

Mo Katz-Christy
Mo Katz-Christy, herbalist
LD 1383

Hello Maine Community,

My name is Mo Katz-Christy and I am a Jewish herbalist. I teach herbalism classes in Midcoast, Downeast, and Portland Maine. I'm writing today to urge you to support LD 1383 - An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations.

I think a lot about the generational trauma of genocide. I spend my days as an herbalist, helping folks regulate their bodies. I work with countless Ashkenazi Jews who, like myself, hold trauma from a genocide thousands of miles away and generations ago in our bodies. As I do this work, I wonder, could this have been prevented? How many people could have been spared the generational effects of starvation, of trauma, of a hypervigilant nervous system? Of the fear that leads us to the erroneous belief that our safety is conditioned on the oppression of others?

When the genocide in Gaza is over, and Palestine is free, how many generations of Palestinians will carry this in their bodies? How much of that generational trauma is preventable? How much can you prevent today, by following the will of your constituents and voting to take our Maine tax dollars out of human rights violations?

Liberation is a shared Jewish value. Jews are required to tell stories of liberation every year at our Passover Seders. We are required to pass these stories down from generation to generation, until we are all free. In a time of doxxing and countless people losing their jobs from speaking up about Palestine, Maine Jews from all over the state have been publicly announcing their support of divestment, along with our Rabbis. Some people will tell you that opposing genocide is divisive and even anti-semitic. Instead, as a people who know the lasting effects of trauma, we are most suited to oppose the oppression of others.

Please, listen to the will of the people, and take our money out of human rights violations.