



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MORE THAN 500 SCHOLARS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS  
DEMAND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GENOCIDE  
SCHOLARS RETRACT RESOLUTION**

***AEN faculty members and legal experts, former prosecutors,  
spearhead letter demanding IAGS rescind its resolution accusing  
Israel of committing genocide in Gaza***

**WASHINGTON, DC** (September 9, 2025) – More than 500 distinguished legal, antisemitism, history, Holocaust, and genocide scholars, former prosecutors, and practitioners today sent a letter condemning the International Association of Genocide Scholars' (IAGS) recent resolution accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza. Academic Engagement Network (AEN) faculty spearheaded a broad campaign to amplify the letter's impact, including creating [Scholars for Truth about Genocide](#), collecting signatures, and working with colleagues across the country to build support for the statement within the wider genocide-prevention community.

Signatories include Eli Rosenbaum, former US Department of Justice war crimes prosecutor; Jeffrey Mausner, former Nazi war crimes prosecutor with the US Department of Justice; Alan Dershowitz, prominent civil rights attorney; Norman J.W. Goda, Braham Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Florida and an AEN faculty member; The Honorable, Professor Irwin Cotler, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Canada's first Special Envoy on Combatting Antisemitism and Preserving Holocaust Remembrance, and many more.

The letter denounces a "clear misapplication of law and history" in IAGS's adoption of the resolution, criticizing the organization for passing it under questionable circumstances – with only 129 members voting, with 107 in favor, among an organization of over 500 members – and for failing to honor earlier pledges to host town halls and publish dissenting views. The letter further asserts that "genocide is the gravest offense known to humankind; to dilute its legal standards for ideological ends is a form of moral violence," one that "dishonors the memory of past victims, misleads the public about present atrocities, and obstructs efforts to avert future ones."

Moreover, the letter argues that the IAGS's resolution distorts both Hamas's conduct and Israel's legal obligations, suggesting that all deaths in Gaza are attributable to Israel while erasing Hamas's role and failing to demand agency for its actions. It underscores Hamas's use of civilian infrastructure – including hospitals, mosques, schools, homes, and humanitarian zones – for

military purposes, which forfeits protected status under the Fourth Geneva Convention. And it further notes that the resolution misrepresents rulings by the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice.

“It’s critical that no one abuses the law for ideological gain and bias,” **said Elliot Malin, International Humanitarian Attorney and the letter’s lead author.** “The Genocide Convention’s protections were drafted in response to the Nazi’s systemic murders of the Jews, Roma, and others, to prevent the most serious crime imaginable: the intentional destruction of people for who they are. People can have feelings about the war in Gaza and want it to end without weaponizing the Convention when its legal elements have not been met. It is deeply troubling that IAGS misapplied and misrepresented the law – an approach that helps no innocent people and only compounds their suffering. While I am saddened this effort was necessary, I am grateful that serious experts have stepped up to resist this ideological distortion.”

“As a founding member of what became IAGS, I can say unequivocally that this resolution does not reflect the majority of genocide scholars,” **said Mia Bloom, Professor of Communication and Middle East Studies at Georgia State University and an AEN faculty member.** “Fewer than a third of members voted in favor, and membership itself is no longer limited to serious scholars of genocide. To single out Gaza while remaining silent on the October 7th atrocities, and failing to issue comparable statements on the other cases of mass ethnic violence, IAGS exposed itself as a virtue-signaling, faux academic body rather than a credible scholarly association.”

“The Academic Engagement Network is proud to support and amplify this important letter, which represents the voices of leading legal, historical, and genocide scholars,” **said Miriam Elman, Executive Director of AEN.** “Our faculty members have been at the forefront of this effort to ensure that IAGS and the wider public understand the gravity of what’s at stake. AEN stands firmly with our faculty members in affirming that scholarship must be guided by rigorous standards of empirical accuracy and academic integrity, not distorted for ideological ends.”

AEN is comprised of nearly 1,500 faculty members on nearly 350 campuses who combat antisemitism, promote academic freedom, and advance education about Israel. Its [Faculty Against Antisemitism Movement](#) (FAAM), launched after October 7th, empowers AEN faculty members, as well as other academics who choose to get involved, to stand against antisemitism, the denigration of Jewish identity, and anti-Israel bias on their campuses and to collectively urge university leaders to take appropriate action. More than 25,000 faculty nationwide have become active in FAAM over the last year.

AEN members across the country have founded [groups](#) to publicly speak out against antisemitism and anti-Israel bias, to mentor students, advise university administrators, and host educational programming. Examples include: [UCLA’s Jewish Faculty Resilience Group](#); [Yale’s Forum for Jewish Faculty & Friends](#); [UIUC’s Faculty for Academic Freedom and Against Antisemitism](#); [Columbia’s Jewish Faculty and Staff Supporting Israel](#); [George Washington University Faculty and Staff Against Antisemitism and Hate](#); [California State University at Northridge’s Matadors Against Antisemitism](#); and [Indiana University’s Faculty and Staff for Israel](#).

AEN faculty members at UPenn, UCLA, Yale, Harvard, Stanford, Dartmouth, UC Berkeley, the University of Cincinnati, and MIT have also organized faculty solidarity and educational missions to Israel. By networking faculty and sharing materials and best practices, AEN hopes to empower many more of these faculty groups and missions to sprout up across the country.

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*AEN is a national organization that mobilizes networks of university faculty and administrators to counter antisemitism, oppose the denigration of Jewish and Zionist identities, promote academic freedom, and advance education about Israel. More at <https://academicengagement.org/> and <https://www.facultyagainstantisemitism.org/>.*