

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand,

We, the undersigned National, state-wide, and local organizations, write to express our profound concern and disappointment in your recent vote to approve weapons transfers to the Israeli military amid its ongoing assault on the Palestinian people in Gaza, in violation of U.S. and international humanitarian law.

At a time when countless respected human rights organizations and genocide scholars — including [two leading Israeli human rights groups](#) — have concluded that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute genocide, your decision to further arm the Israeli military is unconscionable. With this vote, you chose to support the continued killing of civilians, the targeting of children, the destruction of nearly all basic infrastructure, and what experts describe as a “minutely engineered” campaign of mass starvation. You now represent the [minority](#) of the Senate Democratic Caucus that chose to supply offensive weapons to Israel. Instead, this should be a moment of unity and moral clarity within the Democratic Party.

This is not theoretical. Over 100,000 women and children in Gaza are now experiencing acute, severe malnutrition. At least 266 people, including 122 children, have already died from hunger. The World Food Program reports that one in three Gazans go without food for multiple days at a time. Your votes to continue sending offensive weapons enable this humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before the world, and render you and our country complicit in the crimes these weapons are being used to commit.

As humanitarian organizations have [stated](#) clearly, *the continued provision of weapons to Israel must stop*. This is also the position of the majority of the American public, with only [8% of Democrats and 32% of Americans](#) supporting Israel's current military actions. Among Iranian Americans — a large constituency in New York — [support](#) for a ceasefire and a halt to military funding is also overwhelming, as they were forced to watch with horror as Israel expanded its military campaign to Iran, killing hundreds of civilians in June 2025. While your recent yes votes on the Kaine War Powers Resolution were a good step in the right direction towards preventing war with Iran, we would expect any Senator to show better leadership on stopping Israel's genocide and mass starvation in Gaza.

It is long past time to act. For nearly two years, Israel has systematically destroyed Gaza's hospitals, homes, schools, food systems, and infrastructure. Now, under the so-called Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — which Israel has used to replace the highly-respected UN-led system — aid seekers are being massacred on a daily basis in what multiple eyewitnesses, including American contractors and Israeli soldiers themselves, are calling “[killing fields](#).” Over 1,000 Palestinians seeking food and aid have reportedly been gunned down with machine guns and even tank fire. Doctors report patterns of gunshot wounds consistent with the deliberate targeting of aid seekers' heads, genitals, and chests. These are war crimes.

Under U.S. law, including the **Leahy Law** and **Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act**, the United States must not provide military assistance to foreign countries credibly implicated in gross human rights violations or that block U.S.-funded humanitarian aid. And yet, despite leading and signing a letter acknowledging the escalating famine in Gaza, you have taken no meaningful action to enforce these laws or apply any leverage to end the violence.

Tens of thousands of your constituents have contacted you since November 2024 urging support for the Joint Resolutions of Disapproval led by Sen. Bernie Sanders. Additionally, last November, [a letter](#) signed by over 95 New York organizations was submitted.

[Kindly worded](#) letters will not stop a genocide. Only the withholding of foreign assistance and weapons will. You both had the opportunity to stand with the majority of your Democratic Senate colleagues and vote to block further arms transfers. You failed to do so.

We call on you now to:

1. **Publicly support and vote for all future resolutions to block weapons transfers to Israel to put a stop to the genocide.**
2. **Support and co-sponsor legislation that conditions or halts military assistance to Israel in accordance with U.S. and international law.**
3. **Demand an immediate and lasting ceasefire, the lifting of the siege on Gaza, and the full restoration of humanitarian aid to Palestinians distributed through the UN-led system.**

New Yorkers are watching. This is a defining moral moment. We urge you to be on the right side of history moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to these crucial and timely initiatives to help end this conflict and save countless lives. We look forward to your response, and we are at your disposal to meet to discuss these matters further.

Signed,

The National Iranian American Council - New York Chapter
Peace Action New York State
MPower Change Action Fund

And the following organizations:

5C Cultural Center
About Face: Veterans Against the War
Action Corps
All Souls Bethlehem Church Council
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)
Antiracist Alliance
Arab Resource and Organizing Center Action

Bangladeshi American Advocacy Group (BAAG)
Binghamton Graduate Students for Justice in Palestine
Binghamton Solidarity for Palestine
Brooklyn For Peace
Broome County Peace Action
Buffalo Friends Meeting (Quakers)
Buffalo SUNY BDS
Codepink
Columbia County for Palestine
Concerned Families of Westchester (NY)
Council on American-Islamic Relations, New York chapter (CAIR-NY)
Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ
DAWN
Defending Rights & Dissent
Demand Progress
Doctors Against Genocide
East End for Peace and Justice
El Progreso (Le Moyne College)
Ensaaf
FCNL - Farmington Advocacy Team
FCNL Buffalo Advocacy Team
FCNL-NY
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Friends of Ben Salmon
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace (GVCP)
Green Education and Legal Fund
Greenville, NY Democrats
Healthcare Workers for Palestine
IfNotNow
IfNotNow-NYC
International Union of Painters & Allied Trades District Council 4
Ithaca Committee for Justice in Palestine
Jewish Voice for Peace - Buffalo
Jewish Voice For Peace - Westchester
Jewish Voice for Peace Action
Jewish Voice for Peace Albany
Jewish Voice for Peace Rochester
Judson Memorial Church
Justice Committee, Presbytery of New York City (PCUSA)
Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church
Long Island Alliance for Peaceful Alternatives
Long Island Progressive Coalition
Long Island Teachers for Human Rights (LITHR)

Masjid As-Salam
Middle Collegiate Church
Mohawk Valley Advocacy Team
Move the Money–NYC
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Peace Fellowship
Muslim Solidarity Committee, Albany NY
New York Indivisible
New York Progressive Action Network
New York State Council of Churches
North Country Peace Group
NY-10 Neighbors
NY8 Neighbors for a Gaza Ceasefire
NYC Metro Raging Grannies
NYC War Resisters League
Palestinian Rights Committee of Albany
Pax Christi Long Island
Pax Christi New York State
Peace Action at Stony Brook University
Peace Action Bay Ridge
Peace Action Geneseo
Peace Action Le Moyne
Peace Action Manhattan
Peace Action of Staten Island
Positive Action-Mohawk Valley
Project Hajra
Project SALAM (Support And Legal Advocacy for Muslims), Albany NY
Riverside Edgecombe Neighborhood Association
Rochester Witness for Palestine
RootsAction
Shoresh
South Country Peace Group
Speak Up for Palestine - Rochester
Stu Naismith Chapter 90 Veterans For Peace
SUNY BDS
Syracuse Peace Council
The Queer Palestinian Empowerment Network
The Religious Nationalisms Project
The Riverside Church in the City of New York
The Truth Project
United Muslim Alliance of Albany
Upper Hudson Peace Action
Veterans For Peace, Chapter 23, Rochester, NY
VOICE Buffalo

Walkabout Clearwater
We Are Revolutionary
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.
Western New York Peace Center
WILPF US
Women Against War
Women for Racial and Economic Equality (WREE)
Working Families Party Nassau County
World Can't Wait