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## Fwd: New Year... New Staff... Same Commitment

1 message

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Fri, Jan 12, 2024 at 1:41 PM

(Scroll down for content)

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From: **Jennifer Bing, AFSC** <[PalestineActivism@afsc.org](mailto:PalestineActivism@afsc.org)>

Date: Fri, Jan 12, 2024 at 1:01 PM

Subject: New Year... New Staff... Same Commitment

To: Leslie Manning <[leslieam55@gmail.com](mailto:leslieam55@gmail.com)>

**Palestine  
Activism  
Program**



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**New Year, New Staff,  
Same Commitment**

## AFSC Action Hour Resources

Join us online every Friday (12 noon ET/ 9 a.m. PT) to demand a cease-fire for Gaza.

[REGISTER TODAY.](#)



## 2024, Carrying forward our Action Hours for a Cease-fire

We look forward to Fridays, when we join with **our online community** to call for a cease-fire for Gaza! **If you haven't already, [sign up](#) to join us!** We started these "power hours" modeled after our allies at Jewish Voice for Peace. Each week we gather on Zoom to give an update on the situation in Palestine and Israel, share [the work](#) of our staff in Gaza, and call our Members of Congress for a cease-fire. We also give short trainings with calling and letter writing tips and share inspiring actions organized around the world. Since mid-October, **we have met every Friday at noon ET** (with one break at Thanksgiving) and will continue to meet through the coming months. We have created over a dozen downloadable resources for your organizing hosted on our website [here](#).

### Introducing new staff: Zoe Jannuzi

We are thrilled to welcome Zoe Jannuzi to our team! Zoe came to us at AFSC after a year working at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FNCL) doing Middle East advocacy. A recent graduate of Swarthmore College, she brings a passion for student organizing work and creative approaches to our



educational efforts. You may have seen her great work on the Action hours and helping us this fall with our *Light in Gaza* anthology book tour. Read more about Zoe [here](#).



**10 Tips for Engaging at Town Hall Meetings**  
A Practical Guide

**2023**

 **American Friends Service Committee** 

 **Go With A Friend**  
It can be really hard to get up and speak in a crowd, especially a hostile one, so go with friends. Divide up roles if you can. Roles include at least one person to ask the questions and at least one person to record your interaction. Don't forget to fully charge your cell phone or camera!

 **Practice Your Questions**  
It is okay to read from a card/your phone if you need to, but making eye contact and speaking from the heart can be really effective. Keep in mind that your audience is the candidate AND all the people around you.

 **Don't Make Assumptions**  
Assume the candidate has very little background knowledge. Don't lecture them excessively about history, but do try to convey why this issue is meaningful to you and what you want the candidate to do. Getting them on the record saying something like, "I will take a look at the bill and get back to you," gives you an opening to follow up after the town hall.

 **Bring a Prop**  
A town hall is like live theater. Make a lasting impression on the audience and the candidate. Maybe bring a photo to lift up. Or something that is a symbol of what you are talking about (Ex. Lift up a water bottle and say, "This is not getting to people in Gaza due to our government's policies. What are you doing to help my friends and family in Gaza?")

 **Sit Strategically**  
Arrive early and sit close to the candidate or near the public microphones. If you have enough people in your group, spread out across the room. If you have a really large group and you want to show strength in numbers, wear a distinguishing item, like t-shirts that have a political message.

 **Ask Strong Questions**  
Figure out if questions will be taken live at the microphone or written on cards. For cards, take a few and write questions in different colored pens to make it look like they were written by different people. For live, try and relate your questions to topics already raised. Ex. "Like the speaker before me said, I am concerned about how our tax money is used in Washington, D.C. I'm here because I don't want my taxes spent on killing people in Gaza."

 **Smile**  
It might be hard in many circumstances, but throughout the candidate's presentation, stare adoringly, and smile. Candidates pick up on body language and facial expressions and will intentionally pick folks they think are friendly to their positions.

 **Be Active**  
Clap for one another once questions are posed. This way the candidate can hear that what you are saying has broad support. Engage the people around you with a handout so they can learn more about your topic. The handout could list a future event you are planning where people can get more involved.

