy Centering Palestinian rights & Israeli war crimes & crimes against humanity</p> <p><i>Ayah Ziyadeh, Josh Ruebner, Abdelnaser Rashid, Miko Peled, Taher Herzallah (Moderator)</i></p>	
12:00-12:50 PM	Break / Thuhr & Asr Prayer (for travelers)	
1:00-1:50 PM Main Room	<p>Our Role in Challenging US Imperialism and Israeli Apartheid</p> <p>Political participation and voting Coalition building and enhancing the intersectional movement for justice Building alliances and empowering grassroots</p> <p><i>Huwaida Arraf, Taurean J. Webb, Taher Herzallah</i></p>	
2:00-2:50 PM Main Room	<p>Silencing and Censorship: Navigating Palestine on Campuses and in the Workplace</p> <p>Legal work and protection for activists College campuses and the criminalization of Palestine work The Rise of Hate Crimes</p> <p><i>Christina Jump, Jana Abulaban, Jinan Chehade, Fatima Mohammed, Rifqa Falaneh (Moderator)</i></p>	

3:00-3:30 PM	Break / Asr Prayer (for locals)
3:30-4:30 PM Main Room	<p>The Biden Administration and Israel's Aggression on Gaza: Background and Political Calculations</p> <p>U.S. complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza The future of US elections on the question of Palestine</p> <p><i>Josh Ruebner, Omar Baddar, Ayah Ziyadeh, Othman Atta (Moderator)</i></p>
4:30-5:15 PM	Break / Maghrib & Isha Prayer (for travelers)
5:15-6:00 PM Main Room	<p>Know Your Rights Workshop</p> <p><i>Lena Masri, Christina Jump, Othman Atta (Moderator)</i></p>
6:00-6:50 PM Main Room	<p>The Gaza Strip: Possible Scenarios after Israel's Aggression</p> <p>The style and form of the seige & blockade post-genocide Impact of Gaza's post-genocide status on the Palestinian leadership</p> <p><i>Osama Abuirshaid, Miko Peled, Tarek Khalil (Moderator)</i></p>
7:00-7:50 PM Main Room	<p>They Are Not Just Numbers: Palestinian-Americans from Gaza Speak Out</p> <p>Impact of Israel's genocide in Gaza on Palestinian-Americans from Gaza Communication difficulties to determine living conditions of families in Gaza How to maintain effective advocacy work while worrying about family in Gaza</p> <p><i>Alaa Abu Saman, Deanna Othman, Taher Herzalah, Zarefah Baroud, Rama Atieh (Moderator)</i></p>
8:00-9:00 PM	Break / Isha Prayer (for locals)
9:00-10:50 PM Main Room	<p>Night of Hope for Gaza</p> <p>Impact of Israel's genocide in Gaza on Palestinian-Americans from Gaza Communication difficulties to determine living conditions of families in Gaza How to maintain effective advocacy work while worrying about family in Gaza</p> <p><i>Sh. Kifah, Dr.Abdallah Rushdi, Sh. Jamal Said, Dr.Hatem Bazian, Dr.Osama Abuirshaid, Nihad Awad, Loie Ghannam (Moderator)</i></p>

Campus Activism Track (CAT)

CAT PROGRAM - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2023

1:00-1:30 PM	<p>HELLO CAT</p> <p>Welcome to CAT! Join us in a quick networking workshop to meet all the faces behind the tireless work that goes into student activism.</p>
1:30-2:30 PM	<p>Envisioning a Free Palestine</p> <p>They said the old will die and the young will forget. They failed to recognize who the Palestinian people are and what they epitomize - resilience and the love for our land. Palestinians in the diaspora have consistently fought for the advocacy and liberation of Palestine since the Nakba. With the rise of Artificial intelligence (AI), a new form of resistance is right in front of us. Join us in this session where you will learn how important the role of AI plays in the liberation of Palestine.</p> <p><i>Amin Allan, Moderator: Noor Hejja</i></p>
2:40-3:40 PM	<p>Gaza 101</p> <p>We all know that history did not begin on October 7th, 2023. Palestinians have been experiencing oppression, occupation, and apartheid for the past 75 years. While we always say the Nakba happened in 1948, we forget to emphasize that the Nakba is ongoing. As we speak, Palestinians in Gaza are experiencing the third major wave of Palestinian ethnic cleansing. In this session, we will delve into our rich history and analyze how our past has shaped our present-day Gazan genocide.</p> <p><i>Moderator: Dina Elhindi</i></p>
3:45-4:45 PM	<p>Censorship on College Campuses</p> <p>Palestinians in the diaspora, especially on college campuses, are experiencing unprecedented times as zionists continuously try to suppress their voices. This type of censorship can range from limited social media traction to bullying & harassment, threats to our careers, and even shutdowns of SJP chapters. In this session, former & current student activists will share their experiences and offer insight on how to combat censorship and mitigate the risk of doxing.</p> <p><i>Rifqa Falaneh, Jinan Chehade, Ayah Ali, Moderator: Mahmoud Awadallah</i></p>
4:30-5:30 PM	<p>Dinner Break</p>

