



UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION

Senate Resolution No.: R.S.

Date Submitted: 4.30.2024

Date Introduced: 4.30.2024

Introduced By: Senator Jones

Date Action Taken: 4.30.2024

Sponsored: _____

Senator Jones

Certified: _____

Speaker of the Senate Connors

Signed: _____

President Teferra

**Resolution Denouncing The 2024 UVM Commencement Speaker Choice of
Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield**

WHEREAS, on April 19th, 2024, the University of Vermont publicly announced that Linda Thomas-Greenfield had been named the speaker at UVM's Commencement 2024,¹,

WHEREAS, this speech grants Linda Thomas-Greenfield an honorary degree from the University of Vermont,

¹ [UVM Names Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, as 2024 Commencement Speaker](#)

WHEREAS, Linda Thomas-Greenfield has served as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, as well as the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, since 2021²,

WHEREAS, Linda Thomas-Greenfield oversaw the veto of humanitarian pause in fighting on October 18, 2023³,

WHEREAS, Linda Thomas-Greenfield oversaw the veto of a resolution for immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza on December 8, 2023⁴,

WHEREAS, Linda Thomas-Greenfield oversaw the veto of a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire on February 20, 2024⁵,

WHEREAS, Linda Thomas-Greenfield oversaw the veto of the admission of the state of Palestine to the United Nations on April 18th, 2024⁶,

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont's, henceforth referred to as UVM, Common Ground in part reads "As a just community, we unite against all forms of injustice, including, but not limited to, racism. We reject bigotry, oppression, degradation, and harassment, and we challenge injustice toward any member of our community"⁷,

WHEREAS, that an act of a hate crime was committed on North Prospect Street, a few blocks away from central campus, where three 20-year-old Palestinian men, Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Ahmed, were shot on November 25, 2023 while wearing traditional keffiyehs and speaking Arabic,

WHEREAS, UVM Student Government Association, henceforth referred to as the SGA, has already passed a previous resolution (R.F.1) this academic year,

WHEREAS, this resolution stated that the university's lack of support and continuous complacency has caused undue harm to the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim student communities, urging administration to be more supportive of marginalized communities,

² [Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield](#)

³ [US vetoes Security Council resolution](#)

⁴ [US vetoes resolution on Gaza which called for 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire'](#)

⁵ [Security Council Fails to Adopt Resolution on Imperative of Immediate, Sustained Ceasefire in Gaza](#)

⁶ [Security Council Fails to Recommend Full United Nations Membership for State of Palestine. Owing to Veto Cast by United States](#)

⁷ [Our Common Ground. UVM](#)

stating that “...the UVM SGA encourages UVM administration to provide equitable resources to the Palestinian community to ensure that they feel heard and protected”,⁸

LET IT BE KNOWN, that as student representatives, the SGA has a direct responsibility to address the concerns of communities within the UVM Student Body, who are directly impacted by the University’s decision,

LET IT BE KNOWN, that commencement should be a time of celebration, rather than a high tension event that brings a sense of distress to students, especially seniors,

LET IT BE KNOWN, the lack of appropriate response to and support for the Palestinian and Arab communities from the University of Vermont throughout this past academic year creates a hostile and unjust environment for Palestinian as well as Arab students on this campus,

LET IT BE KNOWN, that the SGA views Linda Thomas-Greenfield speaking on our campus as unethical and insensitive to our Palestinian, Muslim, and Arab communities, which is in direct violation of UVM’s Common Ground and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion,

LET IT BE KNOWN, that due to the nature of Linda Thomas-Greenfield’s controversial role in recent United Nations resolutions regarding Palestine and/or the Gaza Strip, the SGA views Linda Thomas-Greenfield’s presence as unsafe and as a threat to the wellbeing of our community,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SGA condemns the choice of Linda Thomas-Greenfield as UVM’s 2024 Commencement Speaker,

BE IT RESOLVED, the SGA urges UVM administration to cancel Linda Thomas-Greenfield’s speech as well as the honorary degree she would receive,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA is dedicated to supporting students who are negatively impacted by the presence of Linda Thomas-Greenfield,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SGA will continue to provide support for students’ first amendment rights if the call for cancellation is not honored.

⁸ [Resolution Addressing UVM’s Response to the Palestinian Community](#)