

University of California Jewish Student Questionnaires
Sample Responses to Selected Questions
from students at UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, and UC Irvine

Do you feel harassed or intimidated as a Jewish student when you have seen or heard about the appearance of anti-Semitic graffiti (eg. swastikas) on campus?

“I feel very intimidated and worried when I see anti-Semitic graffiti on campus. I grew up thinking that such occurrences are a thing of the past, or things that only take place in Europe, but never in supposed intellectual centers.” (UCB)

“I definitely feel harassed when I hear about the appearance of swastikas on campus and the utter APATHY with which it is treated by the student newspaper and student body in general. The campus's reaction to this event is by far more disturbing than the event itself; the student newspaper brushed it off as a meaningless prank, and most students I've talked to don't seem to care at all or even realize that the appearance of a swastika means someone on this campus wants me, as an ethnically Jewish student, dead.” (UCB)

Do you feel harassed or intimidated as a Jewish student when speakers, films and exhibits that demonize Israel and her supporters are brought to your campus?

“I feel very uncomfortable when university sponsored events come to campus that are not only blatantly anti-Israel, but often quite anti-Semitic. When Norman Finkelstein came to campus last year, it made me uncomfortable that such a hateful speaker was welcome on our campus.” (UCB)

“I feel marginalized and don't know how to deal with combating this.” (UCB)

“Yes I do feel harassed and intimidated when these things happen. So much so that I changed my intended major.” (UCB)

“Yes, when these events occur I feel that I'm unwanted on campus and that my voice does not matter.” (UCB)

“One of SJP's [SJP = Students for Justice in Palestine] tactics is intimidation. Currently, I feel uncomfortable walking across campus because of the Apartheid Wall. It scares me that people listen to Finkelstein, and that they are also bringing Angela Davis to speak for them tomorrow. She is so well-known and well-respected that even if people are not educated on the conflict, they will listen to her.” (UCSD)

“Yes. I tell my friends how uncomfortable I feel. MSA speakers not only demonize Israel, but its supporters like me. When Finkelstein and other speakers

compare Israel to apartheid South Africa or Nazism, that is a reflection on me, as though I support apartheid or Nazism.” (UCSD)

“I do feel very uncomfortable, hurt, and intimidated as a Jewish student at UCI during Israeli Apartheid Week.” (UCI)

“Absolutely. [Israel Apartheid Week] is completely anti-Semitic, no matter how many times the MSU denies it. Just today, after the Malik Ali event dissolved into debates, an MSU student stood on top of a wall and shouted the Islamic prayer as loud as he could. No one seemed to hear him because they were too far away, but I recorded him. It was clearly directed at the Jewish and Zionist students.” (UCI)

Do you feel harassed or intimidated as a Jewish as a result of the Divestment from Israel campaign on your campus?

“Yes, the divestment bill raised so much tension on campus and made fellow students into enemies simply based on their beliefs toward Israel. The big senate meetings were a harsh reminder to me that intense hate of Jews and Israel is very much alive and that we Jews have to remain vigilant, since the authorities and campus officials haven't stood up for us.” (UCB)

“Yes I do feel very harassed, intimidated, and threatened as a result of the divestment from Israel campaign.” (UCB)

“I feel harassed because the Divestment campaign has lead to anti-Jewish expressions such as the swastikas drawn across from the doors of Jewish students and the verbal attacks on Jewish students (for example, someone drove by my friend in a car and yelled, "Jewish bastard!" because my friend was wearing a *kippah*).” (UCB)

“I have told my friends that it is frustrating that I have to stand up as a diplomat for Israel and have the pressure of an entire country on my shoulders when I just want to be a student. Only Israel is attacked, to me, this hatred is no different than what the black students faced following the ‘Compton Cookout’.” (UCSD)

“Yes, it makes me think that it will soon no longer be safe to be Jewish here soon. Coming from the former USSR, the feeling is very familiar and truly scary.” (UCSD)

Do you feel that anti-Semitic graffiti, events which demonize Israel, and/or the Divestment from Israel campaign, could incite violence against Jewish students on your campus?

“It can and IT HAS. In addition to the many verbal attacks already mentioned in above questions, one of my friends was attacked with a shopping cart while she was holding a sign that said "Israel wants peace". As a pro-Israel student, I no longer feel safe on my campus. I feel like someone could jump me at any moment.” (UCB)

“Definitely. Since there has been little done by the administration, it seems that they are condoning such behavior, making it seem like continuing this trend (the next step being violence) is acceptable.” (UCB)

“Anti-Semitism is something that one normally reads about in history textbooks regarding the 1930s back home, it is not something I am used to coming face to face with everyday. That being said, I STRONGLY believe that if left unchanged, the campus climate is a mere few years away from descending into open violence against Jewish students. The line has already been breached this year, assault charges were filed against someone who assaulted a Jewish, pro-Israel student demonstrator with a shopping cart.” (UCB)

“I do and it already has. I was recently attacked by an Arab student who is a member of the SJP because I am a Jewish supporter of Israel.” (UCB)

“Yes. Finkelstein has said on numerous occasions that he supports Hezbollah, which has frequently expressed a desire for killing all Jews. A speaker last year called us ZioNazis and this led to students calling us "Nazis" and "white supremacists" and even spitting on some of my friends.” (UCSD)

“Yes. They use fighting words in their rhetoric. "We're going to win this war, "We're going to fight" "We have Jews in our trenches" "This is a battlefield." ad infinitum.” (UCSD)

“Yes. Jews are being demonized, shown as monsters. Soon, it will be reasonable for people to attack these monsters.” (UCSD)

“Yes. The MSU students have already done so, harassing a woman who was recording the events in the parking lot, encircling her at her car. With so much venom being spewed out by the hate mongers they bring to campus, all it takes is for one student to be fed up and decide to strike back at the "evil Zionist oppressors".” (UCI)

Do you feel that administrators on your campus treat Jewish concerns as sensitively as they do the concerns of other ethnic minorities such as African Americans and Latinos? Please elaborate.

