



2015: Successes & Impact

Actualizing AMCHA's Mission

OUR MISSION:

AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating, documenting, educating about, and combating antisemitism at institutions of higher education in America.



CAMPUS ANTISEMITISM IN 2015:

Hundreds of antisemitic incidents occurred on USA campuses, for example:

- **CUNY MEDGER EVERS COLLEGE** – An Orthodox Jewish student was punched multiple times by an assailant who said, “Leave the school, you Jew.”
- **UC SANTA CRUZ** – A Jewish member of the student government was warned to “abstain” from voting on a BDS resolution because he was “elected with a Jewish agenda.”
- **CUNY HUNTER COLLEGE** – Members of Students for Justice in Palestine chanted “Zionists out of CUNY” & “Long Live the Intifada” at a campus rally.
- **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO** – Antisemitic social media posts about a BDS resolution included: “Gas them, burn them and dismantle their power structure. Humanity cannot progress with the parasitic Jew.”
- **UC DAVIS** – A Jewish fraternity house was de-faced with swastikas days after a BDS vote and “Grout out the Jews” was found at the Hillel House before the vote.
- **TOWSON UNIVERSITY** – “Hitler was right” and “With Jews you lose” were written in the middle of campus.
- **UCLA** – A student is challenged as a student government candidate simply for being Jewish and affiliated with Jewish organizations.

2015: HOW AMCHA IS ACTUALIZING ITS MISSION:

1. INVESTIGATING
2. DOCUMENTING
3. EDUCATING
4. COMBATING

1. Investigating campus antisemitism

AMCHA Initiative's research arm carries out systematic, in-depth research and analysis of antisemitic activity and has developed a comprehensive method for defining, documenting and analyzing manifestations of antisemitic behavior on campus, as well as the institutional structures that legitimize it and allow it to flourish.

In 2015, AMCHA's research efforts included a survey of Jewish students at the University of California about their experiences of antisemitism, and a study of the support for BDS among directors and speakers at federally-funded Middle East studies programs.

1. Investigating campus antisemitism

SURVEY OF EXPERIENCES OF ANTISEMITISM AMONG JEWISH STUDENTS AT UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

AMCHA conducted an on-line survey of 229 Jewish students at the University of California and found that most had experienced or witnessed antisemitism; that Jewish students are targeted regardless of their feelings on Israel; and that BDS campaigns have gone far beyond scholarly debate and criticism and directly into hate and antisemitism.

Findings include:

- More than **70%** of respondents reported experiencing or witnessing antisemitism.
- More than **60%** of respondents reported that BDS activity promotes hostile actions towards Jewish student.
- More than **one-third** of respondents felt that campus administrators were not sensitive to Jewish concerns.
- **Hundreds** of respondent comments show the impact of antisemitism and BDS on Jewish students. For example: “During BDS I actually avoid Hillel, the quad, and even my sorority because I don’t want to deal with how unsafe campus feels during that time.”

1. Investigating campus antisemitism

REPORT ON ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS AT TITLE VI-FUNDED MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAMS

AMCHA carried out a study of the anti-Israel bias of the directors and invited speakers at 16 federally-funded Middle East National Resource Centers (NRC). The study found that almost half of the directors support anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaigns, and that BDS-supporting directors were more than twice as likely to invite BDS-supporting speakers to their centers. These results suggest that many NRC directors may be violating a stipulation of their federal grants, which requires that NRC programming contain diverse perspectives and a wide range of views.

Findings include:

- **42%** of the directors of federally-funded ME studies programs endorse BDS.
- **26%** of the directors endorse an academic boycott of Israel.
- **41%** of the invited speakers at federally-funded ME studies programs endorse BDS.
- Invited speakers at federally funded ME studies programs with BDS-supporting directors were more than twice as likely to have endorsed BDS.

