

RESOLUTION TITLE

Resolution to Make Internationalism Working Group's Palestine Solidarity Program a Chapter Priority Campaign for 2025

Proposed by: Internationalism Working Group with support from Abolition Working Group

RESOLUTION

1. **Therefore, be it resolved**, the General Body of the MDC DSA chapter hereby affirms the Priority Campaign status of Internationalism Working Group, and specifically work on Palestine

BACKGROUND

1. **Whereas**, per Section 6.3 of the MDC DSA chapter bylaws:

Priority campaigns are created by priority resolutions passed at local conventions or general body meetings through the promotion of existing chapter formations to this status and will revert to their previous status if the priority is not renewed upon expiration.

2. **Whereas**, per Section 3.4 of the MDC DSA chapter bylaws:

New priority resolutions may be passed by two-thirds vote at the local convention or at a general body meeting. No more than five priority resolutions may be in effect at once.

3. **Whereas**, the below information has been submitted for consideration by the general body;

Campaign Information

Formation's Mission Statement

The Internationalism Working Group (IWG) aims to build solidarity with global movements for a more just world. We are committed to opposing militarism and global capitalism from the capital of the U.S. empire. Through direct action, political education, and coalition building, we seek to put global solidarity at the center of our socialist practice.

Palestine solidarity is our foremost priority for the foreseeable future and our chapter has been actively involved in standing with the movement for Palestinian liberation in recent months. We hope to build on this foundation by deepening our organizing through strategic campaigns, ongoing coalition-building and political education. We seek to leverage our position in DC to support the demands for an arms embargo on Israel and an end to US support for the Zionist regime.

What work has this formation done so far?

****Palestine solidarity** - the IWG has prioritized Palestine solidarity since it began regrouping in February 2024. We have organized contingents at three mass actions in June, July and August; supported the multi-university encampment through meal support and turn-out; organized a film screening with Jewish Voice for Peace on Christian Zionism; supported a direct action by mid-Hudson DSA at a military tech conference in May; organized an emergency canvas for DC4Ceasefire (now DC4Palestine) coalition in June/July; organized two reading groups (Jakarta Method and Wretched of the Earth); and consistently engaged the chapter membership on Palestine organizing in the DMV.

****Cuba solidarity** - the IWG organized an event with the Cuban embassy in May to educate the DSA membership about the blockade and the push to remove Cuba from the state sponsors of terror list.

****Philippines solidarity** - We co-sponsored the Brandon Lee speaking tour in September and deepened our relationship with the DMV area groups involved with the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines.

How many active members does the formation have?

The IWG has approximately 45 active members, including about 15 core members who are consistently active on a weekly basis.

What is the formation's plan for 2025 if this formation is chosen as a priority?

- **CHEVRON & BROADER BDS CAMPAIGN:** Develop a DC-area plan to carry out the strategy of the [Stop Fueling Genocide](#) national Chevron campaign as part of a broader BDS push in the region.
 - Hold political education events highlighting the Internationalist and environmental justice intersection of Israel's relationship with Chevron amidst the current genocide and the extractive fossil fuel industry in general.
 - We plan to hold an initial political education event in the first half of January that will orient our members and supporters to Chevron's complicity in propping up Israel and preview a national day of action on January 18 coinciding with the Chevron Houston Marathon.
 - Building on this, we hope to work with allies to reach the broader population in DC through public events, postering, and actions, emphasizing boycott and divestment strategies.
 - Coordinate with student groups, including YDSA and SJP, on area campuses to hold actions and events that challenge Chevron and other BDS targets' partnerships and recruitment through universities.
 - Coordinate with Palestinian solidarity organizations to develop a comprehensive campaign against Chevron and other BDS targets in the DMV, with potential activities to include advocacy for divestment at area institutions, ongoing presence at Chevron DC office, disruption of events Chevron and other BDS targets are involved in, a [No Appetite for Apartheid](#) campaign to promote BDS with local markets/businesses. We are in discussion with our coalition partners to determine which pathways are most promising.

