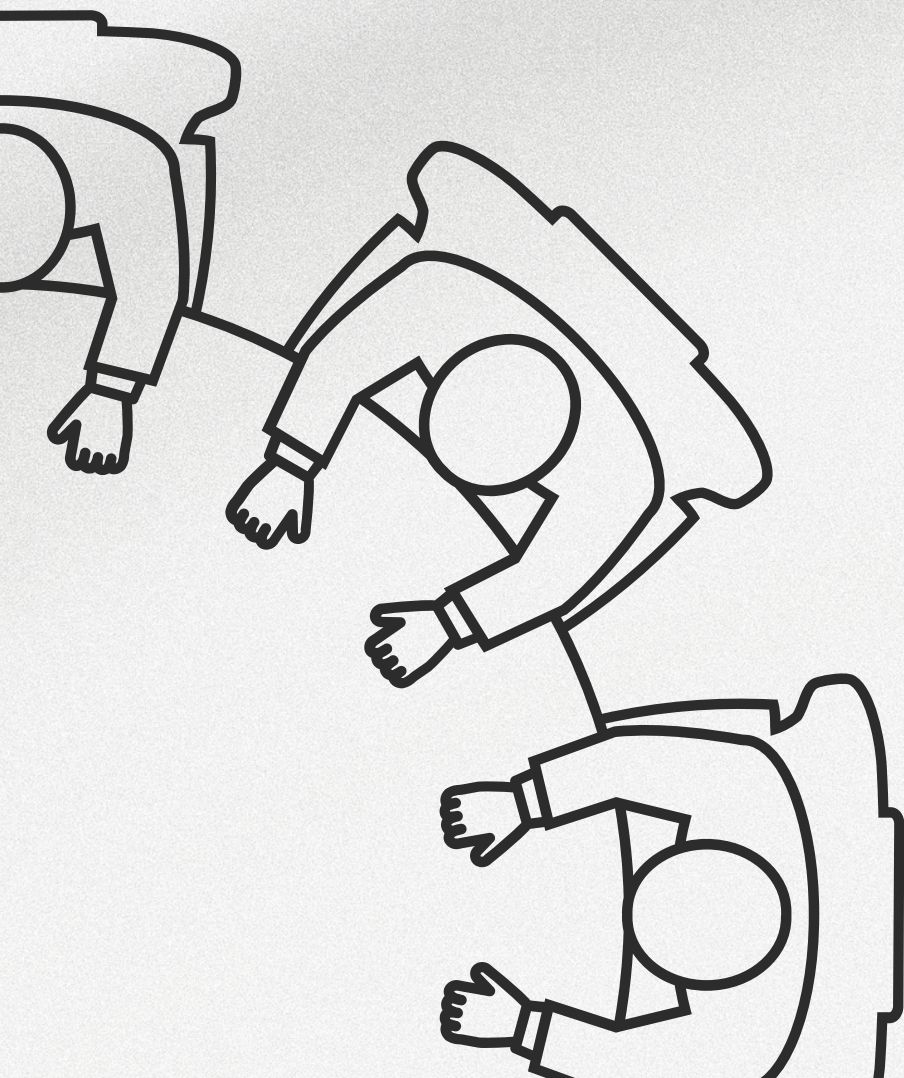


# CEASEFIRE NOW:

## LOCAL RESOLUTIONS TOOLKIT





**AMNESTY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**

**#CEASEFIRENOW**





# GET THE FACTS\*

**36,050**

people have been killed by Israeli forces in the occupied Gaza Strip since October 7, 2023, 70% of whom are children and women. More than 7,500 more have been injured.

**70%**

of Gaza's homes, many of its schools, and its water and sanitation infrastructure have been destroyed or damaged, leaving the population with almost no access to clean water.

**0**

The number of fully operational medical facilities in Gaza. Those partially functioning are overwhelmed with trauma cases and shortages of medical supplies and doctors. More than 300 health workers have been killed.

**75%**

of Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip, have been internally displaced by the conflict (1,700,000 people)

**500,000**

face starvation and more than 90% of the population faces acute food insecurity

**200**

aid workers in Gaza have been killed, the highest of any conflict in this century.

