

Introductory
Workshop
for College
and University
Administrators



Improving the Campus
Climate Initiative

JEWISH IDENTITY AND ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



Who is the Academic Engagement Network (AEN) and what is the *Improving the Campus Climate Initiative (ICCI)*?

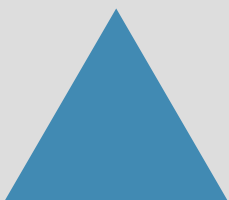


Why did you come here today and what are you hoping to learn from our time together?

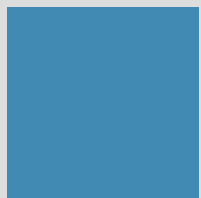


JEWISH
IDENTITY
AND THE
DIVERSITY
OF JEWISH
EXPERIENCE

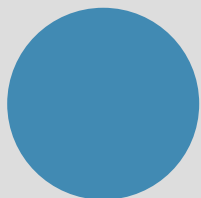
SHAPE YOUR LEARNING



What three points did you learn?



What did you learn that squares with what you already know?



What questions do you have that are circling around in your head?

IS JUDAISM A...?

Religion:

Do all Jews believe in one God and follow Jewish law?

Ethnicity:

Do all Jews share the same culture and customs?

Nationality:

Do Jews belong to their own nation or the nations in which they live?

Race:

Are Jews white?
Can Jews be considered a separate “race”?

THE JEWISH PEOPLE

- Jews traditionally see themselves as both adherents of a religion or faith and part of a people since ancient times.
- Many Jews feel most attached to an ethnic group and a sense of culture through common elements like food, language, stories, customs, etc. that are often only loosely linked to traditional religious practices.
- Whether religious, political, cultural, or loosely spiritual, many Jews also feel a connection to the region and the land that is currently Israel/Palestine.

HOW MANY JEWS ARE THERE
IN THE WORLD?

- A. 5 million
- B. 15 million
- C. 50 million
- D. 100 million
- E. 500 million

JEWISH POPULATION

BY COUNTRY

14,500,000

WORLD TOTAL

83%

LIVE IN ISRAEL AND
THE UNITED STATES



CORE 2016 POPULATIONS SOURCED FROM JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE ARE JEWISH?





WHAT DO JEWS LOOK LIKE?

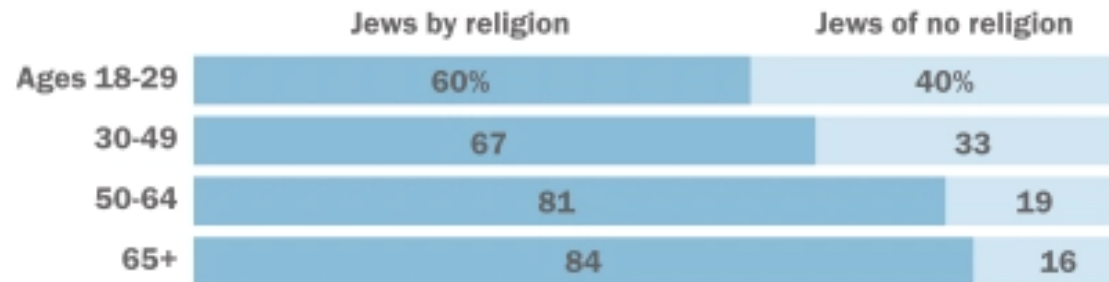


UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY

Jewish identity in the United States, 2020



U.S. Jewish identity, by age



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.
 Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.
 Jewish Americans in 2020

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Jewish population in U.S. is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse

% of U.S. Jews who are ...

Hispanic, Black, Asian, other race or multiracial

	%
NET Jewish	8
Ages 18-29	15
30-49	12
50-64	4
65+	3

Note: Percentages recalculated to exclude nonresponse to the race/ethnicity questions.
 Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.
 Jewish Americans in 2020

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

JEWISH STUDENTS MAY EXPRESS THEIR JEWISH IDENTITY THROUGH...

Ritual

Culture

**Belief/
Faith**

**Social
Justice**

Israel

**Family
Traditions**

Community



ANTISEMITISM
HISTORICALLY
AND TODAY

SIT



What do you find...?

Surprising, Interesting, Troubling

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?



