

LETTER TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY RE: AMCHA'S NEW REPORT

From: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 3:26 PM

To: Drew Faust

Cc: Harvard Provost; Dean Michael D. Smith; Gay, Claudine; Kelsey, Robin

Subject: Harvard University mentioned in new study on academic boycotters and campus antisemitism

Dear President Faust,

I wanted to share with you AMCHA Initiative's new [report](#), "The Impact of Academic Boycotters of Israel on U.S. Campuses," which mentions Harvard University.

I know you are already familiar with the way in which academic boycotts violate the basic tenets of academic freedom if implemented, and I commend you for your outstanding statement denouncing the American Studies Association's resolution to impose an academic boycott on Israel:

"Academic boycotts subvert the academic freedoms and values necessary to the free flow of ideas, which is the lifeblood of the worldwide community of scholars. The recent resolution of the ASA proposing to boycott Israeli universities represents a direct threat to these ideals, ideals which universities and scholarly associations should be dedicated to defend."

What you may not be aware of, however, and what we wanted to share, is new research that demonstrates the extent to which the on-campus implementation and advocacy of an academic boycott of Israel directly harm American students and faculty at U.S. universities. AMCHA's new study, which can be found [here](#), investigates these harms.

Our results strongly suggest that at least some faculty who have signed petitions or statements in support of an academic boycott of Israel are bringing their anti-Israel sentiments and support for BDS to campus through their department's sponsorship of events with pro-BDS speakers. These events, in turn, significantly increase the likelihood of on-campus acts of anti-Jewish hostility such as assault, harassment, destruction of property and suppression of speech. Specifically, the study found that pro-BDS faculty were between five and twelve times more likely to sponsor events with BDS-supporting speakers, and schools that hosted these events were twice as likely to have acts of anti-Jewish hostility.

The report has been covered in several media outlets, including *The Washington Free Beacon*, *The Jerusalem Post*, *Mosaic Magazine*, *Algemeiner*, *Jewish Press*, *Arutz Sheva*, and *Education Views*, among others.

I would be happy to discuss the report in more detail at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

AMCHA Initiative, Director

To see the full report: <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Faculty-Report.pdf>

CC: Provost Alan M. Garber
Edgerley Family Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Michael D. Smith
Dean of Social Science Claudine Gay
Dean of Arts & Humanities Robin E. Kelsey