



A Looming Crisis for the
American Jewish Community:

Campus Antisemitism & the Assault on Jewish Identity

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Executive Summary



When it comes to campus antisemitism, considerable attention has been focused on incidents that threaten Jewish students' physical safety or target them for discrimination and harassment. AMCHA Initiative's online database of antisemitic activity¹ includes nearly 2,000 incidents involving the targeting of Jewish students for harm² since 2015. In addition, several of AMCHA's annual reports³ have documented the alarming increase over time in the frequency and intensity of such incidents, particularly those motivated by animus towards Israel and its on-campus supporters, and this trend is highlighted in a recent report by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL),⁴ which found hundreds of anti-Zionist motivated incidents on U.S. campuses in the 2021-2022 academic year.

However, it is crucial that the Jewish community understand that hidden within these numbers is an insidious phenomenon that has taken root on college campuses of late: a pervasive and relentless assault on Jewish identity that is likely to have dire consequences for the Jewish community in the years to come.

The current study investigated the nature, scope and trajectory of the threats to Jewish identity on over 100 college and university campuses most popular with Jewish students and the potential

¹ <https://amchainitiative.org/search-by-incident#incident/display-by-date/>

² Each incident in AMCHA's database is categorized as either Targeting Jewish Students for Harm, Antisemitic Expression, or BDS Activity. The database contains over 5,000 total incidents since 2015, of which more than 1,900 have been categorized as Targeting Jewish Students for Harm. (See: <https://amchainitiative.org/categories-antisemitic-activity/>).

³ <https://amchainitiative.org/reports>

⁴ <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/anti-israel-activism-us-campuses-2021-2022>

sources of those threats, with a particular focus on faculty and anti-Zionist Jewish groups and individuals. Our major findings include:

- 1.** Incidents involving the suppression, denigration or challenges to the definition of Jewish identity were found on nearly 60% of the campuses most popular with Jewish students, with several schools playing host to 10 or more such incidents in the 2021-2022 academic year, including Harvard University, University of Chicago, Tufts University, UCLA and Rutgers University.
- 2.** Incidents involving attacks on Jewish identity increased 100% to 200% in the academic year following the Israel-Hamas war, with the number of affected schools also increasing dramatically.
- 3.** Faculty and academic departments played a significant role in attacks on Jewish student identity: schools with academic BDS-supporting faculty were three to seven times more likely to have such attacks, and more than one-third of anti-Zionist challenges to well-established definitions of Zionism, Judaism and antisemitism took place in programs sponsored by academic departments.
- 4.** Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) played a significant role in attacks on Jewish identity, with the presence of a JVP or similar Jewish anti-Zionist group more than doubling the likelihood that a campus will play host to incidents involving the redefinition or denigration of Jewish identity.

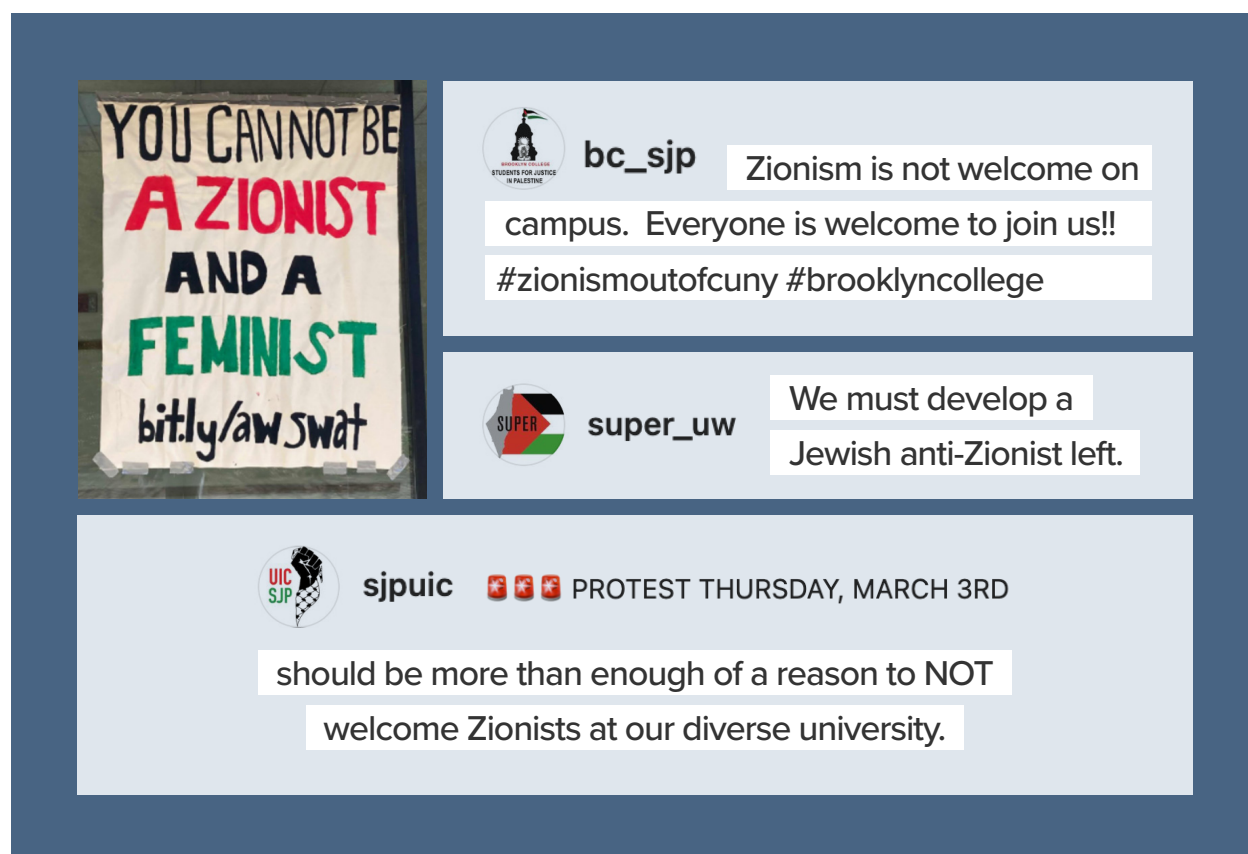
In the short term, the pervasive and well-coordinated attacks on Jewish identity will undoubtedly result in increasing numbers of Jewish students feeling the need to hide their Jewish identity on campus, or to detach from Jewish life partially or completely. In the long term, the sheer scope of the assault on Jewish student identity - which is negatively affecting the level of communal identification and participation of an entire generation of young Jewish adults - presages a major crisis for American Jewry.

It is critically important to find effective strategies for tackling this profoundly alarming problem. Efforts focusing on using anti-discrimination law such as Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ensure that Jewish students are recognized and treated exactly as any other "protected class" group when it comes to addressing anti-Zionist motivated harassment face considerable challenges because of the nature of the current assault on Jewish identity. Widespread attempts to redefine Jewishness and its relationship to Israel directly challenge the recognition of anti-Zionist harassment as a violation of anti-discrimination law. In addition, the pervasive denigration of Zionist Jews with antisemitic tropes of Jewish power and privilege threatens the assumption that Jews constitute an identity group worthy of "protected class" status.

Alternative approaches based on an understanding that all students, including Jewish students,

have a constitutional right to be equally and adequately protected from behavior that limits their self-expression and ability to fully participate in campus life, irrespective of their identity or the motivation of the perpetrator, must be pursued as well.

