

Syracuse University mentioned in new study on academic boycotters and campus antisemitism

November 16, 2017

Dear Chancellor Syverud,

I wanted to share with you AMCHA Initiative's new [report](#), "The Impact of Academic Boycotters of Israel on U.S. Campuses," which mentions Syracuse 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 your predecessor, Interim Chancellor and Provost, Eric F. Spina, for denouncing the American Studies Association's resolution to impose an academic boycott on Israel:

"...Syracuse University does not support the boycott of Israeli academic institutions. I believe that such a boycott is fundamentally counter to the free and open exchange of knowledge, ideas and perspectives, which is the cornerstone upon which, ultimately, common understanding will be reached and peaceful progress will be made in the Middle East. It is clear that scholars and academic institutions on all sides, in all countries and territories, and of all viewpoints are central to this discussion and debate, and we hope that all will be welcomed and encouraged to engage in this dialogue."

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

www.AMCHAinitiative.org

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

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