

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Martin, Jennifer N](#); [McKnight, Monifa B](#)
Cc: [Baker, Jennifer A](#)
Subject: RE: Message on Israel-Gaza 10.11.2023
Date: Saturday, October 14, 2023 11:43:21 AM
Attachments: [513F99C8A83F44109DD5B193D2CB9445.png](#)

Good morning,

I am an MCPS educator, and I am heartened by the MCEA message below. The Israel-Hamas war is devastating, and I appreciate it when you say, “all of us are affected, no matter our ethnic background or religious affiliation.” But when you say, “especially devastating to our Jewish colleagues and students” you seem to leave out everyone else, even as you are saying you understand that others are suffering, too. And then, at the end, you make an announcement for support for Jewish educators and their supporters, which further stresses the bias. Although I am a supporter of my Jewish colleagues, I am not a Jewish educator. I kept waiting for another message from MCEA to *all* educators in MCPS that would redress this implicit bias, I did not see one.

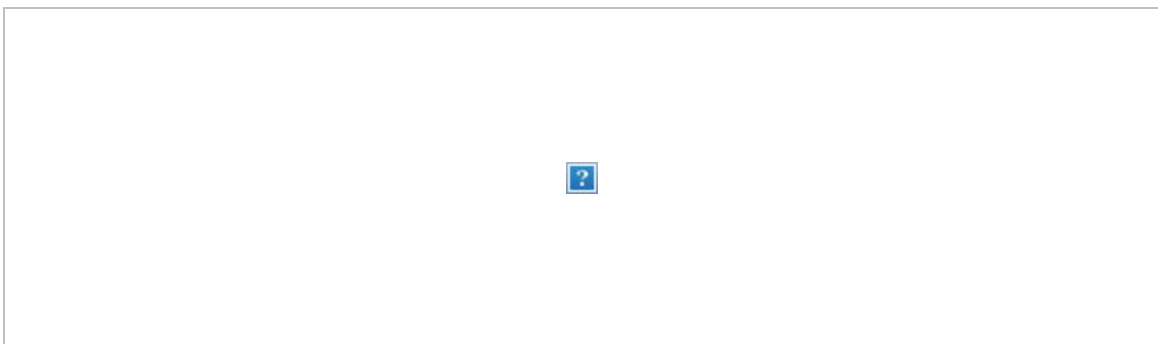
I am not Jewish or Palestinian, and although my name may say otherwise, I am not Muslim. I am human. I see the suffering of innocent civilians on both sides, women, children, and men. And I am suffering because of it. Moreover, I am suffering because I feel as if I am not being seen as suffering. Is there support for me?

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Jennifer Martin](#)
Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Message on Israel-Gaza 10.11.2023



Dear Colleagues,

As the horrific violence that exploded this weekend in Israel and Gaza continues, we must do all we can to support one another and our students.

Our profession calls us to teach peace. We know that true empowerment and liberation come not through violence but through education and the hard work of building mutual cooperation, understanding, and respect.

The abominable attacks against civilians in Israel are deeply disturbing to us all, but they are especially devastating to our Jewish colleagues and students, many of whom have friends and family there. And anxiety and despair are spreading as the conflict intensifies.

Although these terrifying, hate-driven acts are occurring far from Montgomery County, all of us are affected, no matter our ethnic background or religious affiliation. Acts of hate are unfortunately all too common here.

The members of MCEA are united in standing against hate, and we recognize our special role in creating safety and welcome for everyone in our schools and communities. We will not allow our colleagues or students—whether Jewish or of any other background-- to be subject to bullying or harassment.

MCEA learned a few hours ago that at 4:15 today, the Montgomery County Jewish Educators Association (MCJEA) will hold a special meeting for Jewish educators and those who support them at Temple Beth Ami at 14330 Travilah Road Rockville, Maryland 20850. The meeting will also be on Zoom:

<https://mcpsmd.zoom.us/j/81877108634?pwd=T3BvVUFyZWYrWmdsOHZnTm0yeG03QT09>

Meeting ID: 818 7710 8634 Passcode: mensch

As we learn of other opportunities for mutual support, we will share that information.

Let's stand together for peace and justice.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer".

Jennifer N. Martin
President