



November 13, 2018

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Dear Administrative Vice Chancellor Beck,

I write on behalf of the National Lawyer's Guild Los Angeles (NLG-LA) to express our strong support for National Students for Justice in Palestine and Students for Justice in Palestine at UCLA (collectively "SJP"). We urge you to retract your cease and desist letter and to make every effort to bolster SJP's national conference as a means of protecting free speech and open debate on UCLA's campus, free from hostile external influences.

To provide background on our organization, the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) was founded in 1937 as the country's first racially-integrated bar association of progressive lawyers and jurists who believed that they had a major role to play in the reconstruction of legal values to emphasize human rights over property rights. The Guild is the oldest and most extensive network of public interest and human rights activists working within the legal system.

NLG-LA stands in solidarity with SJP because it is the primary organization on US campuses advocating for freedom, justice, and equality for Palestinians. It is an all-volunteer group run by students and recent alumni that has managed to host a national conference at universities across the country for seven years now with very few resources and without issue.

The students and recent alumni who have worked tirelessly to create this conference stand not only for freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people, but also emphasize the interconnectedness of the struggle of the Palestinian people with all movements for freedom. Contrary to sensationalist, racially charged and Islamophobic messages, SJP actively opposes homophobia, misogyny, racism, antisemitism, classism, colonialism, ableism, and bigotry and discrimination in any other form.

Rather than cower to the pressure of outside organizations who work on behalf of private or governmental interests, UCLA should celebrate the efforts of its students to connect with the global stage on themes of freedom, equality,



and justice. Most importantly, should protect UCLA's campus as a forum for free speech and open debate, where students are free to grow, ask tough questions, engage with diverse viewpoints, and connect with the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kath Rogers'.

Kath Rogers  
Executive Director  
National Lawyers Guild Los Angeles  
cell: 619-886-9259 | [NLG-LA.org](http://NLG-LA.org)