



2015: Successes & Impact

MISSION

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **INVESTIGATING:** 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.
 - **Survey of Experiences of Antisemitism Among Jewish Students at the University 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. Specific findings included: 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; and more than **one-third** of respondents felt that campus administrators were not sensitive to Jewish concerns.
 - **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 (NRCs). 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.
- **DOCUMENTING:** 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. In 2015, AMCHA documented 165 Jewish student testimonials from 43 campuses, 461 antisemitic incidents on 129 campuses, 42 incidents of swastikas, 16 Jewish student events disrupted, 26 divestment resolutions - of which 12 passed and 14 were defeated, 406 campuses with academic boycotters, and 9 academic organizations that joined the Academic Boycott of Israel.

- **EDUCATING:** 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. In 2015, there were 750 articles that mentioned AMCHA’s efforts, 16 op-eds penned and published by AMCHA co-founders, 25 op-eds penned by coalition partners as part of an AMCHA-led media campaign, 6 presentations in front of boards of governors given by AMCHA co-founders, and an Antisemitism Questionnaire created and distributed for prospective college students and their families to use.
- **COMBATING:** 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, with 37 coalition efforts carried out in 2015.
 - **Engaging Stakeholders:** AMCHA established a UCLA alumni group and a nationwide alumni network of more than 700 alumni from 75 colleges and universities 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. As a direct result of AMCHA’s reports and other coalition efforts, the Department of Education began requiring that federally-funded Middle East studies programs report on how their activities advance diverse perspectives and a wide range of views.

ACCOLADES

- **CONGRATULATIONS!** AMCHA Initiative Co-Founder Tammi Rossman-Benjamin was selected as one of the “Top Jewish 100 of 2014” by *the Algemeiner* for her work with AMCHA Initiative.

AMCHA Initiative will continue turning our mission into action.

We will continue to protect Jewish students.

Please join us in our important mission.

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