



## About AMCHA Initiative

**Mission & History:** AMCHA Initiative is a non-profit organization dedicated to investigating, raising awareness about, and combating acts of antisemitism at institutions of higher education in America. AMCHA was founded in 2012 by UC Santa Cruz lecturer Tammi Rossman-Benjamin and UCLA professor emeritus Leila Beckwith.

**Efforts & Leadership:** AMCHA is a national leader in the following areas:

**Monitoring:** As the **only publicly-accessible**, user-friendly and **searchable database of antisemitic activity** on more than 400 campuses nationwide, AMCHA's website is widely-relied on as a valuable resource for university stakeholders, allied organizations, state and federal legislators and scholars of antisemitism. The database has systematically recorded over 2,000 incidents since 2015 including physical assault, vandalism, harassment, genocidal expression, demonization of Israel and BDS activity; and displayed over 700 public student quotes of Jewish students to capture the emotional toll of facing antisemitic activity on campus.

**Investigating:** AMCHA's empirical studies are an essential tool for exposing antisemitic activity on campuses across the country, and are relied upon by policy makers, advocates, journalists and the general public. AMCHA's studies **revealed for the first time a statistically robust correlation between anti-Israel campus activism and acts of anti-Jewish hostility**, as well as a clear association between faculty support for anti-Israel academic boycotts and an increase in campus antisemitism. Our latest report demonstrated empirically that anti-Zionist harassment is the biggest contributor to a hostile environment for Jewish students, and that Israel-related incidents are becoming more flagrant and include open calls for the boycott of Jewish and pro-Israel students and groups.

**Educating:** AMCHA has been a major force in bringing the issue of campus antisemitism to national attention. AMCHA's activism, reports and website have been covered in **thousands of articles** in notable publications such as *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Times*, *The Hill*, *NPR*, *ABC News*, *McClatchy*, *Politico*, *New York Observer*, *Washington Free Beacon*, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, *Oakland Press*, *Haaretz*, *Times of Israel* and dozens more. The 70 op-eds written by AMCHA's co-founders have appeared in dozens of media outlets. AMCHA's director has been featured in dozens of radio and podcast interviews, numerous public lectures to synagogue and community groups across the country, webinars, and talks for high school students in the Bay Area, Boston and Washington DC.

**Combating:** AMCHA has been a dominant force in combating campus antisemitism nationally, together with an AMCHA-led at-will coalition of **over 60 religious, educational, legal, civil rights, and advocacy groups** that have joined in responding to antisemitic incidents on 32 campuses in 12 states; the coordination of campaigns involving media, lobbying and grassroots advocacy efforts to ensure adequate protection for Jewish students; and the development of an extensive network of stakeholders that includes, in addition to the 60+ groups, approximately **10,000 grassroots activists** and **1,500 alumni** on campuses across the country. Some of AMCHA's successes in combating campus antisemitic activity include:

- After a year of AMCHA-led efforts, the University of California Regents unanimously passed a landmark intolerance statement that specifically addresses antisemitism and anti-Zionism;
- AMCHA's studies on the support for BDS among Middle East studies faculty were instrumental in the U.S. Department of Education's revisions of its policies to ensure that federally-funded Middle East studies programs report on how their activities advance diverse perspectives;
- AMCHA's activism resulted in the first-ever public acknowledgement by the UC Office of the President that UC policy prohibits both faculty and graduate student instructors from promoting BDS in their classrooms.

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