ON 11 MAY 2024, the University of Alberta called on the Edmonton Police Service to remove a protest encampment that was extending dialogue and demanding action on the subject of genocide in Palestine. These actions and the communications that followed, alongside anti-Palestinian racism and the global silencing around Gaza, have undermined trust across the university community. These actions have also punctuated pre-existing ruptures for those experiencing anti-Muslim, anti-Jewish, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous racism as well as antisemitism and Islamophobia.

“Moving through Conflict” draws on mutual aid principles to offer lateral (rather than hierarchical) acts of caring for community members while we work to change the systemic causes of these harms and inequities. It offers 6 PATHWAYS, each seeking to meaningfully address a specific systemic issue underlying the harm and rupture. These paths embrace strategies of collective care, conflict resolution, increased transparency and transformative action. The pathways are not mutually exclusive and support one another in intent, action and outcome. They include micro-mutual aid project grants, processes of transparency and accountability, and collectively working towards more equity-oriented practices, guidelines, policies and resources around safety, policing, communications and freedom of expression.

Each of these pathways will be built out and deepened over the months to come. TO CONTRIBUTE OR LEARN MORE contact the Office of the Vice-Provost (Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) at vpedi@ualberta.ca