

**Wayland Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee**

**Statement to Our Beloved Community Members  
Affected by Conflict in the Middle East**

The HRDEIC acknowledges the trauma, grief, fear and suffering resulting from the violence and humanitarian crises unfolding in the Middle East, and the impacts felt around the world, including here in the Wayland community. We hold close to our hearts our Israeli, Palestinian, Muslim and Jewish friends, family, neighbors and colleagues, and other community members directly affected by the trauma, particularly those who have lost loved ones. We encourage everyone in Wayland to acknowledge what those most directly affected may be experiencing, ask how they are doing, listen to how they are feeling, and show the compassion and support so needed now.

We believe that what binds our community together is greater than what separates us. We call on people of all ages to work together toward peace in the Wayland community and to reject dehumanization, polarization and hatred, including Islamophobia and antisemitism.

If you see hateful content online that includes a call to or threat of violence, report it to the Wayland Police (dial 911 or call 508-358-4721). If you or someone you know experiences or witnesses hateful behavior based on identity, culture, heritage, or religion, report it to the Wayland Police and the Massachusetts End Hate Now Hotline 1-83-END-H8-NOW (1-833-634-8669). If you or someone you love needs mental health support, please check our [Community Resource Guide](#) or call or text the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Hotline 1-833-773-BHHL (1-833-773-2445).

May all of us in the Wayland community have hearts compassionate enough to hold one another's pain, eyes clear enough to recognize the humanity in others, even when we don't see things the same way, and relationships strong enough to withstand the divisions in the world around us.

October 25, 2023

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*The purpose of the Wayland Human Rights, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is to affirm that the Town of Wayland is an inclusive community that has, as one of its core values, the freedom from discrimination, disrespect, bigotry, other forms of microaggressions, macroaggressions, hatred and oppression, and to reaffirm the Town's commitment to upholding and defending the rights of all individuals to enjoy the free and equal exercise of their human and civil rights and privileges.*