

1 **89-UWSR-06**

2 **A University-Wide Opinion Resolution** to encourage Georgia State University to
3 withdraw its police department from the Georgia International Law Enforcement
4 Exchange Program, end the program's presence at GSU, and redirect its funding
5 to appropriate police training activities.

6 **Introduced by:** Senator Rahman

7 **Sponsor(s):** Senator Mejia

8 **Submittal Date:** March 13, 2019

Sent to: University-Wide Senate

9 **First Reading:** March 14, 2019

Voted to: Refer to Ad Hoc Committee

10 **Second Reading:** April 3 and 10

Reviewed by: Ad hoc Committee on GILEE Legislation

11 **Third Reading:** April 18

Reviewed by: University-wide Senate

12 **Date Voted On:**

13
14 **WHEREAS**, the Georgia State University community includes students, faculty, and staff of diverse
15 backgrounds, all of whom should feel safe and welcome on campus,

16 **WHEREAS**, the dedicated officers of the Georgia State University Police Department are responsible for
17 maintaining the safety of our diverse community,

18 **WHEREAS**, the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program (GILEE) arranges for American
19 law enforcement officers to interact, train with, and learn from foreign law enforcement agencies,¹

20 **WHEREAS**, GILEE's training partners include foreign law enforcement agencies that restrict civil liberties,
21 violate human rights, and/or engage in bigotry, including anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and violent
22 manifestations of homophobia,

23 **WHEREAS**, GILEE collaborates with Chinese law enforcement, which has engaged in mass surveillance,
24 arrested human rights activists,² raided houses of worship,³ and imprisoned one million Uighur Muslims in
25 concentration camps,⁴

26 **WHEREAS**, GILEE collaborates with Egyptian law enforcement, which has massacred protesters,⁵ tortured
27 activists, performed "virginity tests" on female detainees,⁶ and performed rectal "examinations" on men
28 arrested for publicly waving rainbow flags,⁷

29 **WHEREAS**, GILEE collaborates with Hungarian law enforcement, which operates under the control of a far-
30 right political party that espouses anti-Semitism,⁸ as well as xenophobia and Islamophobia,⁹

¹ "Overview & Stats," [Georgia State University](#). October 9, 2018.

² "China Events of 2017," [Human Rights Watch World Report 2018](#). January 2018.

³ "Christianity Crackdown: Government Destroys 7,000 Crosses and Burns Bibles," [The Express](#). Sep. 17, 2018.

⁴ "A Million Muslims Held in Detention Camps that China Now Portrays As Humane," [NBC News](#). October 2018.

⁵ "All According To Plan," [Human Rights Watch](#). August 2014.

⁶ Kato, Miwa. "Women of Egypt," [The Cairo Review of Global Affairs](#). 2017.

⁷ "Egypt 'Escalates LGBT Crackdown' After Rainbow Flag Display," [BBC](#). October 3, 2017.

⁸ "Hungary's Viktor Orban Fosters Anti-Semitism," [The Jerusalem Post](#). July 29, 2018.

1 **WHEREAS**, GILEE collaborates with Israeli law enforcement, which has subjected Palestinians to
2 segregation, racial profiling, indefinite detention, and excessive force,^{10 11}
3 **WHEREAS**, GILEE collaborates with Uzbek law enforcement, which has raided “unregistered” churches,¹²
4 arrested Muslim women for publicly wearing hijabs,¹³ used “forced labor in cotton fields” as a criminal
5 penalty,¹⁴ and subjected Uzbeks accused of being gay to arrest, beatings, and rectal “examinations,”^{15 16}
6 **WHEREAS**, GILEE maintains official affiliations and partnerships¹⁷ with foreign individuals who teach anti-
7 Muslim bigotry under the guise of countering terrorism, such as Sebastian Gorka,^{18 19 20}
8 **WHEREAS**, former Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernan Keenan has said that his GILEE training
9 taught him that “the primary threat to democratic countries was terrorism by radical Islam,”²¹
10 **WHEREAS**, Georgia State University police officers should not—as a matter of principle—train with foreign
11 law enforcement agencies that engage in bigotry, restrict civil liberties, or violate human rights,
12 **WHEREAS**, Georgia State University police officers should not—as a practical matter—take the risk of
13 learning bigoted views, or dangerous policing tactics, through participation in GILEE,

14 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNIVERSITY-WIDE SENATE OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**
15 **ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY THAT:**
16 **Section 1:** The Senate encourages Georgia State University to withdraw its police department from the
17 Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program, end the Georgia Law Enforcement Exchange
18 Program’s presence at Georgia State University, and use any funding spent on GILEE to better train GSUPD
19 in appropriate policing methods with appropriate partners,
20 **Section 2:** This legislation shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Student Government
21 Association, the welfare and reputation of Georgia State University community requiring it.
22
23 **ACTION TAKEN BY THE STUDENT SENATE:**
24 A motion was made and seconded to table this legislation indefinitely. The vote count on that motion was
25 VOTE for 17 against 2 abstentions 7. This legislation has been tabled indefinitely.