5:30-6:30 PM	<p>Language Matters: The Anti-Zionist Glossary</p> <p>Apartheid, ethnic cleansing, normalization, colonization, anti-semitism, and anti-zionism, etc... These words are consistently misunderstood, misused, and thus creates confusion. Using this language often prompts counterarguments that students may not always know how to refute. It's thus essential that we employ these terms to create linguistic uniformity in our messaging, and more importantly, in our activism. Join us to learn how to properly justify and utilize the language of anti-zionism.</p> <p><i>Tarek Khalil, Moderator: Mallak Ahmad</i></p>
6:30-7:45 PM	<p>Bringing Activism Into Professionalism</p> <p>This panel features a variety of successful individuals who offer insight into how they integrated Palestinian activism in their craft. Through providing personal accounts of their experiences, this session will help guide students in their pursuit of activism in future careers or endeavors. Hear from a variety of professionals; lawyers, doctors, engineers, authors, and academia personnel. Learn a form of activism that extends beyond the scope of a college campus!</p> <p><i>Engineer- Hatem Sahouri , Doctor- Nader Abuseraj, Author- Miko Peled, Academia- Dr. Sawzan Jaber , Lawyer- Huwaida Arraf , Artist: Saja Issa , Moderators: Dunyah Abulaban and Saleh Akhras</i></p>
7:45-8:30 PM	<p>Friday Night Sauce</p> <p>A space for students to network, connect, debrief their day and share what they learned as we wrap up day 1!</p> <p><i>Moderator: Fatima Babaa</i></p>

CAT PROGRAM - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2023

12:00-1:00 PM	<p>Find Your Niche</p> <p>Navigating your own skills when organizing on campus may be tricky. Learn from experienced student activists in different fields that will help you find your specific niche. Whether it's public speaking, social media, treasury, outreach, or even being the head, this workshop will help you navigate your specific skill set to further advance student organizing on your campus throughout campaigns.</p> <p><i>CAT team, Moderator: Dana Fattouh</i></p>
1:05-2:05 PM	<p>The Answer to your Questions</p> <p>Learn how to debunk the racist and stereotypical western propaganda tropes in this session. Here, we'll dig into these narratives and address common misconceptions and provide clarity. This session will equip campus activists with the knowledge to effectively engage in dispensing on their college campuses.</p> <p><i>Tarek Khalil, Moderator: Abraham Khadr</i></p>

2:10-3:10 PM	<p>Media Literacy Training</p> <p>Palestinians in the diaspora, especially on college campuses, are experiencing unprecedented times as Zionists continuously try to suppress their voices. This type of censorship can range from limited social media traction to bullying & harassment, threats to our careers, and even shutdowns of SJP chapters. In this session, former & current student activists will share their experiences and offer insight on how to combat censorship and mitigate the risk of doxing.</p> <p><i>Deanna Othman, Leen Yassine, Moderator: Hannah Abuzir</i></p>
3:10-4:15 PM	<p>Lunch Break</p>
4:15-5:15 PM	<p>Know Your Rights</p> <p>Students are at the forefront of the struggle for Palestinian rights. At times, students face backlash from Zionist groups and school administrations. Students' constitutional rights are sometimes infringed upon, if not suppressed because of their advocacy for Palestinian rights. Come listen to student activists' conflicts and ways to resolve them using advice from a legal professional.</p> <p><i>Attorney Christina Jump and student activists, Moderator: Sarah Salem</i></p>
5:20-6:20 PM	<p>Cyberactivism</p> <p>Social media sparked a global revolution during the Palestine uprisings of 2021, and has been an essential tool during the attacks happening in Gaza since October 2023. Through social media, a revolution that is so powerful is making big tech companies resort to mass censorship to suppress pro-Palestinian solidarity. At our fingertips is the power to mass-mobilize and to make dense material widely accessible. This interactive workshop will provide practical tips on how to utilize social media as a tool to fight occupation, make the voices of Palestinians heard, and switch the narrative. Learn how to maximize your social media influence to achieve political change.</p> <p><i>Noor Hejja, Zarefah Baroud, Moderator: Mutasem Moussa</i></p>
6:25-7:25 PM	<p>How to be Unapologetic about Palestine</p> <p>In a world where the Palestinian narrative is often challenged or silenced, learning to voice your support unapologetically is more crucial than ever. This session is designed to encourage activists and sympathizers alike, providing them with the tools to stand firm in their beliefs. We will explore the effective strategies for asserting Palestinian rights and history, confronting misinformation, and maintaining a stance in the face of opposition. Join us to not only educate, but also inspire a bold and unapologetic approach to supporting Palestine.</p> <p><i>Omar Baddar, Moderator: Rana Srour</i></p>
7:25-7:30 PM	<p>BYE CAT</p> <p>As student activism continues to garner power, we encourage you all to never stop fighting for our cause. We implore you to use the knowledge and resources CAT has provided you with, to become a powerhouse on your campus. Let's end this year with some great conversations, new connections, and hope for a liberated Palestine!</p>

