

51 Groups Request Equal Protection from Harassment for All Students

May 31, 2018

Dear Vice Chancellor Kang and Vice Chancellor Gorden,

We are 51 education and civil rights organizations, writing on behalf of our hundreds of thousands of members and supporters.

First, we would like to commend you for your [op-ed](#) in the *Daily Bruin* directly addressing the violent disruption of a Students Supporting Israel event that not only involved the verbal assault, intimidation and silencing of the event's speakers and the vandalizing of their property, but threatened the safety and well-being of everyone in the hall. We particularly appreciate your commitment to using the lessons gleaned from this incident to "review and revise" internal processes that inform how you address incidents such as these in the future.

As you undertake your review, we hope that you will look carefully at the university's anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies, especially those outlined in the DPO's "[Procedures for Handling Allegations of Discrimination, Harassment, or Retaliation](#)" (released 10/3/17). While these policies provide essential protection from behaviors that impede expression and full participation in university life, they only fully afford such protection to students when the motivation for the harassment falls into certain categories based on race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender, etc. This categorization leaves other students - such as Jewish and pro-Israel students targeted by the type of anti-Zionist harassment on display in the recent horrific incident - relatively unprotected in the face of the exact same intolerant, harassing behaviors, and vulnerable to the effects of those same behaviors. As we are sure you can appreciate, harassment and free speech are intrinsically linked, and without full protection from harassment, free speech rights are curtailed. Students who fear they will not be adequately protected from harassing behaviors will not feel free to express their beliefs and opinions in the classroom, in the dorm, in the event hall, or in the quad. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is happening to Jewish and pro-Israel students on your campus, and will continue to happen, until these students are secure in the knowledge that they will be equally protected from the anti-Zionist harassment that routinely impedes their freedom of expression, assembly and association.

Therefore, we urge you to make a formal statement committing UCLA to applying the same stringent standard prescribed by the university's anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies to each and every student. It is a simple step that will go a long way toward protecting free speech, encouraging a diverse range of views for students to learn from, and ensuring a campus free from harassment and discrimination.

Thank you for your leadership at this critical time.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Organizations:

Academic Council for Israel
Accuracy in Academia
Aggies for Israel
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)
Alums for Campus Fairness - Swarthmore
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis
Alums for Campus Fairness - UCLA
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside
AMCHA Initiative
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
American Institute for Jewish Research
American Truth Project
Americans for Peace and Tolerance
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore
Christians and Jews United for Israel
Club Z
Coalition for Jewish Values
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
Communities for Israel
Davis Faculty for Israel
Eagles Wings
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Hasbara Fellowships
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel
Iranian American Jewish Federation
Iranian Jewish Women's Organization
Israel-American Coalition for Action
Israel Matters
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)
JAM
Jerusalem U
Middle East Forum
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)
National Conference on Jewish Affairs
NCSY
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Rhode Island Coalition for Israel
Russian Jewish Community Foundation
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Stop BDS on Campus
Students Supporting Israel National
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia

Students Supporting Israel at UCLA
Students Supporting Israel at UC Irvine
Students Supporting Israel at UC Santa Barbara
The Israel Christian Nexus
Training and Education About the Middle East (T.E.A.M.)

Cc: UCLA Chancellor Gene Block
UC President Janet Napolitano
UC Regents
California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson
Senator Benjamin Allen, Chair California Senate Standing Committee on Education
Assembly Member Jose Medina, Chair California Assembly Higher Education Committee
Assembly Member Shirley Weber, Chair Assembly Select Committee on Campus Climate
Assembly Member Mark Levine, Chair Jewish Legislative Caucus