

Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego Constitution

September 10, 2023

Article 1 Name of Student Organization

1. The organization shall be called Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at UC San Diego.

Article 2 Statement of Purpose

Section 1 Mission

1. Part and parcel of the larger student movement sweeping university campuses across the United States, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) is a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and community members centered at the University of California, San Diego and organized in accordance with democratic principles to promote justice, human rights, and the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people.

Section 2 Guiding Principles

1. As an advocacy group, SJP believes that key principles grounded in international law, human rights, and basic standards of justice, dictate concrete steps that will be fundamental to a fair and lasting resolution of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Most important among those steps are:

(a) An end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip.

(b) An end to Israel's system of apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, as well as its system of discrimination against the Palestinian population within its own borders.

(c) A just solution to the Palestinian refugee problem, and right of return as guaranteed by Article 13(2) of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948.

2. Just as SJP condemns the racism and discrimination underlying many of the policies of Israeli government, SJP also categorically opposes any form of prejudice or discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, or gender.

SJP is strictly an antizionist and anti-normalization organization.

At the same time, SJP manifestly rejects attempts to equate principled criticism of Zionism, or of the character or policies of Israel, with antisemitism.

3. Ultimately, SJP's strength flows from the diversity of its membership, comprising individuals of varied racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds and political orientations, all united under these stated principles in the struggle for liberation through justice in Palestine.

Section 3 Code of Conduct

1. SJP's activities include educational events, film screenings, discussion forums, and demonstrations meant to promote awareness of the plight of the Palestinian people and encourage activism in solidarity with their struggle.

2. SJP will also initiate a campaign urging the University of California, San Diego to divest from companies complicit in Israeli violations of human rights or international law.

3. SJP will conduct only nonviolent actions, and reject actions that violate its guiding principles, to which all individuals or groups acting as members, representatives, or sponsors of SJP are required to adhere.

4. More broadly, SJP will work to link the pro-Palestine movement with other movements seeking political, social, economic, or environmental justice in Southwest Asia and North Africa, and across the world. To this end, SJP may elect to endorse the programs or activities of other organizations whose principles and objectives are consistent with its own.

5. SJP believes that in promoting educational success among its membership, such as with regard to academic performance and college student retention, it is empowering its community to become more elective activists and more capable leaders. Thus, SJP will strive to realize this empowerment by way of regular tutor-attended study jams and student mentorship programs.

Article 3 Nonprofit Statement

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego is a non-profit student organization.

Article 4 Requirements for Membership Section

Section 1 Eligibility for Membership

1. SJP's strength is in the great diversity of its membership. SJP welcomes individuals of all backgrounds to join in solidarity with the struggle for justice in Palestine. This includes all UC San Diego students, faculty, and staff, and members of the community.
2. There are no duties or fees required for membership.

Section 2 Categories of Membership

1. Membership in the organization shall be extended to UC San Diego students and staff who agree with the Mission Statement, Guiding Principles and General Code of SJP.

Section 3 Withdrawal or Removal of Members

1. Members may be removed in the instance that they violate the principles or the established code of conduct of the organization. If the person wishes to stay, the members of the organization will hear the person's case and then vote on whether or not the person may remain a member. A two thirds majority in favor of the member is required to keep them in the club.

Article 5 General Body Meetings

1. At least 4 board members (or half of the board) should be at every General Body Meeting throughout the year.

Section 2 Board Meetings

1. The Board shall meet on a weekly basis.
2. Minutes will be taken at all social board meetings.
3. The Board shall maintain constant and open communication.

Article 6 Qualifications for Holding Office and Methods of Selecting and Replacing Officers

Section 1 Voting Qualifications

1. Only registered UC San Diego students may hold office in the organization. Only registered UC San Diego students may vote in elections for the selection of the organization's officers.

Section 2 Duties and Responsibilities

In this organization, we uphold a non-hierarchical structure in which there are no titles of power ("president", "vice president", etc). We believe in order to make steps toward Palestinian liberation, we need to foster an environment conducive to united, collective action and consensus-based decision-making.

In an effort to split off responsibilities and distribute labor equitably, we have different committees in which board members volunteer to work. Each board member is limited to joining a maximum of 2 committees as a means to prevent burnout and unequal labor distribution.

Section 3 Terms of Office

1. One term will last an entire academic year; board members are free to reassess positions each quarter.

Section 4 Procedure for Filling Vacated Officers

1. In the instance that an officer is vacated before term, members of the organization will be notified and may apply to fill the position. The officers, in a consensus vote, will select the replacing officer.

Section 5 Procedure for Removing Officers

1. The procedure for removing officers will be the same as the procedure for removing members: a consensus vote of the elected officers.

2. There is a two-week time period in which an officer or member may appeal. The officer or member will provide a justified argument to the members of the organization, which will be followed immediately by an anonymous vote. Again, a consensus is required to keep them in the club.

Article 7 Risk Management

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego is a registered student organization at University of California, San Diego, but not part of the University itself.

2. Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego understands that the University does not assume legal liability for the actions of the organization.

Article 8 In Case of International Travel

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego recognizes that the University generally recommends against all international travel by Student Organizations due to the myriad of risks travelers face in foreign countries. Student organizations are discouraged from traveling to foreign countries due to the wide variety of risks involved with foreign travel, and the extensive planning efforts required by the Student Organization's Members to manage those risks. Security risks and health care services vary widely from one country to another, so thorough research on those topics is especially important.

2. International travelers are advised to research US State Department Travel Advisories and the CDC Travel Health site and abide by all recommended alerts and warnings, and procure travel insurance with medical coverage that covers their chosen destination because most USA Health Plans are not valid in foreign countries.

Article 9 Aliation with Other Groups

1. SJP shall remain an officially registered student organization UC San Diego that is independent of any umbrella organization. SJP does not represent UC San Diego.

Article 10 In Case of Interaction with Minors and/or the Elderly

1. Students for Justice in Palestine at UC San Diego is aware that all registered student organizations that serve minors or the elderly have access to training on child and elder abuse prevention for its members via the Center for Student Involvement, online or in person (in person by request only). Students for Justice in Palestine will develop plan(s) for activities and events where members will be interacting with minors or the elderly such that members will receive education and/or training on Child Abuse Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA), common sense measures to both avoid child or elder abuse allegations (i.e. avoiding one-on-one situations; working with minors in plain view of others; limiting calls/texts/social media posts or other communications with minors), and how to properly report potential harm or neglect to minors or the elderly with whom they are working.

Article 11 Amendments

1. Any member of the organization may propose a written amendment to the officers. The person must explain their proposal and why they think it will benefit the organization. This amendment will then be voted upon by the officers and will require a two-thirds majority in order to be passed.

2. SJP at UC San Diego refuses to take part in whitewashing Israel's public image and therefore rejects any Israeli-Palestinian meetings that do not recognize our inalienable rights, and explicitly aims to resist Israel's occupation, colonization and apartheid. Israeli-Palestinian meetings that are not committed to such principles give a false picture of equality between the two parties by ignoring and legitimizing Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. We will not contribute to any event that undermines our rights or portrays Israel as anything but what it really is: an apartheid state (as taken from Columbia University chapter of SJP).