Youth Program

YOUTH PROGRAM - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH, 2023

THEME OF THE DAY: THREADS OF TIME: WEAVING PALESTINIAN HISTORY

1:00-1:30 PM	<p>Introduction Game!</p> <p>Meet the youth committee and your fellow youth you'll be with throughout the convention! Through exciting activities, you can get to know one another and get a glimpse of what to expect for the rest of the convention.</p> <p><i>Youth Committee: Loie Ghannam, Yazan Nogura, Mohammad Alsheikhi, Noor Arafat, Selma Yousif, Dareen Odeh, Sireen Odeh, Rama Darayyad</i></p>
1:30-2:00 PM	<p>Homeland Chronicles: Tracing Palestinian Roots</p> <p>We look back at what Palestine looked like before the Nakba - how did the people live? How did the land look like? What led to the beginning of the Palestinian struggle?</p> <p><i>Taher Herzallah Moderator: Rama Darayyad</i></p>
2:00-2:45 PM	<p>Family Feud</p> <p>Boys and Girls - are you ready for a good old-fashioned game of Family Feud? Prizes are on the line!</p> <p><i>Host: Yazan Nogura</i></p>
2:45-3:15 PM	<p>Catastrophe</p> <p>What were the effects of the Nakba and Naksa on our people? How did life change for the Palestinians?</p> <p><i>Tarek Khalil Moderator: Noor Arafat</i></p>
3:15-4:00 PM	<p>“Spectrum”: Do All Palestinians Think the Same?</p> <p>Do all Palestinians think the same? Come participate in a game of “Spectrum” to put that to the test!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mohammed Alsheikhi</i></p>
4:00-4:30 PM	<p>Yalla Shabab</p> <p>Join our local Yalla Shabab team for an interactive session to advance your advocacy!</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Yalla Shabab Team</i></p>
4:30-6:00 PM	<p>Break</p>
6:00-6:15 PM	<p>Who's the Imposter?: 6 Palestinians vs. 1 Non-Palestinian</p> <p>There's an imposter among us! Guess who's the odd one out for a chance to win a prize!</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Youth Committee</i></p>

6:15-7:00 PM	<p>Falas(d)een: Heartbeat of the Ummah: Al-Aqsa and Palestine</p> <p>Delve into the sacred narratives as we explore the significance of Masjid Al-Aqsa and Palestine in Islam.</p> <p><i>Sheikh Mohammad Alshaikh Moderator: Loie Ghannam</i></p>
7:00-7:15 PM	<p>Quizziz</p> <p>Put your knowledge to the test in a game of Quizziz! Join us for a chance to win some prizes!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Yazan Nogura</i></p>
7:15-8:00 PM	<p>Beyond Borders: Understanding the Challenges Faced by Palestinians</p> <p>Join us as we hear from a panel of Palestinians from different areas about their journeys.</p> <p><i>Nida Sahouri and Alaa Abu Samaan Moderator: Dareen Odeh</i></p>
8:00-9:00 PM	<p>Mosaic Drawing</p> <p>Show your creativity in a Palestine-themed mosaic drawing activity.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Selma Yousif</i></p>
9:00-11:00 PM	<p>Movie Night!</p> <p>End your day watching a Palestinian film with some snacks and refreshments!</p>