Antisemitism is a form of prejudice or discrimination directed towards Jews as individuals or as a group.

It is based on age-old stereotypes and myths that can target Jews as a people, their religious practices and beliefs or the Jewish State of Israel.

THE EVOLUTION OF JEW-HATRED

Xenophobia



Anti-Judaism



Antisemitism

HISTORICAL PREJUDICES AND STEREOTYPES

False charge of Jews killing Jesus

Accusation of ritual murder, association with blood

Association with the devil or evil forces

Jews as traitors, not sufficiently loyal

Judaism as an outmoded religion

Jews as a “cabal” or band of conspirators

Conspiracies about Jewish power and control

Association with materialism, greed and money

Association with medical afflictions

Images as leeches, vermin and insects

CORONA
Just another
JEW WORLD
ORDER HOAX

THEY'RE FREAKY,
THEY'RE SNEAKY,
CASH AND CONTROL
IS WHAT THEY
SEEKY...



...WITH JEWS



... YOU LOSE!

EXAMPLES OF THESE PREJUDICES

Here Jews are depicted as:

- Insects
- Spiders
- Greedy and materialistic
- Controlling and exploitative
- A global conspiracy
- The source of the world's problems

“The ancient and ugly curse of hatred of Jews and Judaism never quite goes away... Today, however, in living memory of the death camps—indeed while we still have living Holocaust survivors who bear identification numbers tattooed by the SS on their breasts or forearms—antisemitism is again being spoken aloud, even in some cases by ‘respectable’ people...

~ Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University and recipient of the United States Presidential Citizens Medal, 2020.

Hatred of Jews and Judaism exists today on both the left and right sides of the ideological spectrum. It can be found among the rich and the poor, the more-and less-highly educated, the fervently religious, and the devoutly secular. It is sometimes stated coarsely, other times in the rhetoric of the sophisticated and even high-minded...the “narrative” is always the same—and the same as it has always been: the Jews are depicted as crafty, greedy, selfish outsiders...conspiring against ‘us’ and ‘people like us’ to take what is ours, to control our lives and futures, to ‘replace’ us.”

~ Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University and recipient of the United States Presidential Citizens Medal, 2020.

ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES



Leo Frank on trial in August 1913

PHOTOGRAPH BY ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP IMAGES



Figure 35. Headline of one of the anti-Semitic articles in Henry Ford's weekly, *The Dearborn Independent*, Dearborn, Mich., May 22, 1920. All Ford dealers were required to sell the paper.



Approved Gentiles - American History - Sign outside of the Meadowbrook Swimming Club, Maryland