\*The numbers presented on this page reflect data as of June 6, 2024. For the latest statistics, please visit our website.

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***"Palestinians in Gaza are at risk of genocide, more than 36,000 people have been killed, children are starving to death amid an imminent engineered famine, and vast swathes of the Strip have been rendered uninhabitable due to the Israeli military's brutal bombing campaign."***

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We've watched in utter devastation as tens of thousands of people have been killed and lives upended amid the escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel and the unfolding humanitarian catastrophe.

In an effort to end the horror, dozens of major cities across the United States are passing resolutions calling for an immediate ceasefire.

We're seeing pressure from constituents working.

You can make a difference in your community, too. Urge your local leaders to support and pass a ceasefire resolution to prevent further loss of civilian lives, ensure access to life-saving humanitarian aid into Gaza, prevent further displacement, and enable the safe return of remaining hostages.

The process of passing a resolution is just as important as the end result, as it necessarily entails working with local partners, educating your community, and bringing new people into our human rights movement.





## WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A resolution is a motion adopted by an official body such as a student council, city council or state legislature. It is a formal expression of an opinion.

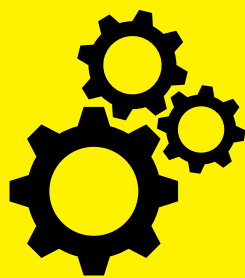
## WHAT IS A CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTION?

A Ceasefire Now resolution is a declaration of support for a sustained ceasefire passed through your city council. It is a non-binding statement, and does not have the force of law. Rather, it tells community leaders that people in your city want an end to the killing and alleviation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. There is a draft resolution in Appendix A.

## WHY SHOULD WE PASS A CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTION?


- To show that your community supports a sustained ceasefire
- To protect civilians lives and prevent a genocide
- To allow access to humanitarian aid necessary to sustain life: food, water, and healthcare
- To enable the safe return of all civilian hostages





# HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit takes you step-by-step through the process of passing a Ceasefire Now resolution. The flow chart below can help you determine where to start as you move toward completing your goal, and the following steps will help guide the rest of your process. Use as much of the toolkit as you like!

<b>A</b>	<b>IS YOUR GROUP FAMILIAR WITH THE ISSUE?</b>	<b>NO</b>	Go to Step 1 of this booklet	<b>DO YOU KNOW HOW YOUR CITY COUNCIL WORKS?</b>	<b>NO</b>	Go to Step 2 of this booklet
		<b>YES</b>	➔		<b>YES</b>	Go to Question B below
<b>B</b>	<b>IS A RESOLUTION AN OPTION?</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>CONTACT OUR COUNTRY SPECIALISTS</b>			akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org sbonczok@aiusacs.org
		<b>YES</b>	<b>GO TO QUESTION C BELOW</b>			
<b>C</b>	<b>IS YOUR CITY AWARE ENOUGH OF THE ISSUE TO PURSUE A RESOLUTION?</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>GO TO STEP 3 OF THIS BOOKLET</b>			
		<b>YES</b>	<b>GO TO QUESTION D BELOW</b>			
<b>D</b>	<b>HAS YOUR GROUP PREPARED A STRATEGY?</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>GO TO STEP 4 OF THIS BOOKLET</b>			
		<b>YES</b>	<b>GO TO QUESTION E BELOW</b>			
<b>E</b>	<b>TIME TO START WORKING ON YOUR RESOLUTION!</b>	<b>GO TO STEP 5 OF THIS BOOKLET</b>				

# STEP 1: DOES YOUR GROUP UNDERSTAND THE GAZA CRISIS?

As you begin working towards passing a resolution in your city council, it's important that your group understands the Gaza crisis so they may then begin educating your community and city government.

Does your group know what the current situation on the ground is, the context of the occupation and what Amnesty International is calling on governments to do in order to protect civilians? Are you familiar with common myths about the conflict and Amnesty's positions regarding Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories?



Take our online course **Deconstructing Israel's apartheid against Palestinians** and organize a group discussion.



Check our **IOPT Guide for Human Rights Educators** and organize educational events on this topic.



Check our Educational Explainers on the humanitarian crisis, along with common myths about the conflict and the laws of war (IHL).