Finally, while securing equal and adequate protection for Jewish students is crucial for addressing the current assault on Jewish identity, it is not sufficient. The Jewish community must invest in strengthening Jewish life on campus and enabling Jewish students of all backgrounds and levels of prior Jewish engagement to be part of a vibrant community that can provide the support, encouragement, education and fellowship necessary for not only weathering a toxic campus climate, but thriving as Jews.



Illustrative collage of antisemitic expressions targeting Jewish identity seen on U.S. campuses in the 2021-2022 academic year / AMCHA Initiative. Individual source credit attributions for this collage and all images specific to U.S. campus antisemitism that follow in this report can be found in AMCHA Initiative's Antisemitism Tracker.

Introduction



The rapidly rising incidence of acts targeting Jewish students for harm—including assault, harassment and vandalism—has been a major source of concern for Jewish families, particularly those with family members attending, or about to attend, a U.S. college or university campus. However, an often-overlooked aspect of campus antisemitism that should deeply alarm the entire Jewish community is its highly corrosive impact on the Jewish identity formation of an entire generation of students, whose consequences could threaten the future of Jewish life in America.

On most campuses today, identity politics play a crucial role in campus life, and for Jewish students who identify as Zionists or have an affinity for the Jewish state—an affinity which, according to the Anti-Defamation League,⁵ is shared by “the vast majority of Jews around the world”—campus life can be profoundly challenging. A recent Pew study validated ADL’s claim, finding that more than 80% of Jews view Israel as integral to their Jewish identity.⁶ No other campus identity group is routinely subject to the kinds of well-orchestrated campaigns of identity assault that Zionist and pro-Israel students have had to endure for the last several years at schools across the country. These have included efforts to boycott, shut down, or exclude all Zionists and pro-Israel expression from campus, defamatory portrayals of Zionists that use classic antisemitic tropes of Jewish evil,

⁵ According to the Anti-Defamation League: “Zionism is the movement for the self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland, the land of Israel. The vast majority of Jews around the world feel a connection or kinship with Israel, whether or not they explicitly identify as Zionists, and regardless of their opinions on the policies of the Israeli government.” [<https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-terms/zionism>]

⁶ <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/05/11/jewish-americans-in-2020/>

and attempts to erase Zionism from Jewish identity. The threats to Jewish student identity come from their peers, professors, and even school administrators, and reach every corner of campus life—the quad, classrooms, dorm rooms, student newspaper, social media platforms, student government, and more.

Recently, for example,⁷ the editorial board of the student newspaper at Wellesley College called on the school's administration to "cease supporting Birthright Israel" and expressed support for the antisemitic "Mapping Project," which targets for harassment and harm Zionist organizations and individuals in the Boston area, including pro-Israel Wellesley students. The Wellesley student government released a statement in defense of the editorial board, and the school's chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) extended the group's "unconditional support and solidarity."

At George Washington University, flyers stating "Zionists F*** off" were affixed to the property of the GW Hillel a few days before the campus SJP and anti-Zionist Jewish Voice for Peace groups protested a Hillel event with an Israeli speaker that was co-sponsored by two pro-Israel student groups. Following the protest, SJP released a statement directed at the two student groups and Hillel that read, "SHAME ON YOU...for continuing to support a genocidal ideology," while JVP released a statement charging that Hillel "normalizes and perpetuates violence against Palestinians" and claiming, "The separation of Judaism and Zionism is integral to Palestinian liberation and lays at the core of the values that compelled us to organize the October 11th protest."

Although the impact of these threats to Jewish identity is obviously felt most acutely by students who identify as Zionists, hold "pro-Israel" views or feel some other religious or personal connection to Israel, they can also have a profound impact on the significant number of Jewish students who come to campus with little or no background in Judaism or personal connection to Israel. When such Jewish students witness the relentless assault on Zionism, Zionists and the campus organizations that support them, including Hillel, Chabad, and pro-Israel student organizations, they are likely to be far less open to partaking of opportunities to explore their Jewish heritage and identity during their undergraduate years.

AMCHA's newest study comprehensively examines the threats to Jewish student identity on U.S. campuses and demonstrates the prevalence and staggering increase of such threats at schools most popular with Jewish students. The study also analyzes the dire consequences of the sustained assault on Jewish identity for both Jewish students and the Jewish community and considers different approaches to addressing this profoundly alarming problem.

No other campus identity group is routinely subject to the kinds of well-orchestrated campaigns of identity assault that Zionist and pro-Israel students have had to endure for the last several years at schools across the country.

⁷ All antisemitic activity data and examples are culled from AMCHA Initiative's Antisemitism Tracker: <https://amchainitiative.org/search-by-incident#incident/display-by-date/>

EXAMPLES OF THREATS TO JEWISH IDENTITY ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES NATIONWIDE 2021-2022

In the 2021-2022 academic year, several high-profile incidents drew considerable attention to the anti-Zionist motivated harassment threatening the safety and well-being of Jewish students on campuses nationwide. Less obvious, however, was how these incidents constituted a serious assault on Jewish students' identity, involving not only the denigration and suppression of their identity as Jews who identify with the Jewish state, but also insidious attempts by their peers and professors to wholly redefine Jewishness and its relationship to Israel. Such redefinition—including attempts to disconnect Zionism from Judaism and progressive values; deny that anti-Zionism is antisemitism and further denigrate those who say it is as malign actors and bullies; and promote anti-Zionist Jews as models of Jewish authenticity—not only serves to legitimize and incite the denigration and suppression of Jewish identity, it can also hamper the ability of Jewish students to seek redress from school administrators for the anti-Zionist motivated harassment that accompanies the assault on their identity.

Consider the following examples, noting in particular how the perpetrators' attempts to redefine Jewishness and antisemitism contribute to the overall assault on Jewish identity by justifying and even inciting acts that denigrate pro-Israel Jews and attempt to suppress their expression:

- At **State University of New York, New Paltz**, two Jewish members, one of them a founder of New Paltz Accountability (NPA), a support group for survivors of sexual violence, were ousted from that group after sharing their Zionist views on Instagram. A statement on the NPA's Instagram page read, "To fight against sexual violence, we must oppose all forms of oppression. This includes the ethnic-cleansing of Palestinians. Supporting a settler-colonial state goes against what we stand for and thus we cannot organize with members who do so." A subsequent posting stated, "Anti-Zionism is not Anti-Semitism. Regardless of how Zionism is defined, it is a form of white supremacy in practice...That is why many Jewish people are anti-Zionist." Following their ouster from the NPA, one of the students was subject to social media bullying that included posts threatening to spit on her, and other posts calling her a "dumb b*tch" who supports "mass genocide!!!!!!!" and "needs to go." Both students had reportedly reached out to SUNY-New Paltz's Title IX Office, where a representative at the office told them that she could not understand the antisemitic nature of the incident they had reported and was therefore unable to assist them.
- At **Harvard University**, the Editorial Board of *The Harvard Crimson* authored an editorial entitled "In Support of Boycott, Divest, Sanction and a Free Palestine," which affirmed that the editorial board was "broadly and proudly supportive" of the pro-BDS mission and activism of the Harvard College Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), "including its recent art display" containing a Wall of Resistance that stated: "Zionism is Racism, Settler-Colonial-

ism, White Supremacy Apartheid.” The editors further claimed that while they “unambiguously oppose and condemn antisemitism in every and all forms...[n]othing about PSC’s Wall of Resistance denies that,” emphasizing that “support for Palestinian liberation is not antisemitic.” The following month, *The Harvard Crimson* published a letter signed by 49 Harvard faculty and staff members entitled “Statement in Support of The Harvard Crimson and Palestinian Liberation” that denounced a statement from their faculty colleagues expressing concern about the antisemitic nature of the editorial board’s endorsement of BDS and its potentially harmful impact on Jewish and Zionist students. The *Crimson* letter stated: “[In] blaming BDS for rising antisemitism, and equating student opposition to Israel’s policies with ‘anti-Jewish hate speech,’ [our colleagues’] statement conflates Jewishness with Israel and Zionism and erases the presence of Jewish students and organizations that oppose Zionism and root their support for Palestinian liberation in a moral understanding of Judaism.”



