



IJV- Toronto & York Region Statement on the Firing of Katherine Grzejszczak

Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) is a grassroots organization grounded in multiple Jewish traditions. We oppose all forms of racism and organize for justice and peace for all in Palestine-Israel. Since our formation in 2008 IJV has been committed to exposing and opposing Israel as a settler-colonial, apartheid, and capitalist state, that intentionally imprisons, murders, and starves the Palestinian people. We are committed to Palestinian liberation. Those who argue that any criticism of Israel is antisemitism are weaponizing the concept of antisemitism to obscure the truth of Israel's crimes and advance Zionist goals. We stand with the increasing numbers of organizations and individuals speaking out against the genocide and forced starvation of Palestinians living in Gaza, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, including East Jerusalem.

IJV Toronto & York Region joins other groups and trade unions in condemning York Region Paramedic Services' termination of Katherine Grzejszczak's employment. Grzejszczak, a CUPE executive member and paramedic was terminated for statements she made on her personal social media account which criticized Israel's bombing of Iran and its killing of journalists, municipal, health-care, and allied first responder workers in Gaza. The disturbing and growing trend of denying people's fundamental *Charter*-protected freedoms of thought, belief, opinion and expression must be stopped. In addition, IJV believes this is a clear case of targeting those workers who defend Palestinians and those who openly oppose anti-Palestinian racism. Katherine's case is vital to protecting these fundamental freedoms for all workers. Like many others before Grzejszczak's termination, on an international level and in many sectors be it academia, healthcare, and the arts (to name just a few), have been subject to Zionist/pro-Israel attacks for speaking the truth about what is taking place in Gaza and Occupied Palestinian Territories. Grzejszczak is both professionally and personally committed to saving lives, and who cares enough to expose the Israeli genocide of Palestinians. Grzejszczak should be praised for taking a bold stance for justice and must be protected against unlawful and shameful reprisal.

We stand steadfast in solidarity with Ms. Grzejszczak and demand her immediate reinstatement.

Thank you,
IJV Toronto & York Region