- **Part 1**
- **Part 2**



If you still have questions about Amnesty's position on the issue, you can always contact IOPT Country Specialists Alicia Koutsoulieris at [akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org](mailto:akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org) or Selene Bonczok at [sbonczok@aiusacs.org](mailto:sbonczok@aiusacs.org).

# STEP 2: HOW DOES YOUR CITY COUNCIL WORK?

▶ **WHO IS ON THE CITY COUNCIL?**

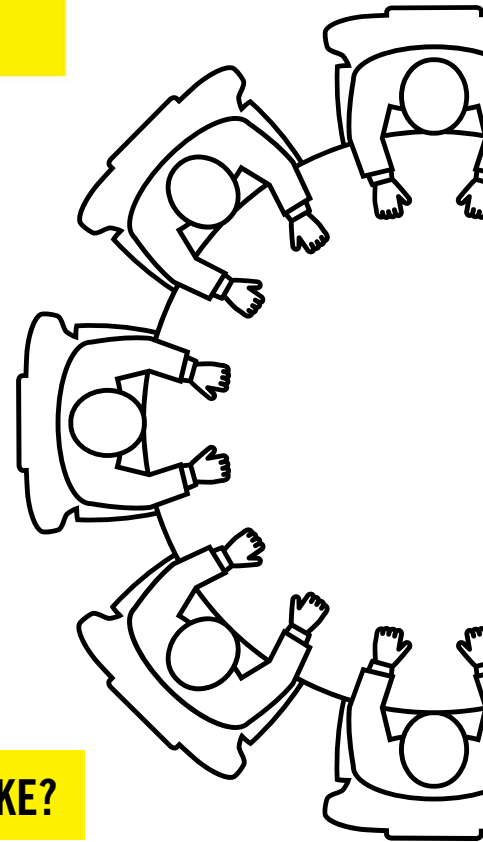
▶ **CAN YOU SUBMIT A RESOLUTION? IF NOT, WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?**

▶ **IS THERE A CERTAIN TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN RESOLUTIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED?**

▶ **HOW LONG MIGHT THE RESOLUTION PROCESS TAKE?**

▶ **ARE ANY CITY COUNCIL SEATS UP FOR ELECTION SOON?**

▶ **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION?**



Is a Ceasefire Now resolution an option for your city or town? If so, move on to Step 3! If not, reach out to [akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org](mailto:akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org) or [sbonczok@aiusacs.org](mailto:sbonczok@aiusacs.org) for alternative options.





## STEP 3: ASSESS YOUR LOCAL CLIMATE AND BUILD SUPPORT

The current crisis in Gaza is part of an ongoing conflict with deep roots in occupation, apartheid and violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Ceasefire Now resolutions can demonstrate support for human rights and the rule of law. It's helpful to assess what people in your community already think or feel about the crisis.

☐ HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN ASSESSING YOUR COMMUNITY CLIMATE:

What have you heard in your workplace or community about the escalating conflict in Israel and Gaza? If you hear people talking about Gaza, what is their tone? Do people understand the difference between a temporary or sustained ceasefire? Do people sound supportive of a sustained ceasefire? Does there seem to be outspoken opposition to a sustained ceasefire in your community? What other organizations or solidarity groups might be allies? Are you familiar with their positions, and how they align or differ with Amnesty's?

☐ YOUR BEST RESOURCE FOR ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS IS YOUR GROUP: YOU KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY BEST. YOU MIGHT CONSIDER:

Looking at local newspapers, blogs or social media; Discovering whether there have been Israel/Gaza-focused events in your community. This research may also help you understand how much education your community may need on the crisis; Talking with your coworkers, friends or family members. Consult the IOPT Cogroup at [akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org](mailto:akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org) or [sbonczok@aiusa.org](mailto:sbonczok@aiusa.org) to vet possible coalition partners.

After you have an idea of what people in your community think and feel about the crisis, it is a great time to begin building local support for a sustained ceasefire.