YOUTH PROGRAM - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH, 2023

THEME OF THE DAY: GAZA UNVEILED: A DAY OF RESILIENCE AND ADVOCACY

10:00-10:15 AM	<p>Icebreaker: Beach Ball</p> <p>We are kicking off Day 2 with a fun beach ball icebreaker. Make sure to come on time!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mohammed Alsheikhi</i></p>
10:15-10:45 AM	<p>Gaza: A Tapestry of Beauty</p> <p>Join us as we delve into the enchanting tapestry that is Gaza – a place overshadowed by the brutality of besiegement but thriving with a unique beauty that deserves recognition.</p> <p><i>Deanna Othman Moderator: Dareen Odeh</i></p>
10:45-11:00 AM	<p>Palestinian Jenga</p> <p>How well can you balance things? How about while answering Palestinian questions?</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Selma Yousif</i></p>

11:00-11:30 AM	<p>From Likes to Liberation: Palestinian Social Media in Action</p> <p>Unveil your ability to shape narratives and amplify voices for justice in the evolving landscape of online advocacy for Palestine.</p> <p><i>Zarefah Baroud Moderator: Rama Darayyad</i></p>
11:30-12:00 PM	<p>Kahoot</p> <p>Challenge yourself with questions about Palestine with huge prizes on the line!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Loie Ghannam</i></p>
12:00-1:00 PM	<p>Break</p>
1:00-1:30 PM	<p>Yalla Shabab</p> <p>Join our local Yalla Shabab team for an interactive session to advance your advocacy as youth!</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Yalla Shabab Team</i></p>
1:30-2:00 PM	<p>Struggling for Breath: Life in Gaza</p> <p>We unravel the harsh reality of Gaza, painting a vivid picture of its confined existence.</p> <p><i>Alaa Abu Samaan Moderator: Sireen Odeh</i></p>
2:00-2:15 PM	<p>Raise the Flag</p> <p>How high can you raise our flag? Put your architect hat on and build the tallest structure possible in 15 minutes!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mohammed Alsheikhi</i></p>
2:15-2:45 PM	<p>The Gaza Genocide: What Led Us to Today?</p> <p>Gain insights into the moments and forces that led us to the situation today.</p> <p><i>Taher Herzallah Moderator: Loie Ghannam</i></p>
2:45-3:00 PM	<p>Zaatar Zap</p> <p>A Palestinian twist to a good old game of Hot Potato. Make sure not to get ZAPPED!</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Yazan Nogura</i></p>
3:00-3:30 PM	<p>Classroom Advocacy: Voices for Palestine</p> <p>How can we be advocates for justice from our classrooms? What are our rights as students? How do we respond to possible adversity?</p> <p><i>Dr. Rania Sadeq Moderator: Noor Arafat</i></p>
3:30-4:30 PM	<p>Model UN</p> <p>Step into the shoes of diplomats and navigate the cause of our people!</p> <p><i>Facilitators: Selma Yousif and Dareen Odeh</i></p>

4:30-6:00 PM	Break
6:00-6:15 PM	Cup Game: Palestine Edition Choose a cup and win a prize - but only if you answer a question. Are you up for the task? <i>Facilitator: Yazan Nogura</i>
6:15-7:00 PM	From Campus to Cause: Advocating for Palestine in Higher Ed Join us as we confront the challenges faced while raising awareness for Palestine on our campuses. <i>Jinan Chehade, Jana Abulaban, Fatima Mohammed, Ayah Ali</i> <i>Moderator: Rama Darayyad</i>
7:00-8:00 PM	Zionist Busters Arguing with a Zionist can be tedious. Come learn points to use, and how to deflate common phrases used by Zionists. Put your new skills to the test and debate! <i>Tarek Khalil Moderator: Noor Arafat</i>
8:00-9:00 PM	Palestine: Navigating Through Difficult Times Join us as we discover ways to navigate tough times together, helping our hearts find strength and understanding amid tragedy. <i>Amany Suleiman and Sujod Bdaiwi Moderator: Sireen Odeh</i>
9:00-10:45 PM	Palestine After Hours Tatreez and tea. Two things that are so dear to a Palestinian girl's heart. Join us to have an all-girls tatreez session, accompanied by tea! Boys, have you ever wanted to play soccer for your city? Well, here's your chance to be our Keffiyeh Kick-Off Tournament Champions! <i>Facilitators: Youth Committee</i>
10:45-11:00 PM	Closing Remarks <i>Facilitators: Youth Committee</i>