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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....42751

[REDACTED]

Notes from editor (not for publication):

[REDACTED]

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

#####BEGIN HED#####

¹ Condemn genocide, not Balint

#####END HED#####

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³ TEXT BODY:

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

#####BEGIN TEXT#####

⁴ I was sad to see my friends, acquaintances, and
⁵ community members condemn our representative, Becca Balint,
⁶ for naming Israel's genocide in Gaza. I am perplexed as to why
⁷ she was singled out when our whole congressional delegation
⁸ called out the genocide while submitting a resolution calling for
⁹ 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:

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39

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

#####BEGIN MAXISSUE#####

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LINKS:

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41

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VIDEO:

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42

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

#####BEGIN LOGLINE#####

43

#####END LOGLINE#####