**YOUR GROUP IS ENCOURAGED TO GET CREATIVE, BUT HERE ARE SOME IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:**

- Hosting a local film screening followed by a conversation about the crisis.
  - Inviting a speaker with expertise on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Email [akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org](mailto:akoutsoulieris@aiusacs.org) for speaker suggestions.
- Table in a well-traveled area of town, talking to people about the crisis, and gathering signatures of those who are interested in supporting a sustained ceasefire
  - Work with a local newspaper to write an article about the civilian toll of the conflict.
  - Reach out to our IOPT Country Specialists for more ideas!



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**NOW THAT YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH THESE STEPS...**

**DID YOUR GROUP DECIDE TO PURSUE A CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTION?**

- If yes, use Appendix A to draft your resolution, and then move on to Step 4.
- If your group decides that your city is not yet ready to pursue a Ceasefire Now resolution, there are still ways to take action! Reach out to Alicia or Selene (see above) for possible next steps.
- No matter what you decide, you have already done amazing work for to protect the rights of civilians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories.

# STEP 4: DEVELOP YOUR STRATEGY

Organizing is the process by which you build power as a group, and then use that power to create change: in this case, achieving your goal of passing a Ceasefire Now resolution<sup>1</sup>. Use this chart to create a smart strategy for your group, addressing the questions that you need to answer in order to reach your goal. You may want to start in the left column and move right. This chart is explained in greater depth on the next page, and you will find a blank copy of the chart in Appendix C.

GOALS	CURRENT RESOURCES	POTENTIAL ALLIES
<p><b>What is your goal?</b></p> <p>For example: "Pass a resolution through city council"</p> <p>If you have a concrete timeline for your goal, include it here.</p> <p>For example: "We'll pass the resolution by June 1st"</p>	<p><b>What resources do you have within your group now?</b></p> <p>For example: a draft of the resolution (Appendix A), 8 members, previously had letter placed in local paper, access to tabling space, friends with a city council member.</p> <p>What resources do you need in order for your campaign to be successful? How might your group benefit from the campaign? What problems might arise within our group?</p>	<p><b>Who cares about the issue and might support us?</b></p> <p>Other groups in the community?</p> <p>How will you reach out to potential supporters?</p> <p>Who might oppose you and why? How might they oppose you?</p>
DECISION-MAKER	TACTICS	
<p><b>Who has the power to give you what you want?</b></p> <p>This will be your city council body, but focus on an individual council member who you think would be important to win over in order to pass the resolution. How could you influence them?</p> <p>Secondary targets (if necessary): If you can't influence the target, who can? How could you influence them to speak to your target?</p>	<p><b>What things will to influence the decision-maker so they will say yes to your goal?</b></p> <p>Tactics must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevant to the goal</li><li>• Flexible and creative</li><li>• Directed at the target</li><li>• Possible within your group's resources</li><li>• Able to influence your target</li></ul>	



# UNDERSTAND THE SMART STRATEGY

## CURRENT RESOURCES

What resources do your group have access to?

Remember that resources don't have to only be physical materials, they can also be the connections, relationships and skills your group members have.

What does your group need? How might the process of passing a Ceasefire Now resolution help your group? What problems within the group might get in the way? (For example, group members not committed, conflicting priorities, etc.)

## DECISION-MAKER

Who are the voting members of the city council you will need to convince to pass the resolution?

Select one of these individuals: perhaps the person you will convince to introduce the resolution.

If you decide you need to influence more council members, try to create a separate strategy chart for each. What do you know about this target? What motivates them, what do they care about, and how could you use this information to secure their support? Are there other people whose support you might need to succeed?

## POTENTIAL ALLIES

Who will help? Who could harm?

You might consider: Who else cares about this issue? Does your group have an ally on the council itself? What other groups in your community might care about the issue? How might you find other allies?

Remember that your group members might belong to other organizations or religious groups and can reach potential allies that way.

## TACTICS

Check out Appendix D for a list of possible tactics, but feel free to get creative! For any support with tactics or generating ideas, contact the IOPT Country Specialists.



# STEP 5: PASS YOUR RESOLUTION

## 1. REACH OUT TO THE ALLIES YOU IDENTIFIED IN STEP 4.

Reach out to those likely to support your goal and ask if they would be willing to join you. When asking for their support, consider what resources or relationships they have that could help you gain more supporters. You might also consider how enthusiastic they seem. If they agree to support you but don't seem too excited, you might want to start by asking them to do something small, like post on social media or sign onto a joint letter announcing your intent to pass the resolution.

