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March 17, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of ADL (Anti-Defamation League), we write to express our deep concern about the systematic and sustained exclusion, harassment, and intimidation of Jewish students, staff and faculty on America's college and university campuses.

For more than a century, ADL has worked to combat antisemitism and hate in all forms. Today, ADL is a global leader in fighting antisemitism, exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education and monitoring and fighting the spread of hate in our communities and online.

ADL works with colleges and universities across the nation to proactively address the historic rise in antisemitic activity and to help Jewish members of campus communities feel safe. We empower Jewish college students, staff, faculty, administrators and allies to speak out against antisemitism and educate the broader campus community to create an inclusive climate without antisemitism and other forms of hate. Together with Jewish communal partners, ADL has published comprehensive guidance—consistent with ADL's Not On My Campus campaign—aimed at university leadership and focused on preventing the disruptions and safety failures witnessed during the 2023–24 academic year. These include calls for institutions to: appoint Title VI coordinators; promote campus safety through clear communication and enforcement of policies governing protests, demonstrations, and discrimination; publicly condemn antisemitism when it occurs; conduct trainings on antisemitism and civil discourse; regularly assess campus climates and establish task forces to address antisemitism; and reaffirm faculty professional responsibilities.

In addition, ADL's Campus Antisemitism Report Card evaluates colleges and universities on their policies, leadership responses, and campus climate, helping institutions identify gaps, measure progress, and implement meaningful reforms that protect Jewish students and strengthen accountability. Through our direct engagement with campuses—including through the Campus Antisemitism Report Card—many institutions have adopted new policies, clarified expectations around conduct, and strengthened enforcement of existing rules to better protect students, staff and faculty and uphold campus standards.

This testimony will detail the alarming trends we have documented, the organized nature of much of this activity, the complicity of some faculty and administrators, and the urgent need for federal intervention to protect Jewish students' and employees' civil rights.

Trends on Campus

On October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas committed mass atrocities against thousands of people in Israel, including murder, torture, dismemberment, and rape. In the wake of this massacre—the deadliest day for the Jewish community since the Holocaust—antisemitism has surged around the world, in our communities, and especially on college and university campuses.

The data we have collected paints a disturbing picture of Jewish life on American campuses today.

According to ADL’s [*2024 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents*](#), antisemitic incidents on college and university campuses rose by 84 percent in 2024, with 1,694 incidents recorded, comprising 18 percent of all incidents, a larger proportion than in any previous Audit. ADL’s “[*Campus Antisemitism One Year After the Hamas Terrorist Attack*](#)” survey found that 83.2 percent of Jewish college students and 51.4 percent of non-Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the October 7th attacks. Troubling, 66.2 percent of Jewish students were not confident in their university’s ability to prevent antisemitic incidents.

The situation is so dangerous that 23 percent of Jewish students have felt compelled to take additional security precautions.

At the same time, ADL’s 2026 [*Campus Crossroads: Non-Jewish Student Perceptions of Jews and Israel*](#) survey shows troubling underlying attitudes among the broader campus population. Nearly half (47.6 percent) of non-Jewish students surveyed endorsed at least one anti-Jewish stereotype or attitude, and nearly one in five (19.2 percent) endorsed three or more. This represents nearly one in five students indicating agreement with half or more of the tested attitudes, underscoring the scale of more entrenched views. This pattern suggests that, for a meaningful minority, these attitudes are not isolated responses but form a more consistent cluster of anti-Jewish beliefs, which may have greater implications for campus climate and targeted interventions.

The systematic targeting of Jewish life on campus remains a major area of concern. Since October 7, 2023, Jewish campus organizations, including Hillel and Chabad, which provide vital community support, have been targeted on numerous occasions. These include more than 160 incidents of antisemitic harassment and vandalism between October 2023 and October 2025, according to an ADL tally, as well as social media posts and other campaigns calling for their removal—blatant targeting of the centers of Jewish life on campus. Protest slogans like “We don’t want no Zionists here,” “Zionists off our campus,” and “Zionism is Nazism” at universities have demonized and vilified Zionists, and featured calls to destroy Zionism. Such rhetoric cannot be dismissed as merely political expression: when slogans target or exclude Zionists as a group—a core component of Jewish identity for many Jews—they function as antisemitic messaging that contributes to hostile campus environments. Framing Jewish identity or support for Israel as inherently illegitimate or unwelcome crosses the line from debate into discriminatory conduct, reinforcing exclusion rather than encouraging dialogue.

Simultaneously, individual Jewish and Israeli students, faculty, staff, and speakers have faced significant hostility and endured calls for expulsion, exclusion, boycott, and violence. For instance, a January 2025 ADL report showed that 20.2 percent of the 1,030 surveyed Jewish students reported experiencing ostracization from campus organizations. Similarly, in the ADL-

AEN 2025 survey of 200+ Jewish-identifying U.S.-based faculty members, nearly half of respondents (43.5 percent) reported feeling unwelcome in faculty committees or at faculty events because they are Jewish or perceived as Zionist and half of respondents (50.2 percent) reported that they believe their campuses have been affected by soft or shadow boycotts—subtle but systematic forms of exclusion within academic spaces.

This climate is not only being felt by Jewish students. The 2026 Campus Crossroads survey of more than 1,000 non-Jewish undergraduate students found that 48.3 percent reported witnessing or experiencing anti-Jewish behavior on campus or in campus-related digital spaces in the past year, and 52.1 percent said anti-Jewish prejudice is at least somewhat prevalent at their school. Yet campuses are not consistently preparing students to respond, only 5.3 percent reported receiving antisemitism-specific training.