2. Documenting campus antisemitism

AMCHA Initiative carefully monitors media sources, social media accounts, submitted accounts, and witnessed incidents for evidence of campus antisemitism, and documents antisemitic activity on the AMCHA website, including:

STUDENT VOICES:

- Jewish student testimonials about campus antisemitism

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS:

- Campus Monitor Pages –antisemitic incidents on individual campuses
- Antisemitism Tracker –overall antisemitic incidents
- Swastika Tracker – incidents of swastikas and other antisemitic graffiti
- Disruptions Tracker –disruption or shutting down of Jewish student events

TRACKING BDS ACTIVITY:

- Divestment Scorecard - divestment resolutions or other BDS efforts
- Academic Boycott Map – faculty supporting the academic boycott of Israel by campus
- Academic Organizations Tracker – academic organizations that have voted for BDS

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

2. Documenting campus antisemitism

STUDENT VOICES: 165 JEWISH STUDENT TESTIMONIALS FROM 43 CAMPUSES IN 2015

Boston University - “I felt harassed and unsafe... I heard others whispering, ‘That’s the Jew!’”

CUNY Hunter College - “As I left the rally, someone yelled, ‘We should drag the Zionists down the street!’ It took a few seconds to register that I was a Zionist walking down the street. A CUNY public safety officer protected me from being attacked.”

Goucher College – “I no longer feel comfortable being a Goucher student. I have become a target... We were attacked and we were bullied.”

Northwestern University – “I am terrified knowing I may not be able to discuss my Judaism without taunts, or worse, violence.”

Sarah Lawrence College – “I didn’t want to come back this semester, and my mom really didn’t want me to come back...If I had known what I would face here, I would not have signed up.”

Swarthmore College – “We have been told we do not belong at this school, that our voices do not belong in the dialogue.”

UCLA - “I had cut Jewish words, Jewish activities and Jewish foods out of my life. I had even stopped telling people I met that I was Jewish. Because, frankly, I was scared.”

UC San Diego – “They followed me. They were yelling that I was a ‘racist Zionist cow.’ I have never felt so unsafe in my life.”

UC Santa Cruz - “The implication that I...should not be allowed to vote...due to an alleged ‘Jewish agenda,’ echoes the racism Jews have faced...throughout our history.”

2. Documenting campus antisemitism

ANTISEMITIC INCIDENTS IN 2015: MONITORING 400+ U.S. CAMPUSES

ANTISEMITISM TRACKER:



Antisemitic Incidents Documented

CAMPUS TRACKER:



Campuses with Antisemitic Incidents

SWASTIKA TRACKER:



Incidents of Swastikas

DISRUPTIONS TRACKER:



Jewish Student Events Disrupted

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

2. Documenting campus antisemitism

TRACKING ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT & SANCTIONS (BDS)



3. Educating about campus antisemitism

As an organization founded by academics, educating about campus antisemitism is a crucial component of AMCHA Initiative's work.

AMCHA has raised significant public awareness about campus antisemitism through its highly successful media campaigns, public presentations and the distribution of materials for parents and prospective college students.

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

3. Educating about campus antisemitism

NUMBER OF ARTICLES MENTIONING AMCHA’S WORK IN 2015



2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

3. Educating about campus antisemitism

OP-EDS PUBLISHED IN 2015

Los Angeles Daily News

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

UC system must adopt definition of anti-Semitism: Letters

Guest commentary: When an obsession with Israel enters the abyss of anti-Semitism

16

Op-Eds Penned & Published by AMCHA Co-Founders

25

Op-Eds Penned by Coalition Partners as Part of AMCHA-led Media Campaign

POSTED: 10/15/15, 1:45 PM PDT

UC system must adopt definition of anti-Semitism. Re "How can UC head off in Sep Last year, Jewish students at... Last year, Jewish students at... against. "Grout out the Jews" and... different campuses; swastikas were... were plastered across campus; and a Jewish... her religion, just to name a few of the frightening incidents.

Not surprising, these incidents oft... become more prominent on ca...

jns.org | news service

From Durban to Los Angeles: the...

Posted on March 12, 2015 by JNS.org and filed under Israel, Op...



By Tammi Rossman-Benjamin/JNS.org

Last month, in a breathtaking display of anti-Semitism reminiscent of Nazi Germany, members of the student government at South Africa's Durban University of Technology (DUT) called for the expulsion of all Jewish students from their campus. The very next day, halfway around the world, the student government at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) engaged in a similar display of anti-Jewish bigotry, nearly denying a highly qualified young woman a position on



Scholars have struggled to understand the many faces of anti-Semitism, a phenomenon which has existed for almost two millennia, and which the great scholar Robert Wistrich labeled "the longest hatred."

