

My name is Corinna Mullin. Until this summer, I was an adjunct professor at Brooklyn College and John Jay College, where I taught for eight years. I am also a delegate to the PSC Delegate Assembly and have been proudly involved for years in organizing against the genocide in Gaza and in solidarity with our students for a free Palestine. Teaching at CUNY—serving a working-class, largely Black and Brown, immigrant student body—has been one of the greatest honors of my life. I wonder if you all feel the same way- where do your loyalties lie?

I want to begin with this: I was one of four adjunct faculty members who were fired without due process after years of dedicated teaching, despite unanimous departmental support and excellent teaching evaluations. These dismissals were political. CUNY weaponized our precarity as adjuncts to purge faculty whose only “offense” was opposing genocide and standing with our students. As we have stated repeatedly: Our dismissals represent not only a grave violation of academic freedom, but also a dangerous encroachment on faculty governance. Every faculty and staff member at CUNY should be worried – we are the canaries in the coal mine and, if it can happen to us, it can happen to anyone.

You—the Board—allowed this to happen under your watch, or were actively involved in the decision making that made our firings possible

Rather than defend our academic freedom, CUNY’s administration has aligned itself with right wing attacks—reinforcing the message that political dissent at this university will be punished.

That message was made painfully clear when the Chancellor Matos Rodriguez threw us under the bus at the McCarthyite U.S. congressional hearing of the higher education committee where he refused to challenge the erroneous premise of the hearing- the false assertion that anti-zionism equals anti-semitism- and preferred to be cordial with fascists like Representative Randy Fine—who openly called for Israel to “nuke Gaza” and praised the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima—rather than defend his faculty, staff and students.

And let’s be absolutely clear: CUNY’s shameful decision to sign the OCR agreement handing over the personal data of CUNY workers and students to the federal government at a time when they are cruelly attacking our immigrant communities and our constitutional rights —and its weaponization of Title VI and the Henderson Rules—has created the infrastructure for a campus-wide crackdown on Palestine solidarity on our campuses. These tools are being wielded selectively and punitively, not to protect CUNY students and workers, but to silence them.

This purge does not stop with adjuncts. Tenured faculty and staff have also faced investigation for Palestine solidarity. And our students, especially Palestinian, Muslim, Arab, and Black students, are being suspended, banned from campus, blocked from registering, and have been gagged by disciplinary orders designed to isolate and silence them.

And your recent decision to reject the appeal of Hadeeqa Arzoo Malik, one of CUNY’s most principled and courageous student leaders, is nothing short of disgraceful. She should be protected and applauded

for speaking truth to power—not punished for it. What kind of message are you sending to our students about the justice this university claims to uphold?

We refuse to sit quietly as you contribute to criminalizing and demonizing our community for speaking out against genocide, racism, settler colonialism and the US war machine that profits from death and destruction. We know that it is the same forces that fund genocide in Gaza, ICE raids in our communities, and union busting across this country are now disciplining, silencing, and firing us here at CUNY.

But we know that repression is not a sign of the CUNY admin's strength. It is a sign of our the growing power of our movement. The PSC named our firing exactly what it is: an ideological purge. And the recent New York State Supreme Court ruling forcing CUNY to disclose its investments in weapons manufacturers profiting from Israel's genocide in Gaza shows that collective struggle works—and we will continue.

Reinstate the Fired Four.

Reinstate all suspended and disciplined students.

Reverse your decision and grant justice to Hadeeqa Arzoo Malik.

End the Palestine Exception at CUNY.

Stop using adjunct precarity as a political weapon.

Uphold academic freedom in practice—not just on paper.

Disclose and divest from genocide and war!

And I want to close by posing to you the question that students outside this building are chanting right now:

Which side are you on—justice or genocide?

Because ultimately, the CUNY Board of Trustees must decide whom it serves.

Right now, you are serving the ruling-class interests of empire—corporate power, fascist repression, and the machinery of war.

You should be serving the students, workers, and communities of this university—the people who are CUNY. The people who sustain it. The people who believe in its mission as the People's University.

Choose your side. History is watching—and so are we.

Thank you.