- At **University of Chicago**, SJP launched a campaign dubbed “Don’t Take Sh*tty Zionist Classes,” that urged students to boycott several classes containing a “Zionist agenda,” and accused students who do take the classes of “participating in a propaganda campaign that creates complicity in the continuation of Israel’s occupation of Palestine.” An SJP member’s article in the *Chicago Maroon* that defended the group’s boycott from the charge of antisemitism asserted that such a charge “assumes that anti-Zionism equates to anti-Semitism,” which “is categorically false.” In support of his contention, he notes, “Many Jewish organizations and movements, like Jewish Voice for Peace, are openly anti-Zionist. Many UChicago Jewish students are anti-Zionists, actively voicing their support for Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions—the Palestinian-led movement whose principles guide SJP—and call-

ing for the end of Israeli occupation of Palestinian land.” A subsequent statement from SJP that also appeared in the *Maroon* argued that framing the group’s boycott as ‘anti-Jewish’ “not only perpetuates the dangerous (and wholly false) conflation of Jewishness and Zionism, but deliberately diverts attention from the ongoing ethnic cleansing that the Israeli [sic] colony has been inflicting on Palestinian lands and peoples from its inception to the present.” Soon after, the *Maroon’s* Viewpoints Head Editors removed from their website an op-ed written by Jewish students expressing concern over SJP’s cam-



campaign, claiming it contained “factual inaccuracies...[that] were used to support Zionist and racist sentiments” and “perpetuated hate toward UChicago’s chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine, Palestinian students, and those on campus who support the Palestinian liberation struggle.”

Other, less well-known incidents that occurred in the 2021-2022 academic year further exemplify the suppression, denigration and redefinition constituting the current assault on Jewish identity on campuses nationwide:

- A Jewish student at the University of Connecticut was kicked out of an a cappella group because of pro-Israel remarks she had made on social media.
- A student newspaper article at Duke vilified Students Supporting Israel (SSI), a pro-Israel student group on campus, claiming, "SSI and other pro-Israel organizations have chosen the racist route...Fallacious claims of antisemitism may seem universal to Jewish groups at Duke if only because of the rigid and force-fed narrative the university has afforded to Jewish organizing...Students Supporting Israel is antithetical to living authentically as a Jew...Denouncing falsely-proposed claims of antisemitism is essential [as] combatting these false claims asks pro-Israel organizations to finally begin repairing the deep trauma that they have caused to their classmates...Subjugating Zionism is necessary in recognizing the humanity of us all."
- An SJP leader at Northwestern University proclaimed, "You can't be progressive while failing to acknowledge genocide and what's one of the worst human rights violations in the past several decades."
- A departmental event at Cornell University included a presentation arguing for "understanding Zionism as a project of racial capitalism" akin to "carceral regimes here in the US."



- Religion, Conflict and Peace Initiative at Harvard University held the event "Yom Ha'atzmaut and the Colonization of American Judaism," where Harvard Professor Atalia Omer stated the event was designed to "decolonize or de-Zionize Jewishness itself." Rabbi Brant Rosen, co-founder and co-chair of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council expressed, "The central aspect of my project has been the composition of new Jewish prayers that consciously interrupt the assumptions of Zionism and Jewish nation statism." And Visiting Professor at Harvard Law Daniel Boyarin promoted his book about "Jewish resistance to Jewish evil as an important part of Jewish identity."
- SJP at CUNY Brooklyn College promoted the protest of an Israeli Independence Day celebration with the messages, "Zionism is not welcome on campus" and "#zionismoutofcuny."
- At Brandeis University, the Brandeis Leftist Union organized and promoted a rally to "protest Zionism on Campus."
- See **APPENDIX** for a number of additional examples.

EVALUATING THE NATURE, SCOPE AND TRAJECTORY OF THREATS TO JEWISH STUDENT IDENTITY

In light of these sustained campaigns of assault against Jewish identity, it is hardly surprising that a growing number of Jewish college and university students do not feel comfortable expressing their Jewish identity on campus, particularly if it includes an affinity for Israel or Zionism.

In light of these sustained campaigns of assault against Jewish identity, it is hardly surprising that a growing number of Jewish college and university students do not feel comfortable expressing their Jewish identity on campus, particularly if it includes an affinity for Israel or Zionism. A survey⁸ of over 1,000 Jewishly-identified college and university students in the United States, commissioned by the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and conducted in April 2021, found that more than half felt the need to hide their Jewish identity.

As disturbing as these results are, they would likely have revealed a far grimmer reality had the survey been conducted a month or two later, in the weeks following the onset of the Israel-Hamas conflict, which triggered an explosion of antisemitic activity on campuses across the country. An AMCHA Initiative study⁹ found that in the 2020-2021 academic year, more than half of all acts of aggression towards Jewish and pro-Israel students, antisemitic rhetoric and/or BDS promotion occurred in the 10 weeks following the onset of the war, despite the fact that many schools were then in the midst of graduation activities or had even completed them.

Importantly, the AMCHA study also found that while much of the antisemitic activity during this period was perpetrated by anti-Zionist students and student groups, individual faculty played a very significant role in both perpetrating and inciting antisemitic rhetoric, BDS promotion and behavior targeting Jewish and pro-Israel students for harm. In particular, the unprecedented anti-Zionist statements containing rhetoric consistent with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism,¹⁰ that were issued or endorsed by 160 academic departments at more than 120 U.S. colleges and universities, gave further academic legitimacy to these acts of antisemitism. These combined factors would likely have made it considerably harder for most Jewish students to feel comfortable expressing their identity during this period.

THE CURRENT STUDY: AN INVESTIGATION OF THREATS TO JEWISH IDENTITY 2021-2022

The current study investigated the nature, scope and trajectory of the threats to Jewish identity on over 100 college and university campuses most popular with Jewish students and the potential

⁸ <https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Brandeis-Survey-Findings.pdf>

⁹ <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Faculty-Academic-Boycotters-Antisemitism-Report.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

sources of those threats, with a particular focus on faculty and anti-Zionist Jewish groups and individuals. The study divided these threats to Jewish students' identity into three general categories:

- 1 **Redefinition:** including expression that dissociates Zionism from Judaism or progressive values; denies that anti-Zionism is antisemitism and denigrates those who say it is as malign actors and bullies; or promotes anti-Zionist Jews as models of Jewish authenticity
- 2 **Denigration:** including expression that uses classic antisemitic tropes to vilify Jewish or Zionist identity
- 3 **Suppression:** including calls to rid the campus of Zionism or Zionists; attempts at boycotting/cancelling/shutting down Israel-related events, programs, classes, trips, etc.; bullying or intimidating Jewish students; or discouraging Jewish students from engaging in Birthright or other Jewish identity trips

(For specific examples of each category, see Appendix).