HOW ANTISEMITISM OPERATES DIFFERENTLY IN THE U.S. TODAY

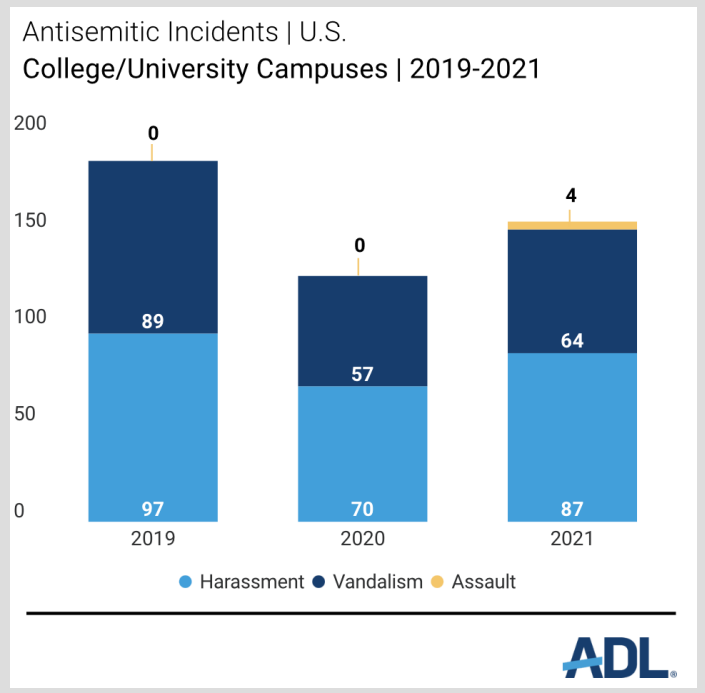
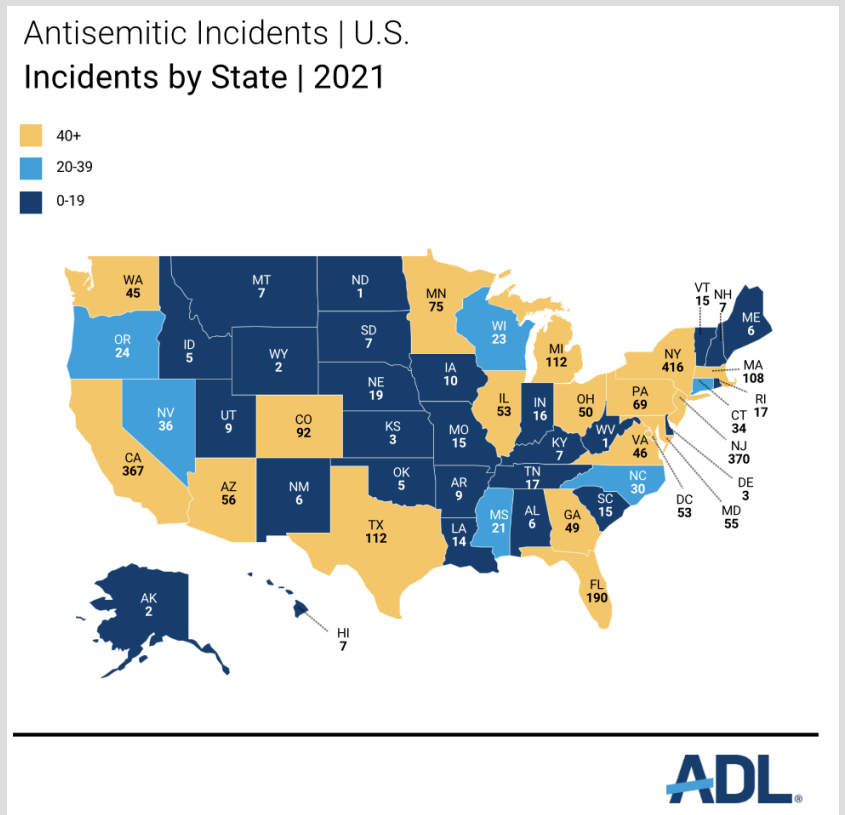
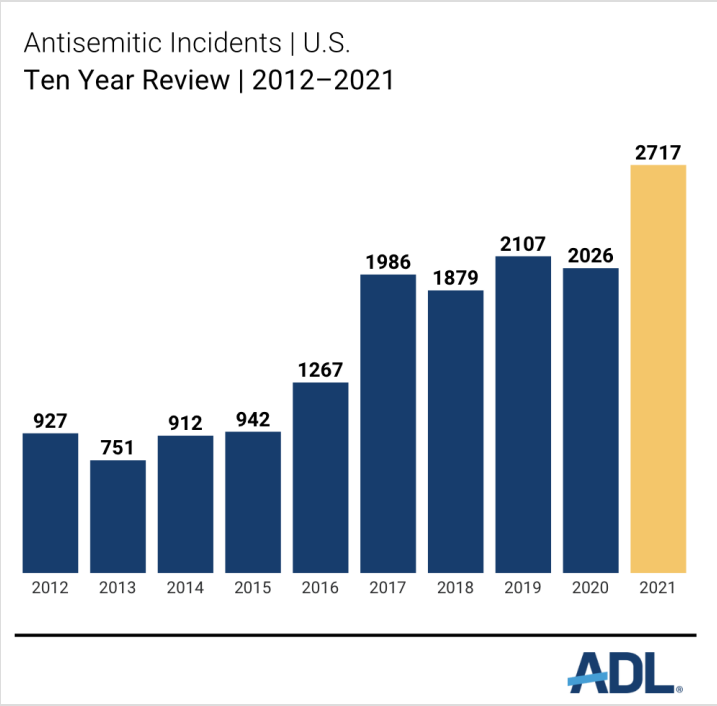
- Assumptions about Jews structure conversations
- Exists across the political spectrum
- Outbreaks of violence occur in a rhetorical context





HOLOCAUST DENIAL AND SWASTIKAS

HOW PREVALENT IS ANTISEMITISM?