Despite new policies and enforcement efforts that have curbed some anti-Israel campus activity, the core problems persist, including the targeting of Jewish organizations, the normalization of support for terror, and the intimidation and harassment of Jewish, Israeli, or Zionist individuals and anyone deemed supportive of Zionism. Groups, like Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine (FSJP) have [adapted](#) their tactics to the changing political landscape and administrative scrutiny. This shift includes a move away from highly visible initiatives, such as the tent encampments seen in 2024, toward more calculated strategies focused on internal pressure and disciplinary evasion. These tactics include creating coercive campus environments that advance anti-Israel agendas, mobilizing campaigns against university officials and administrators, normalizing extreme advocacy through faculty-driven organizing, and promoting shadow boycotts that operate outside formal institutional processes.

Since October 7, 2023, over 50 student groups have been [banned](#), temporarily suspended, or otherwise reprimanded across dozens of U.S. campuses as administrations cracked down on violations of preexisting or updated conduct policies.

Far from achieving deterrence, these disciplinary measures [spurred](#) some organizational evasion and rebranding. Some censured groups shed their university affiliation, dropping the school's name or logo or explicitly stating their non-affiliation on social media. Others voluntarily disaffiliated following prior suspensions or in anticipation of action. Crucially, students at numerous universities simply continued to engage in extreme anti-Israel activities regardless of group or affiliation.

While no act of antisemitism should be tolerated, what is especially harmful is that much of this activity came from university faculty and staff. A September 2025 ADL [study](#) shows that 73.2 percent of the surveyed faculty reported observing anti-Jewish activities or statements from faculty, administrators, or staff on campuses and half (50.2 percent) of the respondents believed that their campuses have been affected by “soft” or “shadow” boycotts. At the same time, 63.6 percent of the faculty members surveyed reported being told by others on campus what is and is not antisemitism. Several high-profile incidents highlight the danger to Jewish students, staff and faculty, including at Columbia University, DePaul University, Barnard University, and George Washington University.

Faculty and staff who engage in antisemitism, whether through overt actions, biased rhetoric, or by failing to address antisemitic incidents, create a hostile learning environment that undermines the safety and well-being of Jewish students. When those in positions of authority model or tolerate antisemitic behavior, it sends a clear message that Jewish students are not valued or

protected on campus. Jewish students may feel unwelcome or unsafe participating fully in class discussions, pursuing certain fields of study, or engaging with faculty, all of which can significantly hinder their academic development and access to equal educational opportunities.

Faculty- and staff-led organizing has become a defining driver of the campus environment. Over the 2024–2025 academic year, faculty-led networks such as [Faculty and Staff for Justice in Palestine \(FSJP\)](#) have expanded rapidly, with more than 130 affiliated groups now [established](#) nationwide. Many FSJP chapters and members have openly justified violence and terror attacks against Israel, and, in multiple cases, they have employed antisemitic imagery or rhetoric.

Examples:

- In October 2024, at an anti-Israel rally celebrating the anniversary of Hamas’s October 7, 2023, antisemitic terrorist attack, organized by Students for Justice in Palestine, Faculty for Justice in Palestine, Bears for Palestine and the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN) at University of California, Berkeley, protesters displayed signs with messages that included: “Long Live Al-Aqsa Flood” (referencing Hamas’s name for its October 7 attack) and “Viva La Resistancia Palestina.” A speaker from IJAN stated, “The steadfast people of Gaza have shown the world that resistance to Zionism is not only necessary, but possible.”
- Jonathan Brown, a tenured professor at Georgetown and Chair of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, who also holds the Alwaleed bin Talal Chair of Islamic Civilization, posted on [X](#): “I’m not an expert, but I assume Iran could still get a bomb easily. I hope Iran does some symbolic strike on a base, then everyone stops.”
- Commenting on the June 2025 Israel-Iran conflict, a member of the University of Chicago’s FSJP chapter, Alireza Doostdar said on X that “the best and only hope for peace is the power and durability of Iranian missiles.”
- In July 2025, FSJP’s Bryn Mawr-Haverford College (Bi-Co) chapter published an Instagram post excoriating the recent move by several Western countries to recognize a Palestinian state alongside Israel, saying that “there can be no coexistence with a genocidal state.”
- In May 2025, the FSJP chapters at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Bryn Mawr-Haverford College (Bico) were among the co-organizers of a protest at which protestors displayed the flag of the [PFLP](#), along with signs reading “[Long Live the Intifada](#)” and “Victory to the Resistance,” a phrase commonly used to [euphemistically indicate support](#) for the U.S.-designated terrorist group Hamas.

Conclusion

Jewish students, staff and faculty face a crisis of belonging and safety on American campuses. The antisemitic incidents documented in this testimony are not isolated—they constitute a pattern of civil rights violations that create hostile educational environments, deny Jewish students equal access to education, and effectively exclude them from full participation in campus life based on their identity. It is crucial to enact stronger measures to combat antisemitism in education and public life. Importantly, the broader student body is receptive to action. ADL’s 2026 survey found that 85 percent of non-Jewish students support universities taking steps to address anti-Jewish behavior. Jewish members of campus communities deserve what every student, staff and faculty member deserves: the ability to exist on campus free from

fear, harassment, and discrimination. They should not have to hide their identity, avoid certain spaces on campus, or face exclusion because of who they are.

We are grateful for the U.S. Civil Rights Commission's investigation into antisemitism on America's college and university campuses. We hope the information provided will help the commission in its investigation. We stand ready to provide additional information, data, and testimony as your investigation proceeds, and we commit to working alongside you to develop effective solutions to this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DG' with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dan Granot
Senior Director of Government Relations and Community Engagement
ADL (Anti-Defamation League)