## 2. REACH OUT TO A CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WHO MIGHT BE LIKELY TO SPONSOR THE RESOLUTION.

How do you select a sponsor for your resolution? You might already be familiar with your council and have a likely sponsor in mind. If not, here are some other ideas:

- Look at the social media pages of your city council members to see where they stand on the issues
- Research the councilors and see if they've made statements about Israel/Gaza or human rights in the past
- Explore prior voting records to see who has the strongest stance on IOPT or human rights

Once you have chosen who to approach:

- Decide what "ask" you want to make of them: are they a strong ally who might be willing to introduce the resolution within the council? Or would they be more likely to simply declare or offer their support for the resolution once it has been introduced?
- Approach them and be ready to make your case. Why is this resolution important? Why should they support it?
- Prepare for your meeting. Consider possible questions that they might ask before deciding whether or not to support the resolution, and prepare answers.
- Ask whether they know of other council members who would also be likely to support it, and approach them too, to build as much support as possible. There is a guide to writing a letter to these councilors in the appendix.
- If there isn't a specific city council member who you think would be an ally, choose someone who might be willing and use the strategy chart to create a plan to secure their support. Using the chart helps you to consider what you need to do in order to convince that person to support your resolution.



# STEP 6: CELEBRATE AND SPREAD THE WORD

## IF THE RESOLUTION PASSESS...

celebrate your work and use the opportunity to spread the message that your community cares about the crisis in Gaza!

- Share your pictures! Use the hashtag #Ceasefire Now and tag @amnestyusa on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.
- Write a blog post about your experience and send it to us so we can feature it on AIUSA's website!
- Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
- Send 'thank you' notes to anyone who supported the resolution: city council members, leaders of other groups, etc.
- Leverage the passage of your resolution by meeting with local, state or other elected officials representing your community. Your Members of Congress care about what's happening in your city! Whatever you do, let your Legislative Coordinator and IOPT Country Specialists know so that Amnesty can publicize the news.

## IF THE RESOLUTION DIDN'T PASS...

You've done an incredible job raising awareness about the Gaza crisis within your community, rallying new advocates for human rights, and possibly expanding your group's reach. Perhaps you're considering continuing these efforts in the upcoming sessions or after the next round of city council elections. No matter your next steps, please reach out to our Country Specialists. We'd like to express our gratitude for your committed activism and collaborate on devising a fresh strategy to protect human rights.



# APPENDIX A

## DRAFT CITY RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN IMMEDIATE SUSTAINED CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

Community Sponsors: 233 Amherst residents (see attached list)

Councilor Sponsor: Patricia De Angelis

**WHEREAS**, the City/Town Council condemns/has condemned (when) the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel that took nearly 1,139 lives; and

**WHEREAS**, since October 7th, 2023, the Israeli government's siege of occupied Gaza has killed more than [36,000] Palestinians, most of them civilians, 70% of them children and women; and more than 1.7 million Palestinians - 75% of the residents of occupied Gaza have been forced to leave their homes, many of them internally displaced multiple times; and

**WHEREAS**, humanitarian aid into Gaza has been severely restricted, threatening more than half a million people with death from starvation and disease, and thus far resulting in at least 28 children starving to death; and

**WHEREAS**, the UN General Assembly convened an emergency meeting in which 153 out of 186 member nations voted in favor of adopting a resolution demanding "immediate humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza, the "immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," and "ensuring humanitarian access"; and

**WHEREAS**, Israel is obligated, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, to comply with the decisions of the International Court of Justice (ICJ); and

**WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2024, the ICJ found it plausible that the State of Israel's actions in occupied Gaza fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide ("the Genocide Convention"), and ordered the State of Israel to conduct the war in a way that avoids the commission of genocide; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2024, the ICJ ordered Israel to immediately halt military operations in Rafah to avoid inflicting on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the Genocide Convention cites complicity in genocide as a punishable offense, and establishes the obligation of all States to take all steps available to it to prevent acts of genocide from occurring; and

**WHEREAS**, since October 7th, 2023, the United States government has pledged an additional \$14 billion of unconditional military aid to the Israeli government and sent \$250 million without Congressional approval; and