Key findings of the study include:

- **Overall threats to Jewish identity (i.e. incidents involving redefinition, denigration and/or suppression) were found on nearly 60% of the campuses most popular with Jewish students, with 10 or more** such incidents documented on the following campuses in the 2021-2022 academic year:
 - Harvard University – **25** incidents
 - University of Chicago – **13** incidents
 - Tufts University – **12** incidents
 - Rutgers University – **10** incidents
 - University of California Los Angeles – **10** incidents
- **Threats to Jewish identity rose 100% to 200% and even higher in the academic year following the Israel-Hamas war, with the number of affected schools also increasing dramatically.** A comparison of the ten-month period before the onset of the conflict and the first ten months of the 2021-2022 academic year found:
 - **Overall threats** to Jewish identity **doubled** (from 114 to 228 incidents), with the number of affected schools increasing by 41% (from 41 to 58 schools)
 - **Redefinition** of Jewish identity **rose by 75%** (from 73 to 128 incidents), with the number of affected schools increasing by 65% (from 26 to 43):
 - Attempts to disconnect Zionism from Judaism **nearly tripled** (from 16 to 47 incidents), as did the number of affected schools (from 9 to 26 schools)

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- Attempts to disconnect Zionism from progressive causes **nearly tripled** (from 23 to 64 incidents), with the number of affected schools more than doubling (from 14 to 34 schools)
 - Promotion of anti-Zionist Jews as more authentic than Zionist Jews **doubled** (from 20 to 40 incidents), with the number of affected schools increasing by 77% (from 13 to 23 schools)
 - Claims that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism **rose by 43%** (from 42 to 60 incidents), with the number of affected schools increasing by 32% (from 22 to 29 schools)
 - **Denigration** of Jewish identity **more than tripled** (from 34 to 108 incidents), with the number of affected schools more than doubling (from 22 to 45 schools)
 - **Suppression** of Jewish Identity **more than tripled** (from 37 to 123 incidents), with the number of affected schools more than doubling (from 23 to 49 schools):
 - Calls to rid the campus of Zionism **increased more than six-fold** (from 5 to 32 incidents), with the number of affected schools increasing nearly five-fold (from 4 to 18)
 - Attempts at boycotting/cancelling/shutting down Israel-related events, programs, classes, trips, etc. **increased nearly five-fold** (from 13 to 64 incidents), with the number of affected schools nearly tripling (from 9 to 26 schools)
 - Bullying and intimidation of Jewish students **tripled** (from 10 to 30 incidents), with the number of affected schools more than doubling (from 9 to 20 schools)
 - Calls for Jewish students to reject Birthright or other Jewish identity trips **increased from 1 to 19 incidents**, with the number of affected schools increasing from 1 to 11
 - **Faculty contributed significantly to attacks on Jewish student identity during the 2021-2022 academic year, with schools with five or more faculty boycotters being nearly 4 times more likely to have any kind of assault on Jewish identity, and more than 6 times as likely to have incidents of redefinition:**
 - The presence and number of faculty who had expressed extramural support for an academic boycott of Israel were significantly associated with threats to Jewish identity:
 - Schools with five or more faculty boycotters were **3.8 times** more likely to have any kind of threat to Jewish identity than schools with fewer than five faculty boycotters

- Schools with five or more faculty boycotters were **6.5 times** more likely to have incidents involving the redefinition of Jewish identity, with the relative impact of faculty boycotters being **considerably higher than the impact of anti-Zionist student groups**
- Schools with five or more faculty boycotters were **3.4 times** more likely to have incidents involving the denigration of Jewish identity
- **21% of overall threats** to Jewish Identity and **36%** of all **redefinition** incidents took place at events sponsored by academic departments
- **Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) played a significant role in attacks on Jewish identity, particularly redefinition, during the 2021-2022 academic year, with the presence of a JVP chapter or similar group doubling the likelihood that a school would have attacks involving redefinition or denigration:**
 - The presence of a Jewish anti-Zionist student group was significantly associated with both the redefinition and denigration of Jewish identity: Schools with a JVP chapter or similar group were **2.3 times** more likely to have incidents involving **redefinition**, and **2.0 times** more likely to have incidents involving **denigration** than schools with no such anti-Zionist Jewish group
 - Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and student groups such as JVP were involved in the perpetration of **12%** of **overall threats** to Jewish Identity and **19%** of all **redefinition** incidents
 - Schools with both an active JVP or similar group and an active non-Jewish anti-Zionist group, such as SJP, were **2 to 3 times** more likely to have any category of incident threatening Jewish identity than schools with only an SJP or similar group, suggesting that anti-Zionist Jewish groups like JVP contribute to campus antisemitism by augmenting the antisemitic activity of groups like SJP

Methodology



DATA COLLECTION

Hillel International compiles an annual list of the 120 public and private colleges and universities with the largest populations of Jewish students in North America.¹¹ Eliminating from Hillel's list all two-year colleges and Canadian schools, this study focused on the 109 remaining schools, examining threats to Jewish student identity on each campus from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022, the previous academic year.

Data were gathered by reviewing submitted incident reports, media accounts, social media postings and on-line recordings. Each incident that met AMCHA's criteria for antisemitic content¹² was further analyzed to determine whether it contained threats to Jewish identity, and if so, the category and subcategory of the threat (See below: Identifying Threats to Jewish Identity).

For those incidents occurring July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, each incident was also analyzed to determine whether one or more academic departments were involved with the incident, and whether an anti-Zionist Jewish individual or organization was involved with the incident.

In addition, the following information was collected about each of the 109 schools in the study:

¹¹ <https://www.hillel.org/college-guide/top-60-jewish-schools>

¹² <https://amchainitiative.org/categories-antisemitic-activity>

- Whether it was public or private
- The total student population (undergraduate and graduate)
- The presence of one or more active anti-Zionist student groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)
- The presence of a specifically Jewish anti-Zionist student group such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
- The number of faculty who had signed one or more public petitions or statements endorsing an academic boycott of Israeli universities and scholars¹³

IDENTIFYING THREATS TO JEWISH IDENTITY

Incidents were identified as being threats to Jewish identity if they contained one or more of the following behaviors or types of expression:



Redefinition

- Zionism ≠ Judaism – including claims that Judaism is just a religion that doesn't include nationhood or connection to Israel; Zionism is a settler colonial political project that exploits Judaism to achieve its goals
- Anti-Zionism ≠ Antisemitism – including claims that antisemitism only comes from the right/white supremacists/racists/Europe; that Zionism is itself antisemitism; that anti-Zionism is part of larger movements to fight oppression and is praiseworthy; that the IHRA definition is illegitimate; that the attempt to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism is a malign effort to cover up Israel's crimes and harass and silence pro-Palestinian activists
- Zionism is anti-progressive – including claims that Zionism is incompatible with other progressive struggles and contradicts and/or seeks to exploit them to achieve its goals
- Jew Splitting – Delegitimizing Zionist Jews by promoting anti-Zionist Jews as more authentic; demonizing Zionist Jews as oppressing fellow Jews



Denigration

- Vilifying of campus or U.S. Zionists or Zionist organizations with accusations of malign intent and undue privilege, power or influence used to cause, support or promote harm to Palestinians or their supporters
- Vilifying specific Jews or Jews generally with accusations of malign intent and undue privilege, power or influence

¹³ <https://amchainitiative.org/faculty-boycotters/>



Suppression

- Calls to: eliminate Zionism from campus and beyond, cut all ties to Israel, Zionism or Zionists
- Attempts to boycott, shut down, or cancel specific Israel-related programs, events, trips, articles, or collaborations or dialogue with Zionists or Zionist student groups
- Encouraging students to reject Birthright trips; denigrating Birthright and those who go on it
- Bullying, intimidation to silence Jewish and Zionist expression

STATISTICAL ANALYSES

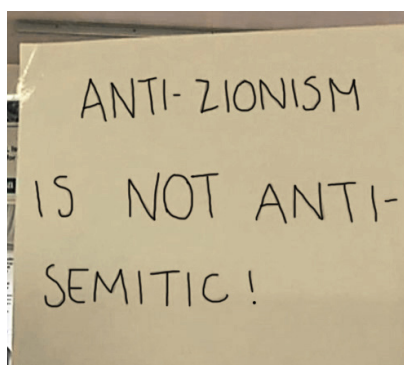
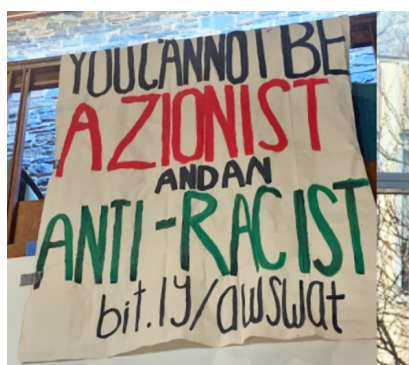
This study used **negative binomial regression** to isolate the respective contributions of faculty boycotters and the presence of Jewish and non-Jewish anti-Zionist student groups, controlling for the size of the school and whether it was a private or public institution.

