

Resolution on Dealing with Hatred, Conflict, and Violence by Honoring, Protecting and Respecting Human Dignity¹

APPROVED at the January 4, 2024 Calendar Meeting by a vote of the CEC D28 members present at the time of the vote (11 in favor / 0 opposed / 0 abstain / 1 absent)

Sponsor: Simone Dornbach
Co-Sponsors: Vijah Ramjattan (President), Tanya Wendt

WHEREAS, We at Community Education Council 28 (“CEC 28”) acknowledge the grief, anguish, outrage, and conflict that many of us are feeling as we try to make sense of the current events in Israel and Gaza and grasp the tragic human toll of the ongoing violent conflict; and

WHEREAS, New York City Public Schools (“NYCPS”) represents a diverse community with residents from multiple races, ethnicities, and religious groups and this is especially an agonizing time for our students who identify as Israeli and/or Jewish or Palestinian and/or Muslim, whose loved ones live in the region; and

WHEREAS, we have seen a documented increase in antisemitism, anti-Muslim and anti-Sikh hate crimes stoking fear and anguish in these communities; and

WHEREAS, organizations and communities like ours that work to bring people together can make a real difference and should always try to help students build an understanding rooted in an appreciation for our shared humanity; and

WHEREAS, we hope for the safety and wellbeing of all the people of the region and their loved ones around the world; and

WHEREAS, during this difficult time, it is important to clearly articulate educational goals in our schools, such as promoting empathy, critical thinking, and understanding of global issues in our Students, and ensure these objectives align with the values of honoring, protecting, and respecting human dignity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that CEC 28

¹ CEC District 2 passed a similar resolution: *Resolution #234 - Dealing with Hatred, Terrorism, and Violence by Honoring, Protecting and Respecting Human Dignity.pdf*. (n.d.). Google Docs. Retrieved December 30, 2023, from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B0iJkj1ABXRbQ2hmBXRvGgmjMf36zKfA/view>.

- Will come together to honor each other's dignity and to better appreciate each other's humanity – it is one of the greatest callings we have as human beings; and
- Empathizes with students and will try to help those among us who are vulnerable, targeted, and grieving; and
- Is united in our belief that all children deserve to grow up in safety, health, and freedom. Every. Single. One; and
- Acknowledges that we need community now more than ever; and
- Wants all our children to feel safe and seen by the education system at home here in New York City while at school or in the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CEC28 calls upon NYCPS to

- Have zero tolerance for violence, hate crimes and discrimination of any kind; and
- Unequivocally condemn antisemitism, and islamophobia whenever and wherever it occurs; and
- Ensure our schools function as a bastion of support and refuge for all children who have been affected by these tragedies; and
- Teach tolerance, understanding, empathy and respect human dignity.