- **COALITION-BUILDING:** Deepen our involvement in Palestine coalitions across the DMV and build stronger relationships with other coalition partners.
 - Participate in the next phase of DC4Palestine coalition activity, including participation in campaigns targeting DC institutions and trainings from DC4Palestine/Movement Infrastructure Project.
 - Mobilize in the push to dismantle the Virginia Israeli Advisory Board campaign (Dismantle VIAB) with comrades across the DMV. We plan to support the campaign in hosting teach-ins on VIAB with DMV universities (George Mason University, University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, Virginia Commonwealth University, American University, Georgetown University, Howard University, Gallaudet University, George Washington University, and the University of Maryland). This will build on research into VIAB that members of Abolition/IWG have undertaken in Fall 2024.
 - Mobilize around the next phase of the Montgomery County Palestine Solidarity Network activities and pushing to drop the Maryland Israel Development Corporation.
 - Continue to mobilize for mass actions and strategic direct actions when called for by Palestinian organizers. With support from Abolition, we are more prepared to provide jail support and connect this work with ongoing anti-carceral efforts in the DMV.
 - Work with other organizations and individuals to hold and publicize mass mutual aid campaigns for Palestinians in Gaza.
- **POLITICAL EDUCATION:** In addition to the aforementioned Chevron boycott political education work, the Palestine Solidarity Program will:
 - Develop introductory political education on the topics of BDS and Zionism that can be used with general membership and elected officials.
 - Collaborate with other working groups, such as Abolition, Electoral, and Political Education, on developing additional topics/formats to integrate education about Palestine into our chapter's regular activities.

Does this formation have structure or leadership roles? Who holds them?

IWG has six active stewards who share administrative responsibility for IWG: Nell G, Miriam E, Jane N, Diego J, Alex G, Beth M.

We also have other core leaders in our working group who serve as liaisons to the DSA International Committee and to coalition partners.

We are experimenting with another role of “mobilizers” who assist with outreach to our base. We have five mobilizers now and hope to increase that.

How will this formation help build capacity across the chapter, specifically for branch Working Groups engaging with similar work?

MDC-DSA members in NoVa have shown leadership in building strong alliances with Palestine solidarity organizations and been an integral part of multiple campaigns for ceasefire resolutions and accountability for Virginia institutions. Our working group also has strong ties to chapter leaders in Maryland who led our Uncommitted canvas efforts, which made MoCo and PG County a hub for Internationalism work throughout the Spring of 2024. We strive to incorporate the entire region in our working group and learn from each other.

We are also creating welcoming spaces for new members from across the chapter to plug in. For example, in September 2024, IWG and the Political Education working group hosted a workshop on the concept of Internationalism and how to talk to other comrades, friends, family members, and other community members about Internationalism. This workshop was well attended and provided a space for new members to learn more about the solidarity work that we are doing. We are also planning a fundraiser with the Repro-Justice working group to support a pro-Palestine abortion fund and a Palestine mutual aid organization. With more resources, we could host more of these teach-ins, as well as future fundraising efforts.

How will this formation recruit for the chapter?

Many new members of MDC-DSA have joined because of the genocide in Gaza and the IWG is providing a structured way to channel that energy into ongoing involvement with our chapter. People on the Left are broadly supportive of demands for an arms embargo on Israel as well as accountability for the state's recent genocidal war crimes and history of dispossession of the Palestinians. Officially codifying the IWG's Palestine Solidarity Program, through which we call for an end to funding and arming the Zionist entity's genocide, will help to legitimize the Metro DC DSA chapter as a long-term participant in this struggle. While the chapter, through our previous IWG Palestine work and individual connections, have solidified connections with area organizations, including Alexandria for Palestinian Human Rights and the DC4Palestine Coalition, the chapter has a way to go in establishing the trust and capacity necessary to serve as a regional leader in the Palestine solidarity struggle. With increased legitimacy and resources, we believe the IWG Palestine Solidarity Program can help solidify our position in the community coalition of Palestine work.

Are there any recurring or one-time expenses that this formation does not currently have the money for but would purchase if it became available?

For the Chevron campaign and broader BDS work we will require funds to cover expenses including: propaganda posters for public awareness, fliers for recruitment, food, space rental, interpretation services, and other provisions for political and other events. We hope to support creative actions that may also require art supplies.

The working group will also need to print more recruitment literature.