The dependent continuous variables in the four negative binomial regression analyses were, respectively: 1) **Redefinition** - the number of incidents involving the redefinition of Jewish identity; 2) **Denigration** - the number of incidents involving the denigration of Jewish identity; 3) **Suppression** - the number of incidents involving the suppression of Jewish identity; and 4) **Overall threats** - the total number of incidents with one or more kinds of threat to Jewish identity (i.e. an incident containing either redefinition, denigration, suppression or some combination of these types of threats).

In all of the regression analyses, the independent variables were the same:

- Whether or not a school had five or more faculty who had expressed public support for an academic boycott of Israel
- Whether or not a school had one or more active anti-Zionist student groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)
- Whether or not a school had one or more active, specifically Jewish anti-Zionist student group such as Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP)
- The total student population
- Whether the school was private or public

Findings



1

Threats to Jewish identity were found on a majority of U.S. public and private schools with significant Jewish undergraduate populations in the 2021-2022 academic year.

254 incidents involving either suppression, denigration, redefinition, or some combination of these threats to Jewish identity occurred from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 at **63 (58%)** of the 109 U.S. schools most popular with Jewish students.

Table 1a shows the prevalence of each category and subcategory of threat to Jewish identity, and the number and percentage of schools that played host to it.

TABLE 1a

Total Number of Incidents of Each Category and Subcategory of Threat to Jewish Identity and the Number and Percentage of Schools that Played Host to Them July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022
N=109 Schools

	Total # Incidents	# Schools with ≥ 1 Incidents	% Schools with ≥ 1 Incidents
Overall Threats to Jewish Identity	254	63	58%
Redefinition of Identity	146	47	43%
Zionism ≠ Judaism	57	30	28%
Anti-Zionism ≠ Antisemitism	65	32	29%
Zionism is anti-Progressive	74	37	34%
Jew Splitting (AZ vs Zionist Jews)	44	26	24%
Denigration of Identity	126	51	47%
Denigration of Zionists	90	39	36%
Denigration of Jews	29	23	21%
Suppression of Identity	137	41	38%
Calls to rid campus of Zionism	42	24	22%
Boycott events, collaboration, etc.	74	30	28%
Encouraging Birthright rejection	26	16	15%
Bullying, intimidation	39	24	22%

Table 1b shows the schools with the highest incidence of overall threats to Jewish identity, as well as in each threat category.

TABLE 1b

Schools with the Highest Incidence of Overall Threats to Jewish Identity
and in Each Threat Category July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Highest Incidence of Overall Threats	Highest Incidence of Redefinition	Highest Incidence of Denigration	Highest Incidence of Suppression
Harvard U. (25)	Harvard U. (14)	Harvard U. (16)	Harvard U. (13)
U. of Chicago (13)	U. of Chicago (9)	U. of Chicago (8)	U. of Chicago (10)
Tufts U. (12)	Brown U. (9)	Tufts U. (8)	Tufts U. (7)
UCLA (10)	Tufts U. (8)	UCLA (7)	Virginia Tech (5)
Rutgers U. NB (10)	Columbia U. (8)	U. of Connecticut (6)	Rutgers U. NB (5)
Brown U. (9)	UCLA (6)	U. of Illinois UC (6)	New York U. (5)
New York U. (9)	Rutgers U. NB (6)	Rutgers U. NB (4)	Northwestern U. (4)
Columbia U. (8)	New York U. (6)	New York U. (4)	American U. (4)
U. of Connecticut (7)	Northwestern U. (5)	Washington U. (4)	Georgetown U. (3)
U. of Illinois UC (7)	U. of Connecticut (4)	Duke U. (4)	Washington U. (3)

2

Incidents involving attacks on Jewish identity of every kind rose dramatically in the academic year following the Israel-Hamas war, as did the number of affected schools

A comparison of the ten-month period before the onset of the conflict (July 1, 2020 – May 9, 2021) and the first ten months of the 2021-2022 academic year (July 1, 2021 – May 9, 2022) found a 100% increase in overall threats to Jewish identity (including either redefinition, denigration, suppression or some combination of these), from 114 incidents in 2020-2021 to 228 incidents in 2021-2022. In addition, the total number of schools with overall threats to Jewish identity rose from 41 to 58, a 41% increase.

Table 2 provides a comparison of each category and subcategory of threat to Jewish identity during the period July 1- May 9 of 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, as well the percentage increase.

TABLE 2

Comparison of Number of Incidents and Schools with Threats to Jewish Identity
By Category and Subcategory 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 (July 1 to May 9)

	Incidents 7/1/20 to 5/9/21	Incidents 7/1/21 to 5/9/22	Percent Change Incidents	Schools 7/1/20 to 5/9/21	Schools 7/1/21 to 5/9/22	Percent Change Schools
Overall Threats to Jewish Identity	114	228	+100%	41	58	+41%
Redefinition of Identity	73	128	+75%	26	43	+65%
Zionism ≠ Judaism	16	47	+194%	9	26	+189%
Anti-Zionism ≠ Antisemitism	42	60	+43%	22	29	+32%
Zionism is anti-Progressive	23	64	+178%	14	34	+143%
Jew Splitting (AZ vs Zionist Jews)	20	38	+90%	13	23	+77%
Denigration of Identity	34	108	+218%	22	45	+105%
Denigration of Zionists	26	73	+181%	17	32	+88%
Denigration of Jews	9	28	+211%	8	23	+188%
Suppression of Identity	37	123	+232%	23	49	+113%
Calls to rid campus of Zionism	5	32	+540%	4	18	+350%
Boycott events, collaboration, etc.	13	64	+392%	9	26	+189%
Encouraging Birthright rejection	1	19	+1800%	1	11	+1000%
Bullying, intimidation	10	30	+200%	9	20	+122%

3

The presence of one or more anti-Zionist student groups and five or more faculty boycotters were each strong predictors of whether a school had one or more incidents involving overall threats to Jewish identity occurring in the 2021-2022 academic year.

As shown in Table 3, the presence of one or more (non-Jewish) anti-Zionist student groups on a campus was the strongest predictor of overall threats to Jewish identity, with the presence of an

SJP or similar group making it **5.4 times more likely** there would be one or more incidents involving threats to Jewish identity ($p = .000$). However, the presence of five or more faculty boycotters independently contributed very significantly to the likelihood of such incidents on a campus, with schools being **3.8 times more likely** to have incidents threatening Jewish student identity than schools with less than five faculty boycotters ($p = .001$).

The presence of a Jewish anti-Zionist student group, the size of the school and whether it was public or private were not significant predictors of overall threats to Jewish identity.

