



Post-October 7 Antisemitism on Campus

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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LAW

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There has been a sharp rise in antisemitism on college campuses after October 7 both in terms of volume and type, often involving violent threats, physical assault, harassment, and discrimination. This has left Jewish and Zionist students feeling vulnerable and isolated from the larger campus community. Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions from students and parents.

How did institutions of higher education become breeding grounds for antisemitism?

The answer is complex and hotly debated. Much antisemitic rhetoric and conduct can be attributed to misinformation and ignorance about the Jewish people, antisemitism, and the Jewish people's connection to the land of Israel as an integral part of Jewish identity.

Additionally, there is a concentrated effort among anti-Zionist groups to infiltrate and co-opt academic spaces to legitimize false narratives and delegitimization campaigns against Israel. The BDS movement is just one example, which targets academic associations; exchange programs in Israel; companies and economic investments; cultural performances and artistic displays. This infiltration comes from student groups, faculty, community groups, outside organizations, and occasionally university administrators, so it's a compounded effort.

Likewise, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices, professionals, and trainings have standardized and normalized how institutions navigate antisemitic discrimination and bias incidents. Some operate

with a neo-Marxist worldview that society is divided solely between oppressor and oppressed or victim and perpetrator, where Jews are seen as the oppressor class victimizing marginalized groups on campus. Antisemitic rhetoric and conduct are justified under this binary as a legitimate "rising up" against the oppressor.



What legal action can be taken to compel universities to protect Jewish students?

At a minimum, universities must enforce their own policies and fulfill their responsibilities under state and federal law. Since October 7, student groups, individual students, administrators and faculty have violated campus policies and state and federal laws with little to no repercussions. That is clearly unlawful.

Two ways students can fight back against this is to **(1) document and collect evidence of antisemitism**; and **(2) file bias complaints to report antisemitism** and demand accountability. Otherwise, schools claim they “were not aware” of the incidents in question and therefore couldn’t act because students did not follow official procedures for redress.



StandWithUs Saidoff Law can help students through this process. In addition to helping students file complaints, we can escalate with legal demand letters, community pressure campaigns, Title VI complaints, and, where warranted, lawsuits. If Jewish or Zionist students are falsely charged or find themselves caught up in administrative hearings for standing up to antisemitism, StandWithUs Saidoff Law's team can help. Students should not try to defend themselves on their own if they are falsely accused.

How are Jewish students coping with the latest assaults on them and their fellow students?


As one student summed it up succinctly, “Students are having one of two reactions: either they are taking down their mezuzahs or putting up bigger mezuzahs.” Many students are afraid to walk around campus alone. They hide their Star of David necklaces, remove their kippot, or choose to take online classes to avoid campus altogether. Other students have become strengthened in their outward Jewish identity and feel motivated to take a stand, call out hate and fight back through outward action. Regardless of their response, they all share great feelings of frustration, isolation, and vulnerability. StandWithUs is here to support, validate, and empower every student.


How can we encourage students to be proud of their Jewish identity?


We recommend all students to find communities of support, where they can be safe and proud Jews or Zionist allies. They should connect with peers and allies, attend local events, engage with other student leaders on social media and share experiences. This is yet another defining moment in Jewish history. Just as we have overcome great atrocities and even genocide in the past, we will heal and overcome. Jewish history is not just about pogroms and the Holocaust; it is also about the Jewish warriors who prevailed, like in the story of Chanukah. Resilience and resolve are defining traits of what it means to be Jewish.


Jewish students need communities of support, spaces to feel safe, and easy access to relevant resources more than ever before. Not every student is going to be a vocal leader or the one giving speeches. Everyone has a role to play, a way to contribute. Just showing up, students are not only helping themselves but also showing up for others.


What are some specific ways students can respond to antisemitism on campus?

 **Students should report antisemitic incidents to StandWithUs for additional support and guidance.** StandWithUs Saidoff Law can boost student efforts by sending legal demand letters to university administrations, help students draft their bias complaints, advise students going through investigatory processes and hearings, ensure students are receiving their due process rights under university policies, and, where warranted, file Title VI complaints and lawsuits against the institution to demand enforcement of their policies and adherence to the law. Similarly, through its regional managers and various departments, StandWithUs Campus Department provides support and guidance to students facing difficult antisemitic incidents and gives them the confidence to pursue a meaningful course of action. **Students can aid this effort by documenting specific situations of antisemitism.** Future efforts to pursue accountability are immensely strengthened when there is a documented record of hostility or ostracization.

 **Students should find support by associating within like-minded community groups, including taking leadership positions.** They should connect with their campus pro-Israel and Jewish community organizations like Chabad, Hillel, Jewish fraternities and sororities, and Israel clubs, which exist to foster communities of support, create space for allies to connect, and organize educational Israel programming and events.

 **Students can amplify their voices and give strength to those around them by writing op-eds in the school newspaper,** which are used as a tool for discussion and debate. Students can also join the staff and cover campus news and seek positions on the editorial board, which sets the opinion for the entire publication. A school newspaper not only reaches the campus community but is often read by local and national outlets covering antisemitism. Likewise, **students can use their personal and club social media platforms** to counter antisemitic and anti-Israel rhetoric, correct misinformation, and share Israel's story and their own experiences.

 **Students can introduce resolutions to the student senate to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.** Adopted by hundreds of entities worldwide, including numerous educational institutions, the [IHRA Definition](#) is the first step in addressing the rising tide of antisemitism.

 **Students can apply to join the StandWithUs Emerson Fellowship,** which selects, educates, and inspires hundreds of student leaders from universities worldwide since 2007. The program empowers students to recognize and address antisemitism, report it, and take action; to lead informed discussions about Israel and correct false claims; to navigate bias in the classroom; and to advocate for meaningful change on campus through engaging student leaders, faculty, and administrators.



For questions and further assistance, please contact

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