**WHEREAS**, a lasting ceasefire is critical to the release of all hostages, access to humanitarian assistance, protection of civilians, and building a foundation for a lasting peace; and

**WHEREAS**, (cite any local articles or polls calling for a ceasefire, with dates); and

**WHEREAS**, cities across the United States, including Chicago, Illinois; San Francisco, California; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Seattle, Washington; St Louis, Missouri; Detroit, Michigan; Atlanta, Georgia; Akron, Ohio; Wilmington, Delaware; Providence, Rhode Island; and Richmond, California have passed resolutions calling for ceasefire; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the City/Town Council, call for an immediate and sustained ceasefire in occupied Gaza, an end to the Israeli military siege of the occupied Gaza Strip, the release of the remaining civilian hostages and Palestinians and Israelis arbitrarily detained, the removal of obstacles to urgently needed humanitarian aid entering occupied Gaza, and an end to U.S. military aid to the Israeli government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that suitable copies of this resolution be sent to President Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the Congressional delegation. (state)

## APPENDIX B-SENSING EXERCISE

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"Sensing" is an optional but helpful campaign development tool with which you can build a deeper understanding of and empathy with the specific audiences you'll need to interact with in order to achieve your goal. During the sensing phase you can learn directly from people in order to learn how to motivate and engage those audiences to be a part of the solution.

**INTERVIEWS ARE ONE ELEMENT OF THE SENSING TOOL THAT YOU CAN USE IN YOUR COMMUNITY:**

**1. IDENTIFY WHERE TO FIND YOUR TARGET GROUP (SHOPPING CENTERS, COMMUNITY EVENTS, ETC).**

**2. CREATE A PREPARED SET OF QUESTIONS.**

Questions regarding the Gaza crisis may include:

- a. Do you know what an occupation is?
- b. When you think of the word "Palestinian", what comes to your mind?
- c. What do you hear about Gaza in the news? (Or in conversations)
- d. Do you know whether there are any Palestinians in our city?
- e. Do you think that the U.S. should do more to help Palestinians in occupied Gaza?

**3. SPEND ABOUT 5-10 MINUTES INFORMALLY ASKING YOUR QUESTIONS.**

- a. Try to keep interviews to one or two group members per interviewee.
- b. Your goal here is not to convince the person you're interviewing of anything--you're merely seeking their existing thoughts and feelings so you know how to "meet them where they're at" with your campaigning.

**4. TRY TO WRITE DOWN EXACTLY WHAT THE PERSON SAYS, NOT WHAT YOU THINK THEY MAY MEAN.**

You may also want to write down the body language, expressions, and tones that you observe.

**5. DEBRIEF WITH EACH OTHER AFTER EACH INTERVIEW.**

The purpose of these conversations is not to convince the people with whom you are speaking: instead, you are simply trying to understand what they think and feel about the issue. However, you are welcome to answer questions and engage in natural conversation. You can use what you learn during this exercise to inform how you approach the community with your campaign to pass the resolution. Do people express misconceptions about Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories that your group needs to counter? Are people unfamiliar with the situation in occupied Gaza in general?

# APPENDIX C - BLANK STRATEGY CHART

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**GOALS**

**CURRENT RESOURCES**

**POTENTIAL ALLIES**

**DECISION-MAKER**

**TACTICS**



## APPENDIX D - SAMPLE TACTICS

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### WHAT IS A TACTIC?

"Tactics" are actions to either generate support or to get your message in front of your decision maker in order to convince them to grant your primary objective. Categories of tactics include grassroots activism, coalition building, lobbying, media and social media.

