

To: Montgomery College Community
From: Dr. Jermaine F. Williams, President
Subject: War in Israel and Gaza
Date: October 11, 2023

The violent war in Israel and Gaza is horrifying. The abductions of helpless civilians and the deaths of thousands of people have been terrifying for all of us to watch and profoundly painful for members of our community who have already been scarred by violence. I condemn these horrible acts perpetrated out of hate.

Montgomery College is home to students, faculty, and staff from around the world, including some with roots and loved ones in Israel and Gaza. Our hearts go out to them during this very difficult time. Take a moment to reach out to colleagues and friends who may be suffering, to offer solace and reaffirm our commitment to a community built on belonging and understanding. In addition, please keep in mind the services Montgomery College offers. For some of us, witnessing violence or the stress of repeated reports of violence can be a source of great strain. Students can access professional help through several services, including [Counseling and Advising](#) and the [SHaW Center](#). Faculty and staff can contact the [Faculty and Staff Assistance Program](#) for support.

As many in our community suffer unimaginably from the events of the last few days, I encourage us to focus on how we can continue to create dialogue and community in the midst of conflict.