

## **CILECT STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN GAZA**

CILECT, the world association of cinema, audiovisual and media schools, is deeply concerned by the already critical and escalating humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Territory of Gaza.

The October 7th, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel that resulted in 1139 deaths including 764 Israeli and foreign national citizens, the taking by Hamas of 248 hostages who have not all yet been released, and the subsequent Israeli destruction of much of Gaza at the cost of over 30,000 Palestinian lives, are actions that run counter to and undermine CILECT's values and mission.

As a global organisation charged with the education of young media artists and professionals who will play a substantial role in defining the future in which they live, CILECT adds its voice to worldwide calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, prioritization of humanitarian aid, return of the hostages, and commitment to reconstruction of what has been destroyed.

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CILECT was founded in Cannes, France, in 1954.
By 2024 CILECT includes over 190+ audiovisual educational institutions from 65 countries on 6 continents with more than 10,000 teachers and staff who annually train 60,000+ students and communicate with an alumni network exceeding 1,330,000.