

Response from 101 Organizations to Brown University President Paxson

From: Tammi Rossman-Benjamin

Subject: Re: 101 Organizations Urge Your Endorsement of the University Leaders Statement Against the Implementation of an Academic Boycott of Israel

Date: December 19, 2018

To: President Christina Paxson

Dear President Paxson,

Thank you for your response to the letter from our 101 civil rights, education, religious, student and faculty organizations. We appreciate your previously stated opposition to the academic boycott of Israel. However, in light of recent incidents at the University of Michigan and Pitzer College, in which faculty who support the academic boycott have, in the name of politics, inflicted direct and substantive harm on their own students wanting to study in and about Israel, we believe **a stronger statement specifically addressing the boycott's harms to the educational opportunities and academic freedom of Brown University students is critical at this time.**

You may be aware that a number of Brown University faculty members have expressed public support for the academic boycott of Israel. They sit in departments of Middle East Studies, Anthropology, Archeology, Comparative Literature, etc., and at least seven faculty boycotters at your university hold administrative positions within their respective departments and programs, including five program directors and department chairs. All of these departments and programs have academic missions that are supported by traveling to and studying about many countries in the world, including Israel. However, were the faculty boycotters affiliated with or heading up these departments and programs to go beyond verbal support for the academic boycott and actually attempt to implement the boycott at Brown University — as faculty at the University of Michigan and Pitzer College did by refusing to write letters of recommendation for students wanting to study in Israel and attempting to shut down their school's official study abroad program in Israel — it would directly threaten the academic freedom and educational opportunities of students at your school.

Brown University students and other stakeholders are justifiably concerned about the very real prospect of faculty implementing an academic boycott of Israel that would unconscionably hold students' educational opportunities and rights hostage to an anti-Israel political agenda.

Therefore, we hope you will reconsider endorsing the [University Leaders Statement Against the Implementation of an Academic Boycott of Israel](#). Alternatively, you may want to consider issuing your own statement strongly condemning the harms that the implementation of an academic boycott of Israel will cause for students and faculty on your campus, similar to the attached [statement](#) signed by all 10 University of California Chancellors in response to our 101 groups' request. In particular, the UC Chancellors, who, like yourself, had each previously issued statements in opposition to the academic boycott of Israel, felt the need to firmly state at this point in time: "We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse regarding conflicts in the Middle East."

Thank you for your leadership and concern for the academic rights of students and faculty at Brown University.

Sincerely,

Academic Council for Israel
Academic Engagement Network
Accuracy in Academia
Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity (AEPi)
Alums for Campus Fairness - Columbia University
Alums for Campus Fairness - National
Alums for Campus Fairness - Swarthmore
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Davis
Alums for Campus Fairness - UC Riverside
Alums for Campus Fairness - UCLA
Alums for Campus Fairness - University of Michigan
AMCHA Initiative
America Israel Cooperative Enterprise
American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
American Council of Trustees and Alumni
American Institute for Jewish Research
American Jewish International Relations Institute
American Truth Project
American Zionist Movement
Americans for Peace and Tolerance
Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA)
B'nai B'rith International
BEAR: Bias Education, Advocacy & Resources
Binghamton University Zionist Organization (BUZO)
Bobcats for Israel at Ohio University
Boston Israel Action Committee
Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
Buckeyes for Israel (Ohio State University)
Bulldogs for Israel (Brooklyn College)
Campus Anti-Semitism Task Force of the North Shore
Center for Righteousness and Integrity
Christians and Jews United for Israel
Club Z
Coalition for Jewish Values
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)
Congregation Beth El Israel Committee
CUFI on Campus
Dartmouth Students for Israel
Davis Faculty for Israel
Eagles Wings
Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors
Hasbara Fellowships
Hoos for Israel (University of Virginia)
Institute for Black Solidarity with Israel
Iranian American Jewish Federation
Iranian Jewish Women's Organization
Israel Allies Foundation
Israel in NYC
Israel Matters
Israel Peace Initiative (IPI)
Israeli-American Civic Action Network
Israeli-American Civic Education Institute
JAM
Jerusalem U
Jewish War Veterans of the USA
Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)
Knights for Israel (University of Central Florida)
Mercaz USA
Merrick-Bellmore Jewish Community Council
Middle East Forum
Middle East Political and Information Network (MEPIN)
National Conference on Jewish Affairs
National Council of Young Israel
NCSY
NH4Israel
Oral Roberts University United for Israel Club
Proclaiming Justice to the Nations
Rabbinical Alliance of America
Religious Zionists of America
Rhode Island Coalition for Israel
Roc4Israel
Russian Jewish Community Foundation
Scholars for Peace in the Middle East
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Slugs for Israel (University of California Santa Cruz)
StandWithUs
StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department
Stop BDS on Campus
Students and Parents Against Campus Anti-Semitism
Students Supporting Israel at Chapman University
Students Supporting Israel at City College of New York
Students Supporting Israel at Columbia
Students Supporting Israel at Drake University
Students Supporting Israel at Penn State University
Students Supporting Israel at San Jose State University
Students Supporting Israel at UC Irvine
Students Supporting Israel at UC Santa Barbara
Students Supporting Israel at UCLA

Students Supporting Israel at University of Minnesota
Students Supporting Israel National
Students Supporting Israel of Santa Monica College
Swarthmore Students for Israel
The Israel Christian Nexus
The Israel Project
Tufts Friends of Israel
WoMen For All
Young Jewish Conservatives
Zionist Organization of America
ZOA's Fuel for Truth