

## Acknowledging the impacts of recent global events

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May 25, 2021*

The impact of the recent violence in the Middle East is being profoundly felt around the world, and it hits close to home. We cannot help but be deeply distressed and saddened by the loss of life – our thoughts are with the families and communities who lost loved ones in the region and with the extended diaspora. We continue to hope for lasting peaceful resolution.

As the EIO collaborates with others to provide education and support, we are committed to forefronting care and compassion as well as fostering belonging and dignity among diverse campus communities of students, faculty, and staff, so that each of us can continue to thrive and aspire to achieve our fullest academic, professional, and human potentials in the face of such tragedies.

To this end, we welcome impassioned dialogue and peaceful protest, as these responses counter reductive narratives that only serve to further divide. Surely, bringing our best selves and intellects to address even the most challenging of social problems will give us a better chance for contributing to meaningful resolutions to such deeply rooted conflicts.

Through the complexities of this geopolitical issue, the university remains committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for all – one that is free from harassment and discrimination.

Students who may need support during this time are directed to the following resources:

- Equity and Inclusion Office [equity@mcmaster.ca](mailto:equity@mcmaster.ca)
- Student Support and Case Management Office [sscmo@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sscmo@mcmaster.ca)
- Spiritual Care and Learning Centre\* [crowella@mcmaster.ca](mailto:crowella@mcmaster.ca)

*\*Student Affairs will be launching a new Spiritual Care and Learning Centre (SCLC), with representation from a diversity of cultural and faith groups, to promote social and spiritual care and wellbeing across diverse student communities. The EIO is part of this SCLC network.*

Faculty and staff may access support through the Employee & Family Assistance Program:

- Contact [Homewood Health](http://www.homeweb.ca) through their website ([www.homeweb.ca](http://www.homeweb.ca)) or by phone toll-free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to book appointments, or access any EFAP service.