

STAND FOR PEACE

A STATEMENT ON THE VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



October 10, 2023

Dear Pacifica Community,

Like many of you, I have been following the recent escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine with great concern and sadness. Our heartfelt care is with all those who have tragically and innocently lost their lives or have been injured or displaced. I know many of our community members with ties to that region are being impacted profoundly, and I want to assure each of you that you are not alone.

Pacifica unambiguously opposes all forms of hate, abuse, and violence. With this crisis in Israel and Palestine, along with the ongoing conflicts in Armenia-Azerbaijan, Ukraine, and Sudan that have also taken thousands of lives, war continues to devastate and traumatize the world. In this time of extraordinary peril, Pacifica remains committed to remembering the soul in everyone, no matter the circumstances, which gives pause to hate and violence, and makes room for seeing and valuing the Other—because we all have the same share of soul.

As a depth psychological institution, we know that the projection of evil onto an Other becomes the very rationale for denying their soul and humanity and the value of their ongoing existence—which has always been at the root of antisemitism, genocide, racism, and hate in all its forms. To oppose this process means refusing to participate in splitting apart humanity. We will not divide humanity into categories of good and evil. Splitting off evil from ourselves and viewing others as its sole carrier only perpetuates the process that undergirds unconscious enactments of malevolence.

Let us do all we can as scholars, educators, and therapists to bring healing, love, unity, and a transformation of consciousness. As a community, we commit to

living our values, engaging in important dialog, taking action, showing compassion, and providing support in the moment to those who need them the most.

For anyone needing support, comfort, or care during this time, I encourage you to utilize our PGIAA Careline (805-679-6163) or, if in crisis, our Holman Group hotline (800-321-2843). Our Employee Assistance Programs also offer many options for support, including referrals to counseling.

In these times of peril - and on this World Mental Health Day - I encourage you to care for yourself and continue to support each other with compassion as we tend to the soul of our broken world.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lemi Mathison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Lee