Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to Address the Israel-Palestine Conflict

To: Hunter College Senate

From: Bashir Juwara, President, Hunter College Undergraduate Student Government

Date: April 3rd, 2024

The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) urges the Senate to adopt a resolution establishing an ad-hoc Senate committee comprised of students, faculty, and staff. This committee, once established, will foster constructive and respectful dialogue within our community, providing a platform where diverse perspectives can be shared and respected, even in disagreement.

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at Hunter College recognizes the profound impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict on our campus community and the urgent need for action;

WHEREAS, the ongoing events unfolding in the Middle East region have resulted in heightened tension and emotional distress among many students across Hunter College;

WHEREAS, our campus has witnessed a disturbing increase in Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, exacerbating existing tensions and posing a threat to the safety and well-being of our students;

WHEREAS, the President's office has failed to publicly acknowledge the killings of innocent civilians in Gaza as she did after Oct. 7th;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President has failed to protect students, faculty, and staff from online abuses and threats, such as doxing.

WHEREAS, the Office of President has publicly acknowledged threats and hate towards one particular group while ignoring others;

WHEREAS, the Office of the President has interfered with the academic freedom of students, faculty, and staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hunter College Senate unequivocally condemns all acts of violence and aggression in the Israel-Palestine conflict and advocates for a lasting resolution that allows both peoples to live with dignity, sovereignty, freedom, and security;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hunter Senate reaffirms its commitment to fostering a campus environment that promotes inclusivity, diversity, and mutual respect, and actively opposes all forms of discrimination, including Islamophobia and anti-Semitism;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that USG will continue to engage in dialogue, advocacy, and educational initiatives to raise awareness about the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict and encourage constructive discourse and understanding within our community;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hunter Senate urges Hunter College administration to provide support and resources for students affected by the conflict and to actively address instances of discrimination and hate speech on campus.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hunter College Senate shall create an ad-hoc committee consisting of students, faculty, and staff tasked with guiding our community through recommended advocacy actions.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.