

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 8

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By: **Delegates Martinez, Acevero, Alston, Bagnall, Fair, Fennell, Harrison, Hill, Lehman, R. Lewis, Roberson, Rogers, Schmidt, Taylor, Turner, Williams, Woods, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Condemning Islamophobia, Anti-Palestinian Hate, and Antisemitism**

3 FOR the purpose of condemning Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism;
4 encouraging certain awareness initiatives; committing to supporting certain
5 legislation and policies; and generally relating to condemning Islamophobia,
6 anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism.

7 WHEREAS, Maryland was founded on the principles of equality, justice, and respect
8 for the rights and dignity of all individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to
10 freedom of religion and expression, recognizing the importance of fostering an environment
11 of tolerance and inclusivity; and

12 WHEREAS, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism are forms of
13 discrimination and bigotry that undermine the principles of diversity, tolerance, and
14 mutual respect; and

15 WHEREAS, Individuals and communities who practice the Islamic faith, identify as
16 Palestinian, or adhere to the Jewish faith have historically faced discrimination,
17 harassment, and violence based on their religious and ethnic backgrounds; and

18 WHEREAS, Many Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, and Palestinian
19 Americans, both Christian and Muslim, have been consistently dehumanized and subjected
20 to hate, harassment, and erasure; and

21 WHEREAS, Fostering a culture of understanding, acceptance, and appreciation for
22 religious and ethnic diversity is essential to building a just and harmonious society; and

23 WHEREAS, Combatting Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and antisemitism



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1 requires collective efforts from government, civil society, and communities to promote
2 tolerance, inclusion, and education; and

3 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the State to condemn all forms of
4 discrimination and to protect the rights and safety of its residents, regardless of their
5 religious or ethnic backgrounds; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General
7 Assembly of Maryland hereby condemns Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and
8 antisemitism, and reaffirms its commitment to promoting a state that values diversity,
9 tolerance, and inclusion; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland encourages educational
11 institutions, governmental bodies, and community organizations to engage in initiatives
12 that raise awareness about the harmful effects of Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate, and
13 antisemitism; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of Maryland commits to supporting
15 legislation and policies that address and counteract Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian hate,
16 and antisemitism and to working towards creating an environment that is free from
17 discrimination for all residents of Maryland; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
19 Legislative Services to the Honorable Wes Moore, Governor of Maryland; the Honorable
20 William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Adrienne
21 A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.