Source: Anti-Defamation League Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

“ Someone left a note on my door that said, ‘**Jews created COVID-19 to subvert the white race.**’ This note was covered with stickers of various Jewish caricatures. A bag of rat poison was taped to the bag.”

“ I lived in a house off-campus with three women. My roommates had some of their friends over one night. I was introduced to a senior who had blonde hair and blue eyes. He noticed my straight light-colored hair and blue eyes, and when he reached out to shake my hand, he said with excitement, ‘Ah, a fellow Aryan!’ **When I told him I was Jewish, he just walked away without saying anything.**”

“ After my fraternity scheduled a required event on Passover, **some of my brothers started attacking me and my Judaism for trying to change the date of their event.** Passover was scheduled months in advance and the fraternity event was scheduled the week before.”

“ My classmate said that **Jews fetishize the Holocaust in discussions about oppression,** and in no way could it compare to the suffering of BIPOC. The teacher just nodded along.”

“ Every time I would tell my non-Jewish peers that I am Jewish, their immediate response afterwards would always be, **‘oh, you don’t look very Jewish’ or ‘you’re really pretty for a Jewish girl’** and mean it as a compliment. As if being Jewish and having Jewish features automatically means that you are less attractive and desirable.”

“ My school thought it was okay to **pin up a piece of ‘artwork’ with k*ke scribbled all over it in the art building with no context whatsoever.** It has since been taken down, but it was up for about a week before I saw it.”

“ I was in office hours with a professor when the subject of antisemitism came up. He told me **antisemitism was not real because all oppression has a class component and since ‘Jews are all rich and powerful’ they can only be the oppressors.** This conversation took place less than two weeks after the Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting, and he said even that was not valid evidence of antisemitism. I reported this to the school and nothing was ever done about it.”

“ I reported an antisemitic fueled death threat to the college senior staff and when I said that I was scared what she would do if I reported it higher I was told, **‘well you can’t be sure she actually said it, you’re emotional, you could be remembering incorrectly.’**”

“ In a meeting for my sorority, **one member minimized the presence of antisemitism at the University and in the county because ‘Jewish people are white.’** No one disagreed with her.”



JEWES, RACE
AND
WHITENESS

3, 2, 1

What are  3 new things you learned?

What  2 questions do you still have?

What is  1 thing you will do differently?

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

“ Someone left a note on my door that said, **'Jews created COVID-19 to subvert the white race.'** This note was covered with stickers of various Jewish caricatures. A bag of rat poison was taped to the bag.”

“ In a meeting for my sorority, **one member minimized the presence of antisemitism at the University and in the county because 'Jewish people are white.'** No one disagreed with her. ”

JEWES AND WHITENESS

For White Nationalists, Jews are not considered White and are a threat to “replace” the White majority in America. Their White-looking skin is part of what makes them particularly dangerous.

For the Far Left, Jews are exclusively White. Critical perspectives on whiteness emphasize the way that being White grants unspoken power and privilege.

JEWES AND WHITENESS

For White Nationalists
Jews are not considered
White and are a threat
"replace" the White
majority in America.
White-looking skin is
of what makes them
particularly dangerous

- Most American Jews are of Ashkenazi descent.
- 8-15% of American Jews are Jews of Color. Over half of Israeli Jews are non-white.
- Many Jews describe Judaism as a religion practiced by the Jewish people, an ethnicity with a distinctive history.

the Far Left, Jews are
sively White. Critical
perspectives on
ness emphasize the
that being White
s unspoken power
and privilege.

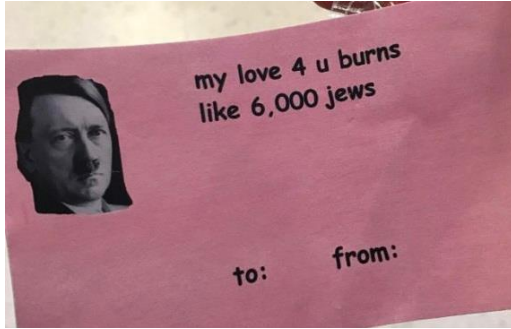
JEWES AND WHITENESS

When Jews are labeled simply as White:

- Distinctive aspects of Jews as a separate cultural group can become erased
- Ignores the experiences of Jews of Color
 - Denies the complexity of intersectional identities
- Antisemitic stereotypes about Jewish power and privilege can become accelerated

For White Nationalists, Jews are not considered White and are a threat to "replace" the White majority in America. White-looking skin of what makes them particularly dangerous.