In the Middle Ages when Jews were forced into conversion, exile, and/or ghettos, Jew hatred took on a religious form.

Even in the 1930s, when I was growing up in Brooklyn, there were children who ran after me, taunting me with "Jew-baiting."

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

3. Educating about campus antisemitism

PRESENTATIONS TO BOARDS OF GOVERNORS IN 2015



3/19/15 – Presentation to UC Regents: AMCHA-coordinated letter signed by 23 organizations urging President Napolitano and the Regents to adopt the US State Department definition of antisemitism.

5/20/15 – Presentation to UC Regents: AMCHA-coordinated petitions signed by 58 California Rabbis, 104 UC Faculty Members and 521 UC Alumni, asking the UC System to formally adopt the U.S. State Department's definition of antisemitism.

9/17/15 – Presentation to UC Regents: Urging the rejection of the proposed Statement of Principles Against Intolerance, and the adoption of the US State Department definition.

10/26/15 – Presentation to UC Regents Working Group: Report on Survey of 229 Jewish UC students showing that more than 70% had experienced or witnessed antisemitism on a UC campus.

11/19/15 – Presentation to UC Regents: Report on Jewish student testimonials of their experiences with antisemitism on UC campuses.

12/15/15 - Presentation to the Tower Foundation of San Jose State University Board of Directors - Report on the antisemitic nature of BDS

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

3. Educating about campus antisemitism

ANTISEMITISM QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS & FAMILIES



Questionnaire for Prospective Students and Their Families Interviewing Colleges/Universities Regarding the Level of Anti-Semitic Activity on Campus

This questionnaire will provide the framework that prospective students and their families can use when determining the campus climate for Jewish students relating to anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activity at a particular college/university.

Background Information: Anti-Semitism on U.S. college campuses is growing at an alarming rate. A number of highly disturbing incidents are reported every year (incidents ranging from swastikas and other anti-Semitic graffiti to verbal harassment and physical assaults), and many Jewish students report feeling targeted and unsafe on their campuses.

A 2015 [National Survey of U.S. Jewish College Students](#) by Trinity College and the Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law revealed that 54% of surveyed students reported instances of anti-Semitism on campus during the first six months of the 2013-2014 academic year.

Information to Note: As you visit different colleges/universities, it is important to interview university administrators regarding both anti-Semitic and anti-Israel activities that have occurred on campus and to gauge the school's response.

These questions are designed as guidelines to assist you in assessing how safe or comfortable a school might be for a Jewish student. They will also serve as a reminder to school administrators that prospective Jewish students and their families' decisions are influenced by the level of anti-Semitic/anti-Israel activity on the campus. It will communicate to the school up front that it is in its best interest to have clear policies and procedures in place for adequately protecting Jewish students.

Suggested Questions Regarding Anti-Semitic and/or Anti-Israel Campus Activity and its Affect on Jewish Students:

1. How many students on campus identify as Jewish?
2. What Jewish groups do you have on campus?
3. Have any Jewish students reported acts of violence, verbal or physical harassment, threats, vandalism, discrimination, exclusion, etc., directed against them because of their Jewishness or support for Israel?
4. Have there been reports of swastikas or other anti-Semitic graffiti drawn anywhere on campus? If yes, did the administration swiftly, forcefully and publicly acknowledge that a swastika is an anti-Semitic symbol associated with genocide perpetrated against the Jewish people which particularly targets the school's Jewish members for hatred and discrimination, and that it will not be tolerated on campus?
5. Have you heard reports of students feeling the need to hide their Jewish identity (such as hide a Jewish star necklace) or feeling fear at attending Jewish events?
6. What is the response time of the administration when there is an anti-Semitic incident?
7. Are administrators, campus diversity officers and faculty members trained in identifying anti-Semitism?
8. Is your security personnel trained to identify anti-Semitism? Does your security department have policies in place for hate crimes?
9. How do you deal with "hate crimes" on campus? What kinds of disciplinary actions are taken when a student is found guilty perpetrating a "hate crime"? What if the perpetrator is a non-student?
10. What support is available to students who encounter anti-Semitism on campus?
11. Does your college/university allocate resources and publicly commit to educating students about anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish discrimination?
12. Was there a Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) campaign on campus, and if so, what was the result?
13. How many anti-Israel events and activities have there been this year, what kinds of activities have they been, and who has organized and sponsored them?
14. Have pro-Israel events been disrupted or shut down?
15. Have there been any faculty members (including adjunct faculty and graduate student instructors) who were reported as bringing anti-Semitic and/or unbalanced, one-sided, anti-Israel content into the classroom?
16. Is there a registered "Students for Justice in Palestine (SJIP)" or similar group on campus?
17. If there is an anti-Israel speaker on campus sponsored or funded by academic departments, do you require a balanced program to include a representative with a different view?
18. Has there been an "Israel Apartheid Week" or "Anti-Zionism Week" on campus? What events occurred during this week?
19. Has there been an "Apartheid Wall" display? If yes, did any of the materials distributed or displayed involve demonizing Israel or Israelis, delegitimizing Israel, or holding it to a double standard not expected of any other country?
20. Will the university formally adopt the U.S. State Department's definition of anti-Semitism to fully and accurately identify all future acts of hate toward Jews?