TABLE 3

Negative Binomial Regression Analysis of Predictors of Overall Threats to Jewish Identity
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Variable	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Wald χ^2	p-value
≥ 5 Academic Boycotters	3.8	.39	11.2	.001
Non-Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	5.4	.42	16.2	.000
Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	1.8	.32	3.1	.079
School Population	1.0	1.10E-05	1.0	.327
Private or Public School	1.7	.37	2.2	.141

4

The presence of five or more faculty boycotters was the strongest predictor of whether a school had one or more incidents involving the **redefinition** of Jewish identity in the 2021-2022 academic year, though the presence of non-Jewish & Jewish anti-Zionist student groups were each also reliable predictors.

As shown in Table 4, the presence of five or more faculty boycotters on a campus was the most significant predictor of whether a school would have incidents involving the redefinition of Jewish identity, with the likelihood of such incidents being **6.5 times greater** at schools with five or more faculty boycotters ($p = .001$). The presence of one or more (non-Jewish) anti-Zionist group such as SJP and the presence of a Jewish anti-Zionist group such as JVP were also independently reliable predictors of incidents involving redefinition, with schools hosting one or more SJP or similar group being **4.5 times more likely** to have incidents of redefinition ($p = .005$), and schools hosting

a JVP or similar group being **2.3 times more likely** ($p = .016$).

The size of the school and whether it was public or private were not significant predictors of incidents involving the denigration of Jewish identity.

TABLE 4

Negative Binomial Regression Analysis of Predictors of Redefinition of Jewish Identity
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Variable	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Wald χ^2	p-value
≥ 5 Academic Boycotters	6.5	.56	11.1	.001
Non-Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	4.5	.53	8.0	.005
Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	2.3	.35	5.8	.016
School Population	1.0	1.26E-05	.03	.853
Private or Public School	2.0	.41	2.9	.090

5

The presence of five or more faculty boycotters was the strongest predictor of whether a school had one or more incidents involving the **denigration** of Jewish identity in the 2021-2022 academic year, though the presence of non-Jewish & Jewish anti-Zionist student groups were each also reliable predictors.

As shown in Table 5, the presence of five or more faculty boycotters on a campus was the most significant predictor of whether a school would have incidents involving the denigration of Jewish identity, with the likelihood of such incidents being **3.4 times greater** at schools with five or more faculty boycotters ($p = .007$). The presence of one or more (non-Jewish) anti-Zionist group such as SJP and the presence of a Jewish anti-Zionist group such as JVP were also independently reliable predictors of incidents involving denigration, with schools hosting one or more SJP or similar group being **3.0 times more likely** to have incidents of denigration ($p = .019$), and schools hosting a JVP or similar group being **2.0 times more likely** ($p = .043$).

The size of the school and whether it was public or private were not significant predictors of incidents involving the denigration of Jewish identity.

TABLE 5 Negative Binomial Regression Analysis of Predictors of Denigration of Jewish Identity
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Variable	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Wald χ^2	p-value
≥ 5 Academic Boycotters	3.4	.45	7.2	.007
Non-Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	3.0	.47	5.5	.019
Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	2.0	.35	4.1	.043
School Population	1.0	1.14E-05	1.1	.286
Private or Public School	1.6	.40	1.3	.249

6

The presence of one or more anti-Zionist student groups was the only reliable predictor of whether a school had one or more incidents involving the **suppression of Jewish identity** in the 2021-2022 academic year.

As shown in Table 6, schools with one or more (non-Jewish) anti-Zionist student groups was a strong predictor of incidents involving the suppression of Jewish identity, with the presence of one or more such groups on a campus making it **6.0 times more likely** there would be incidents of suppression ($p = .001$).

The presence of a Jewish anti-Zionist student group and the presence of five or more faculty boycotters each neared significance as predictors of incidents involving the suppression of Jewish identity ($p = .051$ and $p = .056$, respectively), while the size of the school and whether it was public or private were not significant predictors of incidents involving the suppression of Jewish identity.

TABLE 6 Negative Binomial Regression Analysis of Predictors of Denigration of Jewish Identity
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

Variable	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	Wald χ^2	p-value
≥ 5 Academic Boycotters	2.5	.48	3.6	.056
Non-Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	6.0	.56	10.3	.001
Jewish Anti-Zionist Student Group	2.0	.36	3.8	.051
School Population	1.0	1.32E-05	.13	.910
Private or Public School	1.7	.41	1.5	.218

7

Academic departments were involved in a significant number of incidents containing threats to Jewish identity, particularly redefinition, during the 2021-2022 academic year.

As shown in Table 7, academic departments, primarily through their sponsorship of events or activities containing threats to Jewish identity, were involved with the purveying of **21%** of all incidents containing threats to Jewish identity, **36%** of the incidents containing redefinition, **13%** of incidents with denigration and **7%** of the incidents involving suppression.

TABLE 7 Departmentally Sponsored Events with Threats to Jewish Identity 2021-2022

Kind of Identity Threat	# Incidents	% Total Incidents	# Schools
Dept. Events with Any Jewish Identity Threat (n=254)	54	21%	21
Dept. Events with Redefinition (n=146)	52	36%	20
Dept. Events with Denigration (n= 126)	17	13%	9
Dept. Events with Suppression (n=137)	9	7%	6

8

Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations were involved in a significant number of incidents containing threats to Jewish identity, particularly redefinition, during the 2021-2022 academic year.

As shown in Table 8, Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations were involved with **12%** of all incidents containing threats to Jewish identity, **19%** of the incidents containing redefinition, **12%** of incidents with denigration and **8%** of the incidents involving suppression.

TABLE 8 Participation of Anti-Zionist Jewish Individuals or Groups in Incidents Involving Threats to Jewish Identity 2021-2022

Kind of Identity Threat	# Incidents	% Total Incidents	# Schools
AZ Jewish Participation in Any Jewish Identity Threat (n= 254)	33	12%	20
AZ Jewish Participation in Redefinition (n=146)	28	19%	17
AZ Jewish Participation in Denigration (n=126)	15	12%	12
AZ Jewish Participation in Suppression (n=137)	11	8%	8

9

Schools with both Jewish and non-Jewish anti-Zionist student groups had a significantly higher incidence of all categories of threats to Jewish identity than schools with only a non-Jewish anti-Zionist student group during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Eighteen of the schools in the study (**17%**) had an active Jewish anti-Zionist student group such as JVP, and each of those schools also had one or more non-Jewish anti-Zionist student group such as SJP. However, **51 of 69** schools with an active non-Jewish anti-Zionist student group such as SJP had no JVP or similar group. (See Table 9a).

As shown in Table 9b, schools with both Jewish and non-Jewish anti-Zionist student groups had a significantly higher incidence of overall threats to Jewish identity (mean of **5.9 incidents**) than schools with only a non-Jewish anti-Zionist group (mean of **2.7 incidents**). Similarly, schools with both Jewish and non-Jewish anti-Zionist groups had significantly higher numbers of each category of threat than schools with only a non-Jewish anti-Zionist group: Suppression (**2.6** mean incidents compared to **1.1** mean incidents); denigration (**3.0** mean incidents compared to **1.2** mean incidents); redefinition (**3.7** mean incidents compared to **1.4** mean incidents). These results suggest that Jewish anti-Zionist groups like JVP serve to augment the antisemitic activity of groups like SJP.

