



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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Endorsers:

Type of Action: Recommendation

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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; and

Whereas, Cornell University's administration has utilized events such as *Pathways to Peace* to host speakers invited by the administration whose public records are associated with the planning, justification, or execution of large-scale violence, including actions widely alleged to constitute war crimes; and

Whereas, *Pathways to Peace* programming has included **Tzipi Livni**, former Israeli Foreign Minister, who has faced international legal scrutiny for her role in Israel's 2008–2009 assault on Gaza, known as Operation Cast Lead [4]. This scrutiny includes a 2009 arrest warrant issued by Westminster Magistrates' Court in the UK under universal jurisdiction laws [1], a subsequent private application for arrest considered by the Crown Prosecution Service [6,7], a 2016 summons by UK police for voluntary questioning over alleged war crimes [5,6], a review of a war crimes complaint against Livni in Switzerland in 2017 [2], alongside findings by a United Nations fact-finding mission [8] and investigations by Amnesty International [3] and Human Rights Watch [8] documenting strong evidence of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law; and

Whereas, presenting individuals implicated in war crimes or crimes against humanity—meaning individuals subject to arrest warrants, indictments, or credible findings by international courts, tribunals, or recognized human rights organizations documenting their involvement in such acts—as authorities on peace, diplomacy, or global leadership threatens to fundamentally distort the meaning of peace and serves to normalize impunity for mass violence; and



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36 **Whereas**, such administrative decisions create a hostile and coercive academic environment for
37 students, particularly those from communities directly impacted by war, occupation, and state
38 violence; and

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

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

44 **Be it therefore resolved**, that the Student Assembly condemns the University administration’s
45 practice of inviting individuals implicated in war crimes or serious human rights violations to
46 campus, including through programming branded as *Pathways to Peace*; and

47 **Be it further resolved**, that the Student Assembly urges the University administration to adopt
48 clear, transparent, and enforceable standards governing the administrative invitation of speakers,
49 including a formal review process that assesses potential speakers’ records with respect to human
50 rights and international law, and that includes criteria prohibiting the administrative invitation of
51 individuals who have been implicated in war crimes as defined in lines 31–33; and

52 **Be it further resolved**, that the University clearly establish that such standards will be applied
53 equally to all potential invitees, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin

54 **Be it further resolved**, that the University publicly publish these standards and procedures so
55 they are accessible to the student body and the broader campus community.

56 **Be it finally resolved**, that the University be called upon to reaffirm its commitment to academic
57 integrity and ethical leadership by refraining from the administrative invitation of individuals
58 credibly implicated in war crimes or mass human rights abuses, recognizing that, as a leading
59 research university and educational institution, Cornell has an obligation to foster a campus
60 environment that supports rigorous, ethical inquiry and the pursuit of truth, and must not use its
61 institutional platform to advance or legitimize narratives promoted by individuals responsible for
62 grave violations of human rights.

63 **Respectfully Submitted,**

64 Yasmeen Masoud ‘28

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

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