



**DAEMEN**  
UNIVERSITY  
A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

Since the University shared a message on October 10th condemning the violence taking place in Gaza and Israel, many of you have respectfully shared your pain, hurt, and disappointment in light of these devastating current events. We are grateful to have a community where you feel safe enough to express difficult emotions in times of need.

Hamas's October 7th attack on Israel killed and injured over 5,500 people, including 32 American citizens. The response that followed by Israel resulted in over 10,000 deaths in Gaza and has left more than 20,000 people injured. The toll of injured, displaced, and killed rises daily across the region. Regardless of one's religion, nationality, or political leanings, we must agree that these numbers and the human toll are devastating.

We want to also acknowledge that there are numerous humanitarian and human rights violations happening across the globe. Many who have no control over what is happening to them suffer the consequences of historical conflict, power struggle, and hate. The world is hurting; the Daemen community is hurting. We see your pain and hold space for your grief.

We want you to know that our primary responsibility is to ensure that you have a safe campus and continue to have the opportunity to live and learn at Daemen. We know the challenge of remaining academically productive while witnessing atrocities across the globe. While you are here with us we can offer you support through a comprehensive system of support. Our CHIP Center, located at the Yurtchuk Student Center, can provide wellness and mental health care. As you navigate physical spaces on campus, if you feel unsafe in any way, please notify Campus Safety immediately at (716) 833-SAFE (7233). Our officers can provide a walking escort to buildings and to your vehicle if requested. Finally, all community members can use the CARE Report and Bias Incident Report systems as needed.

The Daemen community will never condone violence and harm to others. We will always stand for peace, equity, and justice. We encourage our community members to keep talking, processing, and working together to do what Daemen has always done: work towards making the world a better place for everyone.

Cordially,

Gary A. Olson  
President

Yours in service,

Tiffany L. Hamilton, MS  
VP, Institutional Equity & Belonging