Far Left, Jews are labeled as White. Critical perspectives on the emphasis on being White and the unspoken power and privilege.



WHITE
NATIONALIST
ANTISEMITISM

ANTISEMITISM AND RACISM

“Within social and economic justice movements committed to equality, we have not yet collectively come to terms with the centrality of antisemitism to White nationalist ideology, and until we do, we will fail to understand this virulent form of racism rapidly growing in the U.S. today.”

~Eric K. Ward, “Skin In the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism,”
The Public Eye (Summer 2017)





ANTISEMITISM
AND ISRAEL

CHANGED THINKING



I used to think....

Now I think....



WHAT IS ZIONISM?

- Zionism is the Jewish movement for self-determination in the ancient homeland of the Jewish people.
- Jews living in the Diaspora held to the idea of *Chibat Zion*, or love of Zion. The yearning for a return to the land continues to play a central role in Jewish liturgy and life cycle traditions.
- Political Zionism emerged in 19th century Europe in response to antisemitism and in the context of the rise of European nationalism. It was an effort to build a place where Jews would be safe from persecution.
- Zionism is not a monolithic movement. Jews understand and define their Zionist identities in different ways.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONNECTION TO ISRAEL

Eight-in-ten U.S. Jews say caring about Israel is an important or essential part of what being Jewish means to them

% of U.S. Jews who say caring about Israel is _____ to what being Jewish means to them

	Essential	Important, but not essential	Not important	No answer
	%	%	%	%
NET Jewish	45	37	16	2=100
Jews by religion				
Jews of no religion	52	36	11	2
Jews of no religion	27	41	31	2
Orthodox	53	30	15	2
Conservative	66	29	4	<1
Reform	49	37	13	1
No particular branch	28	42	28	2
Men	42	38	18	2
Women	48	36	14	1
Ages 18-29	35	36	27	2
30-49	43	36	20	1
50-64	49	38	12	1
65+	52	37	8	3
High school or less	53	31	14	2
Some college	45	39	13	3
College graduate	42	41	17	1
Postgraduate degree	43	36	20	1
Republican/lean Rep.	60	29	9	2
Democrat/lean Dem.	40	40	19	1

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Nov. 19, 2019-June 3, 2020, among U.S. adults.

Jewish Americans in 2020

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTISEMITISM

“In the past, the most dangerous anti-Semites were those who wanted to make the world *Judenrein*, ‘free of Jews.’ Today, the most dangerous anti-Semites might be those who want to make the world *Judenstaatrein*, ‘free of a Jewish state.’”

~Irwin Cotler, Chair of the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, and former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and longtime Member of Parliament

CRITICISM OF ISRAEL AND ANTISEMITISM

Examples of when anti-Israel criticism becomes antisemitic:

- Using symbols and images that are associated with classic antisemitism to describe Israel or Israelis
- Comparing Israel or its policies to those of the Nazis
- Holding all Jews responsible for the actions of the State of Israel
- Denying Jews the basic right to self-determination



ANTI-NORMALIZATION
AND EXCLUSION

UCLA student government member quizzed about Jewish identity

Jewish students excluded from sex abuse survivor group accuse SUNY New Paltz of discrimination

Berkeley Develops Jewish-Free Zones

Environmental group boycotts voting rights rally over inclusion of Zionist groups

THE EVOLUTION OF JEW-HATRED

Xenophobia



Anti-Judaism



Antisemitism



Anti-Zionist forms of antisemitism

ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

“ When I first moved in my dorm freshman year, my roommate, upon learning of my Jewish identity, immediately asked my stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I told her I didn't want to talk about it, but that I support Israel, especially since my entire family lives there. We never really got along and I never really understood why she was so unwilling to compromise with me on things as simple as turning the lights off at night. However, the reason for his disdain towards me became clear when I found out that she referred to me as bacteria.”

