

**To: NMU Campus Community**  
**From: President Tessman and Assistant VP Abigail Wyche**  
**Date: October 11, 2023**  
**Re: Statement on Israel/Hamas Conflict**

Campus Community,

We know that violence and bloodshed in the Middle East is not new or simple to understand. But, like many of you, we are filled with horror and anguish as we witness the shocking events and tragic loss of life occurring in [Israel and Gaza](#) since Saturday.

Northern does not have any official faculty-led or student study abroad in the areas of attack, and we are unaware of anyone affiliated with the University who is there on personal travel. However, we know that some of you may have family, friends and/or colleagues in that part of the globe, and reports of violence and conflict in any part of the world are concerning for all of us. Be assured that we will continue to be vigilant in protecting the safety of every student and employee here on campus.

If you are worried about individuals impacted by this crisis or consequences that may result from these events, you do not have to carry this burden on your own. If you are feeling grief, distress or despair, and want the support of a mental health professional, NMU offers these a number of resources for our students at our [WellBeing Center](#), as well as for our [employees](#). We've got you.

And for all of us, it's important to acknowledge that talking about these issues can be difficult for many reasons, but communication can be our key to hope when it opens the door to finding peaceful solutions. Because NMU aims to "empower students, graduates, faculty and staff to contribute to a diverse and sustainable world," and "develop leaders capable of local and global impact," we encourage you to respect each other as whole persons and for our many differences, and to talk. One helpful guide to having these conversations can be found [here](#). In the end, we're all in this together.

*Brock and Abigail*

President, Dr. Brock Tessman  
Assistant Vice President for Wellbeing, Dr. Abigail Wyche