

Dear AAPI Studies Community,

As the [Chancellor's message](#) and [the UC President's message](#) recently named, this is an incredibly painful time. Students, staff, faculty, friends, mentors, and family members around us may be experiencing hateful speech and actions, may feel afraid and targeted, or just shocked and traumatized by the scale of the loss of life we are witnessing in the Gaza strip. Many of us simply might not know what to say or do and therefore are afraid to say anything at all. To build off of the Chancellor's message, though, if we are afraid or uncertain then "engaging in civil conversations about issues of great importance – even when diverse beliefs and opinions are deeply rooted and such conversations can be uncomfortable" must occur in order "to promote learning and understanding." And this can only be done by "listening to one another with empathy, tolerance and compassion." Within the fields of Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies, we must engage in this critical listening and dialogue "as [disciplines] that emerged through anticolonial and anti-imperial critique" as recognized by [the Association for Asian American Studies recent statement endorsing solidarity with Palestine](#).

As we engage in learning and dialoguing in our AAPI courses, I support our students and faculty critically and respectfully considering how Palestinian liberation is entwined with AAPI liberation and how settler colonialism in the context of Gaza is related to settler colonialism in the Pacific. I offer founding AAPI Program Director Simeon Mann's 2021 [statement of solidarity](#), [San Diego's Asian Solidarity Collective's statement](#), and the [Palestinian Feminist Collective's digital toolkit](#) as resources to draw on to initiate difficult but necessary conversations in our classrooms. Lastly, I want to amplify an event being held on Friday 11/17 at 6pm at Centro Cultural de la Raza by a diverse coalition of local San Diego organizations, exploring what Palestine is for black and brown liberation, and featuring our own Dr. Daniel Widener, Director of the Institute for Arts and Humanities. See flier attached.

In these difficult times, I hope that we can persist in creating community, deepening our learning, and supporting each other in the name of shared humanity and liberation for all.

In solidarity,  
Amanda Solomon Amorao, PhD  
AAPI Studies Director

Amanda Solomon Amorao, PhD  
Associate Teaching Professor  
Director, [Dimensions of Culture Program](#)  
[Thurgood Marshall College](#)  
UC San Diego built upon unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation  
[my pronouns](#): she, her, hers  
IG @doctora\_a.s.a.