 **Don't Give Up**  
If you don't get a chance to ask your question, position yourself along the candidate's way out and shake their hand. Don't let go of their hand until you have asked your short question. You could walk them to their car holding their hand. If the candidate has a selfie line, join it with a friend filming.

 **Debrief**  
Evaluate how you think you did and what you might do differently next time. Post your experience on social media. Follow up with the candidate's office after the townhall, whether or not you got the answer you wanted. Remember you are building a relationship with them - even if it isn't always friendly.

## [Organizing resources: Action hour resource page](#)

Everyone is needed to work for an immediate cease-fire! Looking for tips on how to engage at a town hall meeting? How to be a good bystander at a protest? How to write a compelling letter to the editor? Or ways to divest from militarism? Check out the downloadable resources on our [Action Hour resource page](#). Need other ideas on ways to support Palestinians in Gaza? Check out [these six ways](#) you can act today.



## Join us at these upcoming events!

- [January 13 March in Washington, DC](#)
- [January 12-13 Rainbow PUSH Gaza summit in Chicago](#)
- [January 30 8pm ET Apartheid-free Municipalities Webinar online](#)
- [January 30 8am ET Arts for Social Action: Artistic Responses to Gaza, online webinar](#)



## No Way to Treat a Child Campaign

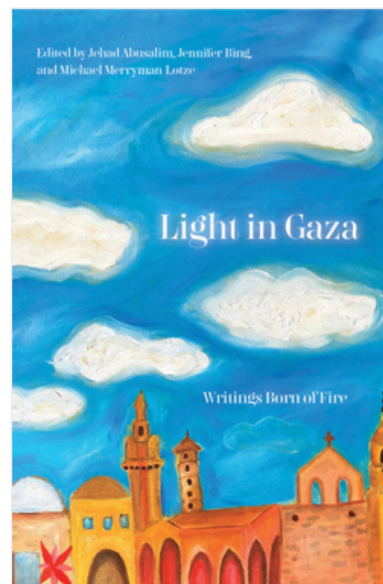
When we started our *No Way to Treat a Child campaign* nearly ten years ago, we believed that a movement of organized, educated advocates could make a difference. As we look to 2024, we remain committed to that vision. Protection not Detention. Freedom not Imprisonment. Life not genocide. Compassion not Despair. Read [a summary](#) of our work to defend the rights of Palestinian children in 2023.

## Light in Gaza Anthology

Last October, we held a successful west coast speaking tour, with Light in Gaza contributor, Yousef Aljamal. He spoke at campuses, community centers, and houses of worship in several cities. [Here](#) is a audio link to an interview he gave on KBOO radio in Portland, OR and [here](#) is the talk he gave in Oakland, CA on October 11.

Our anthology, *Light in Gaza: Writings Born of Fire*, is available from [Haymarket Books](#) and the ebook is available [here](#) to download for free.

Over 35,000 copies have been



downloaded! An audio book version is coming in 2024.

**We continue to hold the *Light in Gaza* authors and their families in the Light, and mourn the deaths of many of their family members and destruction of their homes by Israel in recent months. We are particularly saddened by the Israeli army's targeted killing of Refaat Alareer, a professor and mentor to many young writers in Gaza. Refaat contributed the opening chapter to our anthology. Many tributes have been written to Refaat, including [this one](#) by Jennifer Bing and by others who knew him [in the Electronic Intifada](#) and on [Democracy Now](#). His poem "[If I Must Die](#)" and kite imagery are frequently [on display at protests](#) around the world.**

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### ***More links to statements and updates from AFSC***

- [Key things to note](#) about the crisis in Gaza, by Mike Merryman-Lotze.
- Take action for a cease-fire and write your member of Congress [here](#).
- [Statement by AFSC](#) to address root causes of violence.
- [Link](#) to donate to humanitarian relief provided by AFSC in Gaza.
- Learn more and support [Israeli military refusers](#).

**Thank you for your support of our work!**



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