

—Slug:.....COMM-0844.opin.letter.000\_kiewel  
—Contributor.....Jean Anne Kiewel  
—Contributor email.....jeankiewel@icloud.com  
—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers  
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor  
—Dateline.....Brattleboro  
—Article Number:.....42751

**Notes from editor (not for publication):**

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Condemn genocide, not Balint

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

RE: "Balint responds to the work of a skewed anti-Israel  
body" [Letters, Dec. 3]:

####BEGIN TEXT####

I was sad to see my friends, acquaintances, and  
community members condemn our representative, Becca Balint,  
for naming Israel's genocide in Gaza. I am perplexed as to why  
she was singled out when our whole congressional delegation  
called out the genocide while submitting a resolution calling for  
ceasefire, peace, and a two-nation solution.

10 I respectfully disagree with the recent letter from Vermont  
11 Friends of Israel asserting that Balint has relied on “long-  
12 debunked accusations and recycled falsehoods.” But I do agree  
13 with the Friends’ statement that Hamas didn’t just launch a  
14 physical assault on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but also an  
15 international propaganda campaign that skewed clear-eyed  
16 evaluation of both their genocidal terrorism and Israel’s  
17 disproportionate response, especially on our campuses and with  
18 young people.

19 As described on [Wikipedia](#), “Genocide is the destruction  
20 of a people through targeted violence. The concept of genocide  
21 was invented by Polish-Jewish lawyer Raphael Lemkin in the  
22 early 1940s; Lemkin viewed it broadly as the replacement of the  
23 victims’ culture with that of their oppressor.”

24 I believe it is disingenuous to claim that “the first  
25 genocide in history conducted on a schedule set by its victims”  
26 has concluded when killing, withholding of food, water, medical  
27 care and education and displacement of Palestinians continues in  
28 Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, Israel, and  
29 others are guilty of genocidal actions in Israel/Palestine.

30 I also disagree with the unbalanced and biased Town  
31 Meeting resolutions targeting Israel which were offered and  
32 passed in Brattleboro in 2025 and are reportedly being prepared  
33 again in Newfane for 2026.

34 I urge folks to support those in Israel, Palestine, and the  
35 world over working for peace and a two nation or a bi-national  
36 democratic state in Palestine/Israel. For more information, visit  
37 [standing-together.org/en](#), [nif.org](#), and seek information from  
38 similar organizations.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

39

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

40       ####BEGIN MAXISSUE####  
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      ####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

41       ####BEGIN LINKS####  
  
      ####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

42       ####BEGIN VIDEO####  
  
      ####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

43       ####BEGIN LOGLINE####  
  
      ####END LOGLINE####