



Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions in Gaza

Whereas, in the attack by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, 1,200 lost their lives and hostages were taken, with many of them still held (1);

Whereas, the response by Israel in Gaza has resulted in over 24,000 lives lost so far, and a humanitarian crisis (2);

Whereas, on October 24, 2023, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) sent an 'Appeal for Respect for Human Rights, Cultural Conventions in Gaza and Israel' imploring all parties to uphold respect for human rights and dignity, in line with international law, and find a pathway to

Whereas, during the current Israel- Hamas War, the Gaza Municipal Library and its library for children; the Diana Tamari Sabbagh Library, the Rashid al -Shawa Cultural Center, and other cultural institutions have been heavily damaged or destroyed (5);



Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members

1. Implores all parties to uphold respect for human rights and dignity in line with international law, ensure access to humanitarian aid, and find a pathway to peace ;
2. Deplores the destruction and damage of the Gaza Municipal Library, the Rashid al-Shawa Cultural Center, and other libraries and cultural institutions in Gaza;
3. Calls for the protection of libraries, schools, and other cultural institutions in Gaza and Israel and for both sides of the conflict to uphold the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict to take all feasible action to safeguard and respect all cultural property;
4. Urges the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of libraries, schools, and other cultural institutions, including networking and other infrastructure, as soon as it is practicable in Gaza.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday , January 21, 2024, ALA LLX, Baltimore, M D

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leslie Burger', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Leslie Burger , Interim ALA Executive
Director, and Secretary of the ALA
Council

