Audre Lorde (1934-1992)
From "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action," in Sister Outsider: Speeches & Essays (1984)

mmobilize us, but silence."

will choke us. [...]

for it is not difference which

We can learn to work and speak when we are afraid in the same way we have learned to work and speak when we are tired. For we have been socialized to respect fear more than our own needs for language and definition, and while we wait in silence for that final luxury of fearlessness, the weight of that silence will choke us. [...]

"Perhaps for some of you here today, I am the face of one of your fears. Because I am woman, because I am Black, because I am lesbian, because I am myself – a Black woman warrior am myself – a Black woman warrior poet doing my work – come to ask you, are you doing yours? [...]

"When Jews are invited to discuss the Holocaust, we are not asked to share the stage with Germans. We don't ask the Indigenous people of Turtle Island to share the stage with Catholic priests on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. None of these events or days are seen as a threat to the existence of Germans or Catholics. We could speculate it's due to Palestinians taking up armed resistance but so did Jews during the Holocaust, Ukrainians. too, took up armed resistance, using Molotov cocktails against Russian forces who invaded in 2022. When even the Geneva Convention acknowledges the legitimacy of armed struggle against occupation, why are Palestinians subject to the double standard? ... Do those experiencing mass slaughter in real time not deserve to have their stories shared on their own merit?"

Anna Lippman (2025)

https://briarpatchmagazine.com/articles/view/no-two-sides-to-genocide

What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?"

"My silence had not protected me. Your silence will not protect you. But for every real word spoken, for every attempt I had ever made to speak those truths for which I am still women while we examine the words to bridging our differences. And it was the concern and caring of all those women which gave me strength and enabled me to scrutinize the essentials of my living [...]

""All my relations," means all. When a speaker makes this statement it's meant as recognition of the principles of harmony, unity and equality. It's a way of saying that you recognize your place in the universe and that you recognize the place of others and of other things in the realm of the real and the living. In that it is a powerful evocation of truth.

Because when you say those words you mean everything that you are kin to. Not just those people who look like you, talk like you, act like you, sing, dance, celebrate, worship or pray like you. Everyone. You also mean everything that relies on air, water, sunlight and the power of the Earth and the universe itself for sustenance and perpetuation. It's recognition of the fact that we are all one body moving through time and space together. [...]

You come to realize too, that if we could all glean the power of this one short statement, we could change the world."

Richard Wagamese (1955-2017)

Ojibwe author and journalist from the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations

Melcon Mandela (1918-2013)
Address at the International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People, Pretoria, 4 December 1997.

But we know too well that our treedom of is incomplete without the freedom of of conflicts in East Timor, the Sudan and other parts of the world."

"When in 1977, the United Nations passed the resolution inaugurating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, it was asserting the recognition that injustice and gross human rights violations were being perpetrated in Palestine. In the same period, the UN took a strong stand against apartheid; and over the years, an international consensus was built, an international consensus was built, initernational system.

Palestinian writer, professor, poet and activist. Killed in an airstrike during israel's genocide in Gaza.

Refaat Alareer (1979-2023)

"I here's a Palestine that dwells inside all of us, a Palestine that needs to be rescued: a free Palestine where all people regardless of color, religion, or race coexist; a Palestine where the meaning of the word "occupation" is only restricted to what the dictionary cays rather than those plenty of meanings and connotations of death, destruction, pain, suffering, deprivation, isolation and restrictions that Israel has injected the word with."



Indinawemaaganidog

All of my relatives (Ojibwe)

Compiled by Creative Arts Therapists & Students (CATS) Against Genocide

Join us!

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Words in Solidarity

keep them in your pocket and your actions