



PRESS RELEASE

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Endorsement of ALA’s Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and Other Cultural Institutions

WESTFORD, Massachusetts – The Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) Executive Board endorses the American Library Association’s [Resolution on Damage and Destruction of Libraries and other Cultural Institutions](#). ARLIS/NA supports ALA Policy B.2.8 Intellectual Freedom - Destruction of Libraries, which reads “The American Library Association deplores the destruction of libraries, library collections and property, and the disruption of the educational process by that act, whether it be done by individuals or groups of individuals and whether it be in the name of honest dissent, the desire to control or limit thought or ideas, or for any other purpose.” With this value in mind, we endorse and echo ALA’s most recent resolution on the destruction of libraries, which condemns the damage and destruction of libraries in Gaza, including the Gaza Municipal Library, the Rashad al-Shawa Cultural Center, and other libraries and cultural institutions.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a press release in April expressing concern over [‘scholasticide’ in Gaza](#). Described as the systematic obliteration of education, this atrocity paired with the documented destruction of libraries underscores the urgent call for the protection of libraries, schools, educational, and cultural institutions.

Mindful of the [ongoing humanitarian crisis](#) in Gaza, we understand the protection and rebuilding of libraries and cultural institutions is not the most pressing priority facing Palestine currently. At the same time, we stand with ALA in their call for “the government of the United States, as well as other governments, intergovernmental organizations, and nongovernmental organizations to provide assistance for the reconstruction and restoration of libraries, schools, and other cultural institutions, including networking and other infrastructure, as soon as it is practicable in Gaza.”

About the Art Libraries Society of North America

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) is a dynamic, international organization of close to 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at every level.

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