4. Combating campus antisemitism

AMCHA has had several notable successes in 2015 in combating campus antisemitism, including:

- **Favorable University Responses:** As a result of AMCHA-led coalition efforts, the UC Regents- **for the first time** - publicly acknowledged the problem of antisemitism on UC campuses, committed themselves to addressing the problem, and formed a working group to issue a statement against intolerance.
- **Strength in Numbers:** AMCHA established and has facilitated an at-will coalition of more than 50 civil rights, education and advocacy organizations to strategize about and participate in joint actions to combat campus antisemitism.
- **Engaging Stakeholders:** AMCHA established a UCLA alumni group and a nationwide alumni network in order to leverage the clout and influence of university alumni and donors in urging administrators to address antisemitism.
- **Impact at the Federal Level:** AMCHA's reports on the anti-Israel bias of federally-funded Middle East studies programs have played an important role in getting government officials to address the problem.

4. Combating campus antisemitism

UC CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS

AMCHA initiated a major campaign urging the University of California to adopt a definition of antisemitism capable of addressing modern manifestations of antisemitism.

The campaign has involved coordinating:

- **9** coalition letters
- Petitions signed by
 - **58** California rabbis
 - **104** UC faculty members
 - **521** UC alumni
 - **Nearly 3,000** UC Stakeholders
- Letters signed by
 - **35** leading antisemitism scholars
 - **128** faculty members
 - **214** attorneys
- Extensive media attention – **325** articles & dozens of op-eds by AMCHA and AMCHA coalition partners covered this campaign.

4. Combating campus antisemitism

UC CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS

As a result of AMCHA-led coalition efforts, the Regents- **for the first time** - publicly acknowledged the problem of antisemitism on UC campuses, committed themselves to addressing the problem, and formed a working group to issue a statement against intolerance.

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

4. Combating campus antisemitism

UC CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS

As a result of the AMCHA-led campaign, several UC Regents have spoken eloquently and forcefully about the need to address antisemitism on UC campuses



Regent Pattiz, Regent Lansing Student Regent Oved, Regent Blum and Regent Reiss

“I really ask my fellow Regents and the Chancellors to ponder why it is we seem less concerned about these acts of intimidation and hate directed against our Jewish students than we seem to be about many other things?...I plead with each Chancellor....Please take acts now to look into what is going on...so this intimidation and hate acts against our Jewish students stops.”

- Regent Bonnie Reiss, November 18, 2015

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

4. Combating campus antisemitism

AMCHA strives to bring together organizations from all over the country so that we may speak in **one voice** to express our concern for the safety and well-being of Jewish students.



