



Student Assembly

Resolution 55: Condemning the University Administration's Use of Programming to Platform Individuals Implicated in War Crimes

Abstract: This resolution condemns the University administration's decision to invite individuals implicated in war crimes and grave human rights violations to campus through programming framed as promoting peace, such as the *Pathways to Peace* event. It calls for administrative accountability in speaker selection practices that endanger student wellbeing, undermine ethical standards, and distort the meaning of peace within the academic environment.

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Sponsored by: The Progressives @ Cornell, Students for Justice in Palestine at Cornell

Type of Action: Legislation

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Whereas, universities have an obligation to uphold ethical standards and ensure that speakers invited by the administration do not legitimize violence, undermine international law, or compromise the safety and wellbeing of students,

Whereas, Cornell University's administration has utilized events such as *Pathways to Peace* to host speakers whose public records are associated with the planning, justification, or execution of large-scale violence,

Whereas, *Pathways to Peace* programming has included **Tzipi Livni**, former Israeli Foreign Minister, who has faced international legal scrutiny and widespread condemnation from human rights organizations for her role in the 2008–2009 assault on Gaza, which United Nations investigations and international human rights groups have documented as involving war crimes,

Whereas, the University administration has also invited **Dick Cheney**, former Vice President of the United States, a principal architect of the Iraq War and the post-9/11 torture program, actions that have been widely criticized by legal experts and human rights organizations as violations of international law,

Whereas, presenting individuals implicated in war crimes or crimes against humanity as authorities on peace, diplomacy, or global leadership fundamentally distorts the meaning of peace and serves to normalize impunity for mass violence,



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31 **Whereas**, such administrative decisions create a hostile and coercive academic environment for
32 students, particularly those from communities directly impacted by war, occupation, and state
33 violence,

34 **Whereas**, framing these invitations as educational or peace-oriented events exposes students to
35 state propaganda and moral revisionism rather than rigorous, ethical inquiry,

36 **Whereas**, students are entitled to an academic environment free from militarization,
37 intimidation, and the glorification or rehabilitation of individuals responsible for large-scale
38 human rights abuses,

39 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly condemns the University administration's
40 practice of inviting individuals implicated in war crimes or serious human rights violations to
41 campus, including through programming branded as *Pathways to Peace*,

42 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly urges the University administration to adopt
43 transparent, enforceable standards for speaker selection that prioritize human rights, international
44 law, and student safety,

45 **Be it finally resolved**, that the University be called upon to reaffirm its commitment to academic
46 integrity by rejecting programming that sanitizes, legitimizes, or rehabilitates the public image of
47 individuals responsible for mass violence and systemic human rights abuses.

48 **Respectfully Submitted,**

49 Yasmine Masoud '28

50 Brooks School of Public Policy Representative, *Student Assembly*