TABLE 9a

Number and Percentage of Schools with Active Jewish and Non-Jewish Anti-Zionist Students Groups
(N=109 Schools)

	# Schools	% Schools
Jewish AZ Group (e.g. JVP)	18	17%
Non-Jewish AZ Group(s) (e.g. SJP)	69	63%
Jewish + Non-Jewish AZ Groups	18	17%
Only Non-Jewish AZ Group(s)	51	47%

TABLE 9b

Comparison of the Mean Number of Incidents of Threats to Jewish Identity in Schools with Jewish (e.g. JVP) and Non-Jewish (e.g. SJP) Anti-Zionist Student Groups to Schools with only Non-Jewish Student Group(s)

	All Threats	Suppression	Denigration	Redefinition
Jewish + Non-Jewish AZ Groups	5.9	2.6	3.0	3.7
Only Non-Jewish AZ Group(s)	2.7	1.1	1.2	1.4
T-Test of means (two-tailed)	t=3.04; p=.003	t=3.04; p=.003	t=3.04; p=.003	t=3.04; p=.003

Discussion



The findings of our study provide strong evidence that the assault on Jewish identity is very real and rapidly escalating on the majority of U.S. campuses most popular with Jewish students. This includes: attempts to redefine Jewish identity by dissociating Zionism from Judaism, pitting Zionism against progressive values, and denying that anti-Zionism is antisemitism, which increased by 75% over the last year with 41% more affected schools; efforts to denigrate and shame Zionist Jews by accusing them of undue privilege, power and control, which rose by 218% with over 105% more affected schools; and attempts to purge Zionism and Zionists from campus life, which increased by 232% with over 113% more affected schools.

CAMPUS SOURCES OF THE ASSAULT ON JEWISH IDENTITY

Not surprisingly, anti-Zionist student groups like SJP, whose members are very often implicated in the perpetration of verbal and physical acts that target Jewish students for harm, were the largest overall contributor to behavior that threatened Jewish identity, as well as the only reliable contributor to incidents of suppression, which involve active efforts to silence Zionist expression on campus. Interestingly, however, the contribution of groups like SJP to the two other categories of identity threat—denigration and redefinition—though significant, was smaller than the relative contribution of faculty who support academic BDS. Considering that a significant portion of the

[W]hen faculty and academic departments assert as fact propositions that are germane to Jewish identity—for example, that Zionism is not an authentic part of Judaism; that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism; or that Zionists misuse religion to justify Israel's crimes—they provide those propositions with academic legitimacy and the power to justify and incite behavior that targets Jewish and pro-Israel students for harm.

incidents involving redefinition, and to a lesser extent denigration, took place at events or as part of activities sponsored by academic departments, it's clear that faculty play a critical role in the assault on Jewish identity. In particular, when faculty and academic departments assert as fact propositions that are germane to Jewish identity—for example, that Zionism is not an authentic part of Judaism; that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism; or that Zionists misuse religion to justify Israel's crimes—they provide those propositions with academic legitimacy and the power to justify and incite behavior that targets Jewish and pro-Israel students for harm.

Our study has also provided evidence of the significant contribution of Jewish anti-Zionist individuals and organizations such as JVP to attacks on Jewish identity. In ad-

dition, our finding that JVP or similar groups only exist on campuses where one or more anti-Zionist groups already have a presence, and that schools with both Jewish and non-Jewish anti-Zionist groups are significantly more likely to have threats to Jewish identity than schools with only an SJP or similar group, suggests that JVP serves as a kind of force multiplier, amplifying the impact of groups like SJP. We speculate that Jewish anti-Zionists accomplish this by using their Jewishness to legitimize the redefinition of Jewish identity and the denigration of Zionist Jews, which in turn not only justifies the suppression perpetrated by groups like SJP, but also facilitates the deflection of any charges of antisemitism that might result from such behavior.

It is important to point out that almost all of the incidents involving attacks on Jewish identity documented in our study were consistent with actions prescribed by the guidelines¹⁴ of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI), a campaign supported by the faculty boycotters in our study, as well as by groups like JVP and SJP, who consider the promotion of BDS to be central to their organizational missions. The PACBI guidelines, whose explicit goal is to halt "the normalization of Israel in the global academy," call for boycotting educational programs in or about Israel and canceling or shutting down pro-Israel events and activities on campus and encourage the censoring, denigration, protest and exclusion of pro-Israel individuals—all activities that negatively impact Jewish students who identify with the Jewish state.

The conformity of the vast majority of incidents involving the assault on Jewish identity to an internationally-organized academic boycott implemented by the boycott's on-campus supporters, many of whom are themselves members of nationally-organized groups such as SJP and JVP, helps explain the well-coordinated nature of the assault. For instance in the 2021-2022 academic year: 16 campuses across the country played host to very similar campaigns to denigrate Jewish heritage

¹⁴ <https://usacbi.org/guidelines-for-applying-the-international-academic-boycott-of-israel/>

trips such as Birthright and discourage Jewish students from participating in them; students and faculty on nearly two dozen campuses used an identical line of argumentation to accuse Zionist students and organizations of proffering false charges of antisemitism in order to bully, harass and silence pro-Palestinian students; and academic departments on numerous campuses hosted events with speakers who used similar, sometimes identical rhetoric to deny the relationship between Zionism and Judaism or between anti-Zionism and antisemitism. All of these suggest significant inter-campus coordination and a shared dedication to the anti-normalization goals and tactics of academic BDS.

IMPACT ON JEWISH STUDENTS

It is essential to understand that Jewish students who identify as Zionists or feel an affinity for Israel are harmed by these assaults in multiple ways.

First, the assaults themselves constitute a degree of harassment and identity suppression unparalleled on college campuses today. No other student identity group has been subjected to anywhere near the kinds of sustained, coordinated attacks on their identity and attempts to expunge it from campus—attacks carried out and condoned by large numbers of students, student organizations, faculty, academic departments, and outside national and international groups—as have Jewish students who feel a connection to the Jewish state.

Second, on campuses dominated by the politics of identity and oppression, the specific nature of the denigration faced by Jewish Zionist students, which draws upon classic antisemitic themes of Jewish malevolence and undue privilege, power and control, has not only made Zionist students social pariahs, it has made it extremely difficult for them to draw attention to the harms they are experiencing and to seek redress. Unlike bigoted acts directed at members of identity groups perceived as lacking privilege and power, which usually evoke enormous sympathy for the victimized group and a collective resolve to fight the bigotry, bigoted acts directed at Zionist Jews are more likely to evoke sympathy for the perpetrators than the victims.

Compounding the problem is the restrictive nature of school harassment policies, that are the primary means by which Jewish students can seek redress from the bullying and harassment that often accompany the attacks on their identity. These policies limit protection to students who are harassed because of their membership in an identity group that has been deemed a “protected class.” While Jewish students are theoretically protected under their school’s policy as members of an “ethnic” or “religious” group, when the harassment appears to be motivated by antipathy to-

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wards Israel and its supporters, which is frequently the case, administrators may not recognize it as an attack on Jewish ethnicity or religion and a violation of school policy. Furthermore, the aggressive student-and faculty-supported campaigns of denigration and redefinition that portray Jews as members of a powerful “oppressor” group undeserving of special protection and that claim Zionism is unrelated to authentic religious or ethnic expressions of Judaism, have influenced school administrators and made them even less willing to extend harassment policy protection to Jewish students.



Not only are Jewish students denied equal and adequate protection under school policy for the kinds of harassment they are experiencing, but simply by speaking out about that harassment they risk further harm.

Finally, not only are Jewish students denied equal and adequate protection under school policy for the kinds of harassment they are experiencing, but simply by speaking out about that harassment they risk further harm. Ironically, Jewish students who are victims of identity suppression and anti-Zionist motivated harassment are themselves routinely accused of weaponizing false charges of antisemitism to silence and harass pro-Palestinian activists.