“ A professor replied to a tweet I made about antisemitism on the left with a dog whistle article about the 'Israeli Lobby.' The article was another conspiracy theory on Jews controlling banks and politics.”

“ There was a girl in my dorm who would constantly talk about what the Israeli government was doing to Palestinians, except instead of saying 'the Israeli government is doing this,' she would say 'the Jews are doing this.' She also called Jews dogs in Arabic.”

“ I was in an international relations course when out of nowhere, my professor said, 'I don't understand why this country supports Israel. What have they and the Jews ever done for the world.' In other history and political science courses, if I wore a Star of David or hamsa necklace I'd be asked to provide the 'Jewish side' or be the class's 'token Jew.'”

“ We have a designated area for graffiti to encourage free expression. My freshman year, the club for Israel education and advocacy made a mural in this area with Hebrew and Israeli imagery. The next day, it was covered in words like 'white colonizers' and 'apartheid.' The school documented the incident, but all that really resulted was the club covering their original mural with 'Peace' in English, Hebrew, and Arabic.

“ On numerous occasions, members of DePaul's Students for Justice in Palestine called me a 'dirty Jew.' I've also received death threats and have been doxxed, but the school called it 'free speech' because 'antizionism isn't antisemitism.'”

“ I was hanging out with some friends, and one started talking to me about the situation in Palestine and said Jews run the world. He went on to say that Jews don't belong in Israel because they're white, and it's evident that they get sunburnt more than Palestinians do. I tried explaining how Ashkenazi Jews come from Eastern Europe so their skin tends to be lighter, and he then said only Sephardic Jews belong in Israel.”

“ During a philosophy lecture about Plato, the professor used the statement 'Germany was as bad to the Jews as the Israelis are to the Palestinians now.' This had nothing to do with the lecture and he just moved right past it. No one in the 200 person lecture said a word.”



IMPACT ON JEWISH STUDENTS

“Most Jewish students on American campuses have not been subjected to overt acts of discrimination or verbal abuse. But many among them feel they have something to lose if they openly identify as Jews. If they are active in Hillel, the Jewish student organization, they may be informally barred from being active in progressive causes—for example, racial and LGBTQ equality, climate-change mitigation, and the fight against sexual assault. Those who want to be elected to student government are learning to scrub their résumés clean of any overtly Jewish or pro-Israel activities. They are not abandoning their Jewish identity; they are hiding it. They have become *Marranos*.”

~Deborah Lipstadt, “Jews are Going Underground,” *The Atlantic* (Dec. 29, 2019).

HOW TO AVOID ANTISEMITISM WHEN DISCUSSING ISRAEL

1

Be as specific as possible.

2

Indicate which policies you are upset about, and that they come from specific actors in a specific government.

3

Avoid rhetoric or images that could remind people of the classic antisemitic stereotypes.

4

Avoid speaking about “the Jews” as if they are the same as the Israeli government and avoid describing Jews as “the Zionists.”



CREATING AN
INCLUSIVE
CAMPUS
ENVIRONMENT

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND FREE SPEECH

- Even racist and other prejudiced expression is constitutionally protected speech so long as there is not an immediate threat to safety.
- But the fact that our jurisprudence allows for such freedom of expression does not mean that this speech does not inflict injury to those so malevolently attacked.
- What is required is leadership — a willingness to provide a moral compass in condemning hateful speech that is antithetical to the university's values of tolerance, diversity and inclusion.

WAYS TO ACT

How can you support Jewish students on campus?

What does it look like to stand up against antisemitism?

What does positive engagement with the Jewish community look like on your campus?

In what areas might you turn to the Jewish community on campus for allyship and support?

SELECT RESOURCES AND
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Organizations

Academic Engagement Network

www.academicengagement.org

American Jewish Committee

www.ajc.org

Anti-Defamation League

www.adl.org

Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy

www.isgap.org

Simon Wiesenthal Center

www.wiesenthal.com

US Holocaust Memorial Museum

www.ushmm.org

US-Based University Centers, Institutes and Initiatives

Antisemitism Education Initiative, UC Berkeley

<https://jewishstudies.berkeley.edu/news-events-media/antisemitism-education/>

Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism, Indiana U

<https://isca.indiana.edu>

Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism

<https://ypsa.yale.edu>

“We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

–Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and author