### SAMPLE TACTICS

- Public speeches • Public letters or declarations of support • Direct meetings with decision-makers
- Letters or emails to decision-makers • Social media campaign (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and/or TikTok) • Photo actions • Movie showing • Art exhibits • Chalk drawings • Vigil Performance of music or theater • A community conversation or 'teach-in'
- Featuring a guest speaker with expertise on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories and/or the rules of war
- Tabling for educational purposes and collecting signatures of support for the resolution (see the caveat regarding using petitions on Page 15)
- Work with your local newspaper to write a positive article about the need for a permanent ceasefire
- Submit a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in support of a sustained ceasefire
- Put up visible bulletin boards or posters in frequently visited public areas
- And more! The possibilities are endless, so feel free to get creative

### SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA LANGUAGE

*Your voice is powerful. Our collective voices calling for a sustained ceasefire in Gaza must be heard. Learn more from @amnestyusa on how to pass an #CeasefireNow resolution in your community. [LINK]*

*A #CeasefireNow resolution is a declaration of support for civilians in Gaza passed through your city council. It shows that no matter your color or creed, you are entitled to basic necessities of life and human rights. Join me & @amnestyusa to say #CeasefireNow: [LINK]*

## APPENDIX E - CHECKLIST

### STEP 1

**Decide** who in the group will work on this campaign

**Contact** the Country Specialists for up to date information

**Educate** your group on the issue

**Learn** how to counter myths about this issue

### STEP 2

**Determine** how your city council operates

**Find out** whether you can submit a resolution

If a resolution is an option, **continue to Step 3**

If not, **contact** the Country Specialists for other ideas.

### STEP 3

Develop an understanding of your **local climate** around ceasefire

**Build support** and awareness in your community

**Write** the resolution, and move to Step 4

### STEP 4

**Do the research** to fill out your Strategy Chart

**Complete** your Strategy Chart

Create a **timeline** for action.

### STEP 5

**Reach out** to allies and the decision-maker

**Let us know** that you're beginning

Make your case to the community

### STEP 6

**Spread** the word!

**Thank** all the people involved

Let Amnesty know so we can **publicize** your victory!

## APPENDIX F - TALKING POINTS

### FACT-CHECKING

Educating your community, family, neighbors, and politicians about the crisis is critical. What points do you want to make?

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### COUNTER-POINTS

#### ***"Amnesty International is political."***

Amnesty International is a nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that does not get involved in political systems, forms of government, or advocate on behalf of any political parties.

#### ***"Amnesty International is antisemitic."***

Criticism of the State of Israel, its policies and practices, or its conduct of this conflict, and the insistence on the State of Israel, Hamas, and other States and armed groups to abide by international human rights and humanitarian law is legitimate, and not to be conflated with attacks against Jewish, Palestinian, Muslim or Arab people because of their identities.

#### ***"We can't make a difference with city resolutions."***

You make a difference just by working on your resolution. It incorporates multiple ways of learning, gets people working together and engages people in human rights issues for what may be the first time. It shows elected officials that their constituents (you!) are paying attention to this issue, especially as many local and state seats are up for reelection in November 2024.

# APPENDIX G

## WRITING A LETTER TO YOUR CITY COUNCILOR

Below is a suggested format and talking points for a letter to your local city council member asking for their support. Please use this as a guide.

The city councilor is more likely to read a short, concise note. You know what will work best in your community, so make use of the draft with this in mind.

### LETTERS SHOULD BE CONCISE AND CLEAR, RESPECTFUL, AUTHENTIC AND RELEVANT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

*Dear Councilor [NAME],*

*Paragraph 1: Explain who you are, why you are writing, and briefly introduce the "ask".*

*Paragraph 2: Why do you care about this issue? Why is it important?*

*Paragraph 3: Back up your arguments with information: be concise and try to use information relevant to your town.*

*Paragraph 4: Re-state your "ask" and thank them for their time.*

*Sincerely,  
[Your Name]*

### SOME POSSIBLE TALKING POINTS:

- This resolution is non-binding. It is a symbolic declaration.
- It cannot initiate a ceasefire; the Biden administration does that.
- Over 36,000 Palestinian residents of occupied Gaza, half of them children, and over 1400 Israelis have died in this conflict since October 7, 2023. More than 1.7 million people have been internally displaced.
- Access to the very basics needed to sustain life has been cut off. Children are beginning to die of starvation, and hundreds of thousands of people in occupied Gaza are facing extreme food shortages. Water born illnesses exacerbate the healthcare crisis caused by destruction of medical infrastructure and lack of medical supplies. Civilian lives must be protected.
- U.S. leadership is needed in order to do everything possible to avert a potential genocide.
- This resolution is the way to go on the record in support of a sustained ceasefire.