

**Excerpts from University of California Jewish Student Campus Climate
Fact-Finding Team Report & Recommendations**

President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture & Inclusion

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"Jewish students are confronting significant and difficult climate issues as a result of activities on campus which focus specifically on Israel, its right to exist and its treatment of Palestinians. The anti-Zionism and Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement and other manifestations of anti-Israel sentiment and activity create significant issues through themes and language which portray Israel and, many times, Jews in ways which project hostility, engender a feeling of isolation, and undermine Jewish students' sense of belonging and engagement with outside communities. The issue of anti-Zionism activities was a focal point of our discussions with all of the students, Jewish organizations, faculty and administration."

"What came through in our discussions...was a sense from Jewish students and others of a double standard when it comes to the themes and language used by those protesting Israel and its policies. Specifically, Jewish students described the use of language and imagery which they believe would not be tolerated by faculty and administration, or would at least be denounced with more force, if similar themes and language were directed at other groups on campus."

"The Team found that on UC campuses there is a movement which targets Israel and Zionism through an ongoing campaign of protests, anti-Israel/anti-Zionism "weeks", and, on some campuses, the use of academic platforms to denounce the Israel and Jewish nationalist aspirations."

"On every campus pro-Zionist Jewish students described an environment in which they feel isolated and many times harassed and intimidated by students, faculty and outsiders who participate in this activities. Most often students expressed the perception of a double standard, insensitivity, and a lack of understanding on the part of faculty and administrators regarding the depth of what Jewish students experience as a result of a movement that is directed at Israel using imagery and accusations evocative of historical campaigns against Jews."

"Students also described encounters with faculty in class and outside which they believe raise serious questions regarding faculty members' objectivity regarding the conflict in the Middle East. They described instances of overt hostility toward Jewish or other students who try to express contrary viewpoints on the subject. Students questioned how these activities can be reconciled with the desire of the universities to promote scholarship and Principles of Community."

"One of the most significant issues expressed by Jewish students, faculty and community

members is their difficulty with sponsorship of university departments, campus organizations and others of events which are very clearly designed to promote themes which are biased and unbalanced in their portrayal of Zionism and Israel. The students indicated that University administrative offices, such as the multicultural or cross cultural centers, sponsor student organization events that are dominated by groups adopting anti-Zionist platforms. Others indicated that they were doubtful that academic departments exhibited balance in their sponsorship or hosting of events -- symposiums, speaker series, etc. -- as they related to Israel and Zionism."

"In the Team's assessment it is clear that for many Jewish students, their cultural and religious identity cannot be separated from their identity with Israel. Therefore, pro-Zionist students see an attack on the State of Israel as an attack on the individual and personal identity. It is important for faculty and administrators to understand why some Jewish students and the Jewish community cannot simply dismiss the allegations directed toward Israel during "Justice for Palestine" or "Anti-Apartheid" weeks as simply a geopolitical "discussion" to address the plight of the Palestinians. This requires particular sensitivity as identity development and affirmation is so profound during a student's college years. Routine accusation that Israeli treatment of the Palestinians is comparable to Nazi treatment of Jews has outraged pro-Zionist Jewish students and faculty, and increased frustration as they are defended as an exercise of free speech or academic freedom."

"All [student participants] stated that they appreciate the distinction between criticism of Israel and anti-Semitism. One of the tools used to dismiss the concerns expressed by Jewish students is the accusation that supporters of Israel are unwilling to tolerate any criticism of Israel and that the charge of anti-Semitism is used in a manner to suppress that criticism. The Team's conversations with students revealed no such confusion or effort to curtail First Amendment rights."

"Notwithstanding, pro-Zionist Jewish students and faculty perceive a difference in how the movement against Israel and Zionism is viewed and addressed by those in faculty and administration responsible for dealing with campus climate. There is a perceived gap in the level of appreciation by administrators for how the Jewish community sees these protests, that is reflected in the absence of Jewish student representation on most of the individual campus Climate Councils."