⁹ “Hungary,” [Human Rights Watch](#), 2018.

¹⁰ “50 Years of Occupation Abuses,” [Human Rights Watch](#), June 24, 2017.

¹¹ “Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories,” [Amnesty International](#).

¹² “Where in the World is the Worst Place to be a Christian?” [The Guardian](#), July 27, 2015.

¹³ “Uzbek Imam Sacked After Urging President To Allow Hijabs, Beards,” [Reuters](#), Sep. 10, 2018.

¹⁴ “World Report 2018: Uzbekistan,” [Human Rights Watch](#), 2018.

¹⁵ “Uzbekistan: Gay Couple Arrested for Engaging in Illegal Relations,” [EurasiaNet](#), Dec. 4, 2017.

¹⁶ “Transgender Woman Says Jail Awaits in Uzbekistan, Seeks Asylum...” [RFERL](#), January 7, 2018.

¹⁷ “Affiliation,” Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. [GSU](#), 2018.

¹⁸ Full Members – Sebastian Gorka, [Inter'l Counter-Terrorism Academic Community](#), 2018.

¹⁹ “Gorka Gave Soldiers Two-Hour Tirade on Islam,” [The Hill](#), Sep. 22, 2017.

²⁰ “Sebastian Gorka’s Ties to Nazi-Allied Group Stretch Back Decades,” [The Forward](#), April 24, 2017.

²¹ “Mr. Vernon M. Keenan,” [International Institute of Counter-Terrorism](#), YouTube, Sep. 9, 2007.

April 18, 2019

To All Members of the Student Government Association:

The Ad Hoc Committee created to investigate the legislation “89-UWSR-06” titled “A University-Wide Support Resolution to encourage Georgia State University to withdraw its police department from the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program, end the program’s presence at GSU, and redirect its funding to appropriate police training activities,” has utilized the time between the last University-Wide Senate meeting, and today, to meet with several individuals for and against the GILEE program. The committee interviewed the following individuals: Ebony Short, Senator Jazmin Mejia, Senator Hamza Rahman, Attorney Edward Mitchell, Robert Andrews, Executive Director Steve Heaton, and Police Chief Joseph Spillane.

The GILEE legislation asked for SGA support for the following action items:

1. “To withdraw its police department from the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program,”
2. “To end the Georgia Law Enforcement Exchange Program’s presence at Georgia State University, and”
3. “To use any funding spent on GILEE to better train GSUPD in appropriate policing methods with appropriate partners.”

During the investigation, the committee found that:

1. Regarding action point #1, no Georgia State University police officer has undergone the training facilitated by the GILEE program in the past three budget cycles. According to Chief Spillane, who has been with GSU for the last three budget cycles, he has “delegated zero funding for GILEE in any of those budget cycles.” He has not “slated anyone to go on GILEE delegation, nor ... funded GILEE in any way shape or form.” Chief Spillane also mentioned that “Two people in the entire history of GILEE have gone from Georgia State University. One is Carlton Mullis, who retired last July. The other was Connie Sampson, who was the Chief here for 20 years. Those are the only two people who have ever gone from GSU. ... If I wanted to send someone on GILEE I could. I have the funding to. I just choose not to at this point.”

2. Regarding action point #3, during the committee's investigation Senator Rahman, Attorney Mitchell, and Executive Director Heaton all explained the process through which GILEE receives funding in their respective meetings. The GILEE program does not receive funding from Georgia State University. The funding for this program comes through private donations, designated solely for the GILEE program at the discretion of the donors. The donations are then processed through the Georgia State University Foundation, an entity separate from the University. To address the training of the "GSUPD" mentioned above, Chief Spillane explained to the committee the mandated amount of time spent in training for mental health first-aid and de-escalation that each officer must undergo. If you would like to know more about the GSU Police Department's training requirements for each officer, please read the minutes from the meeting. To reiterate, there are no tuition, student fee, or University designated funds spent on the GILEE program.

Finally, to address action point #2, the concerns of students about the GILEE program's affiliation with Georgia State University are recognized and respected. Due to the importance and complexity of those concerns, the committee strongly suggests that the 90th Administration of the Student Government Association investigate further in the next term.

In conclusion, because action points #1 and #3 requested in this legislation are inapplicable, and action point #2 requires further investigation, the committee recommends the University-Wide Support Resolution "89-UWSR-06" not be adopted. The committee also recommends that the 90th SGA Administration facilitate conversations between members of the student body, and the GILEE program staff, to address student concerns, as well as any misinformation about the program. All information found and shared with this committee will be provided to the incoming President of the 90th Administration, so that any future legislation can benefit from the committee's findings. To note, all information in the committee's possession is housed in a binder and publicly available within the SGA office.

Respectfully,

The Ad Hoc Committee:

Kiersten Nicholson, Committee Chair, Graduate Senator

Terry Fye, Speaker

Chris Garcia Velazquez, Senator

Danielle Ellington-Myles, Senator

Morgan Tomcho, Senator