

From: Karyl Lee-Figueroa

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 5:11 PM

To: Ethnic Studies; Superintendent; [emails redacted]

Subject: [EXTERNAL] INCLUDE ARAB AMERICAN STUDIES IN CA ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULUM

I understand that a well-funded right-wing campaign is aiming at eliminating the Arab American content and branding any mention of Palestine as anti-semitic. Supporting the rights of Palestinians is not anti-semitic; it is supporting the rights of people whose land was stolen out from under them in 1947, when the US and Germany agreed to "grant" a "homeland" to Jewish people who had been persecuted. So, in true American fashion, just steal land from indigenous people and put them on reservations, right?

I further understand that on August 13, 2020, the IQC is meeting to consider a revised curriculum, all while leaving Arab American scholars shut out of the revision process. Many organizations and individuals have stepped forward to support the ESMC and the inclusion of Arab American studies, including the National Association of Asian American Studies; Arab American Studies Association; Oakland, Albany, San Francisco, Hayward, Castro Valley and West Contra Costa School Boards; California Chapters of Black Lives Matter; Bay Area Jewish Voice for Peace; and the Third World Liberation Front Veterans.

A person should be able to support a just, fair and equitable peace movement in the Middle East without being harassed a being anti-semitic. And Palestinians have a right to have their voices heard and their story told in a curriculum like this, without being harassed as terrorists, and to be free from anti-Muslim slurs.