“No. The meeting about the swastikas was poorly advertised and Jewish students were told to "ignore the ignorance" even as more incidents occurred. When the "Compton Cookout" and other racist incidents happened at other UC campuses, the Jewish community stood in solidarity with those minorities against discrimination and hate on our campuses. That same solidarity was sadly lacking amongst the student body and administration when swastikas were discovered on residential campuses.” (UCB)

“No I do not. It is crucial that UCB administrators continue to treat ethnic minorities such as African Americans and Latinos as sensitively as they have been, but it is also crucial that they recognize that the Jewish community is one that has endured just as much if not more hostility than some of these communities, and therefore needs to be treated with equal sensitivity.” (UCB)

“Absolutely not. When the swastikas appeared, the administration hosted a town hall-type meeting to discuss the event, but it was in a remote corner of the campus and was EXTREMELY ill publicized, meaning no one knew about it, so no one came. The student newspaper then used this to say that Jewish students didn't care about the event. When the Compton Cookout happened, however, a town hall event was held a block away from campus. I don't know how well publicized it was, but it was very well attended. The town hall to discuss the swastikas should have been held in a more accessible area, and it should have been more well publicized. The fact that it was four blocks away from campus and barely publicized raises the question of how much the administration really cares.” (UCB)

“No definitely not they would never allow such blatant anti-black or anti-Hispanic bills, speeches, rallies, etc. go on on campus.” (UCB)

“Absolutely not. Administrators appear to see any anti-Semitic comment that is thinly veiled in political criticism of Israel as legitimate political debate, and not an issue of campus climate. My impression is that Jewish student group leaders are hopeful that next year, because of the events of this year, that the administration will be more receptive. I hope their optimism is not misplaced. Please act fast in gathering this report, this problem needs immediate attention. The toxic campus climate is approaching dangerous levels here.” (UCB)

“No. I am latino and Jewish, and I am not afraid of speaking out about raza issues. I wish I could say the same about Israel/jewish matters, but i can't.” (UCB)

“Absolutely not. This past week a girl stated on camera that she would support the killing of every Jew in the world, which in my opinion is a lot worse than the Compton Cookout, and yet there has been no outcry from the administration.” (UCSD)

“No, this type of behavior at our school has been going on long enough that if they were to treat it as they did the Compton cookout we would not have an issue anymore. Why have I not heard our administration condemn anything?” (UCSD)

“No. The Compton cookout was dealt with as a serious issue, while this is swept under the rug. Nobody is acknowledging that anything serious is happening. Considering the historical support of African Americans by Jews, it is also depressing to see the BSU side against Israel.” (UCSD)

“No. Both the administration and AS came out in very strong support of the Black students after the Compton Cookout last quarter and said that their community should not be targeted. However, when the Divestment Bill and Apartheid Week happened, both the administration and AS did not give us any support. Because most Jews are white, we are not visibly diverse and therefore do not serve the school's vision of diversity. In my general ed writing class for Marshall College, Dimensions of Culture (DOC) we spent weeks discussing all the different ways various ethnic minorities, homosexuals, lower class, and women were discriminated against, but Jews never came up once.” (UCSD)

“No, we are expected to deal with it, while the school bends over backwards to show support for other minorities when they feel harassed or unsafe. We were essentially told as much in a meeting with the Vice Chancellor. She said that there is nothing that they can do about us feeling uncomfortable, and that feeling uncomfortable is part of going to college. I agree with the latter part of the statement, but demonizing Israel is not in the realm of legitimate discomfort. The BSU at our school last quarter felt unsafe because of a noose found in the library, and the University sent out emails condemning it, had teach ins, and the school newspaper covered it from an angle very sympathetic to Black student's concerns (and rightfully so). There is no such action taken on our behalf in response to Apartheid week.” (UCSD)

“The UCI administration does not care about Jewish students. Period. They don't seem to mind that through their inaction they have allowed UCI to become both the most anti-Semitic campus in the United States and they have allowed UCI to become the most viral breeding ground for anti-West hatred in our country. Why do they not feel ashamed that they are continuing to allow this behavior to continue, instead of searching for a solution?!” (UCI)

“The UCI administration does not care about Jewish students. Period. They don't seem to mind that through their inaction they have allowed UCI to become both the most anti-Semitic campus in the United States and they have allowed UCI to become the most viral breeding ground for anti-West hatred in our country. Why do they not feel ashamed that they are continuing to allow this behavior to continue, instead of searching for a solution?!” (UCI)