Accuracy in Academia
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)
Alums for Campus Fairness
AMCHA Initiative
AMCHA UCLA Alumni
American Assoc. of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
American Council of Trustees and Alumni
American Institute for Jewish Research
Americans for Peace and Tolerance
Anteaters for Israel
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
Bruins for Israel
California Association of Scholars
Club Z
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting
America (CAMERA)
CUFI on Campus
David Horowitz Freedom Center
Davis Faculty for Israel
Declare Your Freedom
Eagles Wings
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Fuel For Truth
Hasbara Fellowships
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel
Iranian American Jewish Federation
Israeli-American Council (IAC)
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)
Jerusalem U
Jewish Law Students Association at UCLA
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East & North Africa
(JIMENA)
Middle East Political and Information Network
(MEPIN)
National Conference of Jewish Affairs
NCSY
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Project Genesis
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi
Simon Wiesenthal Center
StandWithUs
Stop BDS on Campus
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-
Semitism
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA
The Israel Christian Nexus
The Israel Group
The Israel Institute
The Lawfare Project
Training and Education About the Middle East
Verity Educate
Zionist Organization of America

50+ Organizations

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

4. Combating campus antisemitism

NUMBER OF COALITION EFFORTS ON THE UNIVERSITY, STATE & FEDERAL LEVELS



37

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

4. Combating campus antisemitism

AMCHA ALUMNI MOBILIZATION



- AMCHA established a UCLA alumni group to help combat antisemitism at UCLA and across the country.
- AMCHA established a nationwide alumni network of more than 700 alumni from 75 colleges and universities to help AMCHA's efforts at their alma maters.

2015: How AMCHA is actualizing its mission

4. Combating campus antisemitism

INFLUENCING CHANGE ON THE FEDERAL LEVEL



Two research reports by AMCHA have played an important role in urging government officials to **address the anti-Israel bias of federally-funded Middle East studies programs**: “Antisemitic Activity and Anti-Israel Bias at the Center for Near East Studies, UCLA 2010 - 2013” and “Anti-Israel Bias of Directors and Speakers at Title VI-Funded Middle East Studies Programs 2014 - 2015”.



As a direct result of AMCHA’s reports and other coalition efforts, the Department of Education has recently begun requiring that federally-funded Middle East studies programs report on how their activities advance diverse perspectives and a wide range of views.

AMCHA Initiative will continue turning our mission into action.
We will continue to **protect Jewish students.**



AMCHA LEADERSHIP




Leila Beckwith is Professor Emerita in Pediatrics at UCLA. She gained her Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology at the University of Chicago. She then went on to teach and do research for more than 30 years at the Neuropsychiatric Institute and the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA, publishing more than 80 scientific papers. Beckwith's professional life has been devoted to the sacred mission of the university: to obey the laws of evidence and logic; to pursue the truth with integrity; to communicate it honestly to students. Beckwith is co-founder of AMCHA Initiative. She is also a board member of the California Association of Scholars and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. In 2013 she was honored with a Hero of Conscience Award from the American Freedom Alliance.



Tammi Rossman-Benjamin is a lecturer at UC Santa Cruz. Rossman-Benjamin has written numerous articles about academic anti-Zionism and antisemitism and lectured widely on the growing threat to the safety of Jewish students on college campuses. She has delivered scholarly papers at Indiana University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harvard University, McGill University and the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research. Rossman-Benjamin was chosen for Jewish Hero of the Year by the Jewish Federation of North America in 2011, named one of 2013's Bright Pro-Israel Lights on U.S. Campuses by the Jewish Press and selected as one of the "Top Jewish 100 of 2014" by *Algemeiner*.


AMCHA Initiative Co-Founder Tammi Rossman-Benjamin Was Selected as One of the “Top Jewish 100 of 2014” For Her Work with AMCHA Initiative

the **algemeiner** | 

BETA

Jewish 100, 2014: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin – Academia

FEBRUARY 5, 2015 11:54 AM 0 COMMENTS




Tammi Rossman-Benjamin. Photo: AMCHA Initiative.

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin
AMCHA Initiative director


Tammi Rossman-Benjamin is a lecturer at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and the co-founder and director of AMCHA Initiative, a non-profit organization devoted to investigating, documenting and combating antisemitism on US campuses. She has written about academic anti-Zionism and antisemitism and lectured widely on the growing threat to the safety of Jewish college students. Her work does not just take place behind a desk; she has been at the center of “campus firestorms” across California, where student groups have urged university administrations to condemn her. She has bravely and eloquently responded to these attacks, stating that her unfortunate experience of being “vilified, harassed, intimidated, and bullied” is not unique.


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Algemeiner Staff

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