While the assault on Jewish identity is enormously challenging for Jewish students who come to college or university with a well-developed Jewish identity and strong connection to Israel, it can also have a significant effect on the large number of Jewish students who arrive on campus with little or no Jewish background or feelings about the Jewish state. When such minimally or non-identified Jewish students witness the relentless assault on Zionism, Zionists and the campus organizations that support them, including Hillel, Chabad, and pro-Israel student groups, they are far less likely to take advantage of opportunities to explore their Jewish identity than they might otherwise have been. Some may even choose, or feel social pressure, to take public positions opposed to their more well-identified, Zionist co-religionists and to join in the assault against them.

In the short term, the relentless and well-coordinated attacks on Jewish identity, and the concomitant anti-Zionist motivated harassment and lack of administrative response to that harassment, will undoubtedly result in increasing numbers of Jewish students feeling the need to hide their Jewish identity on campus, or to detach from Jewish life partially or completely.

In the long term, the sheer scope of the assault on Jewish student identity, negatively affecting the level of communal identification and participation of an entire generation of young Jewish adults, presages a major crisis for American Jewry.

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ADDRESSING THE ASSAULT ON JEWISH IDENTITY

As noted above, one of the major factors in the proliferation of assaults on Jewish student identity is the unwillingness of school administrators to hold the perpetrators of the harassment accompanying these assaults accountable under their school's harassment policy. Unlike harassment directed at other identity groups with "protected class" status, which typically elicits prompt and vigorous administrative responses, anti-Zionist motivated behavior directed at Jewish students, which reaches, and in many cases well exceeds, the threshold of harm¹⁵ used for adjudicating all other cases of "protected class" harassment, is typically downplayed or ignored by administrators.

One obvious way to mitigate the assault on Jewish identity is to ensure that Jewish students are afforded equal and adequate protection from the harassing behavior that is a direct result of the assault. What is less obvious are the best approaches for achieving that end.

Therefore, one obvious way to mitigate the assault on Jewish identity is to ensure that Jewish students are afforded equal and adequate protection from the harassing behavior that is a direct result of the assault. What is less obvious are the best approaches for achieving that end.

Identity-Based Approach

One approach...seeks to ensure that Jewish students are recognized and treated exactly as any other "protected class" group under school harassment policies

One approach, which is currently being pursued by several organizations in the Jewish communal sector, seeks to ensure that Jewish students are recognized and treated exactly as any other "protected class" group under school harassment policies, even when the harassment they experience is motivated by anti-Zionism and not classic antisemitism. A critical tool in pursuing this approach is the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which includes several examples that underscore the antisemitic nature

of anti-Zionism and help make the case that anti-Zionist motivated harassment is indeed directed at Jewish students because of their ethnic or religious identity. Many of the organizations adopting this approach are also organizing efforts to get colleges and universities to either formally adopt the IHRA definition or agree to use it as a tool in adjudicating harassment complaints.

An advantage of this approach is that it is rooted in well-established federal anti-discrimination law with a robust federal enforcement mechanism, and there have been notable successes in affirming Jewish students' protection under the law. Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, upon which

¹⁵ Many school harassment policies use as their threshold for adjudicating complaints the definition provided by the U.S. Department of Education, which describes harassment as "conduct (e.g., physical, verbal, graphic, or written) that is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by a recipient [of federal funds]." <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/race394.html>

most school harassment policies are based, prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color and national origin in federally funded schools. For decades Jewish students were not considered eligible for protection under this law. But in 2004¹⁶ and 2010¹⁷, directors of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR), the agency responsible for enforcing Title VI, issued policy statements affirming that Jewish students could find protection from antisemitic harassment under the law as a national origin group. In 2018, the OCR director announced that the agency would be using the IHRA definition in determining "whether students face discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish ancestry,"¹⁸ and in 2019 a presidential executive order¹⁹ was issued that directs "all executive departments and agencies charged with enforcing Title VI" to use the IHRA definition of antisemitism, including its examples identifying anti-Zionism.

Since 2020, a number of Title VI complaints have been filed with the OCR by legal groups alleging that Jewish students have been the victims of anti-Zionist motivated harassment. Several of these complaints have been opened for investigation by the OCR, such as at UCLA,²⁰ University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign,²¹ Brooklyn College,²² University of Southern California,²³ and University of Vermont.²⁴

While Title VI may offer the clearest legal path to addressing the problem at present, in the midst of the current severe and well-coordinated assault on Jewish identity, this approach also faces enormous challenges. Widespread attempts to redefine Jewishness and its relationship to Israel directly challenge the recognition of anti-Zionist harassment as a violation of anti-discrimination law. In addition, the pervasive denigration of Zionist Jews with antisemitic tropes of Jewish power and privilege threatens the assumption that Jews constitute an identity group worthy of "protected class" status. Finally, because the protection of Jewish students under Title VI is currently a matter of Department of Education policy and presidential executive order, there is no guarantee that future federal agency officials and White House administrations will preserve these protections.

Indeed, any approach that seeks to ensure protection for Jewish students by virtue of their membership in a governmentally-protected identity group will be subject to uncertainty as a result of the volatility of prevailing notions about which groups deserve protected class status and which do not, coupled with the complexity of Jewish identity and the difficulty of pigeon-holing it in current identity-based frameworks central to anti-discrimination law and university harassment policies.

In light of these challenges and the dire nature of the threats facing Jewish students and the Jewish

¹⁶ <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/religious-rights2004.html>

¹⁷ https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201010_pg5.html

¹⁸ <https://www.politico.com/f/?id=00000165-ce21-df3d-a177-cee9649e0000>

¹⁹ <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-anti-semitism/>

²⁰ https://46fc49e4-0bd9-4e5a-bf63-78204b4a07c9.usrfiles.com/ugd/46fc49_47f7a61293bc4bb1b0a681b96b4edeee.pdf

²¹ <https://brandeiscenter.com/department-of-education-opens-investigation-into-alleged-anti-semitism-at-uiuc/>

²² <https://brandeiscenter.com/u-s-dept-of-education-opens-investigation-into-anti-semitism-at-brooklyn-college/>

²³ <https://brandeiscenter.com/u-s-dept-of-ed-to-investigate-harassment-discrimination-that-led-to-resignation-of-usc-vp-rose-ritch/>

²⁴ <https://brandeiscenter.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/LDB-JOC-UVM-release-w-all-updated-JOC-links-220913.pdf>

community, we believe it is crucial to consider other possible approaches to the problem that can be pursued in parallel with identity-based approaches.

[An] alternative is based on the understanding that all students have a constitutional right to be equally protected from behavior that threatens their safety, impedes their self-expression...or otherwise denies them the ability to fully participate in campus life.

Behavior-Based Approach

One such alternative is based on the understanding that all students have a constitutional right to be equally protected from behavior that threatens their safety, impedes their self-expression, including expressions of belief and group identity, or otherwise denies them the ability to fully participate in campus life.

This approach requires that schools use a single standard to judge objectionable behavior: language and action deemed unacceptable when directed at students from one group must be deemed unacceptable when directed at any student, irrespective of the motivation of the perpetrator or the identity of the victim. While any behavioral standard that is equally applied to all students could be suitable, the standard for harassment currently used by OCR in adjudicating Title VI cases and by many schools in their anti-discrimination policies – defining it as behavior that is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent so as to interfere with or limit the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by the school - is particularly appropriate for this approach, since it is eminently clear that no student should ever be subject to such harassing behavior.

The widespread adoption of such a behavior-based approach to the equal protection of all students would go a long way to ensuring that Jewish students are protected from the harassing behavior that has made it difficult for them fully express their Jewish identity and caused many students to hide or distance themselves from their Jewishness. We believe it would also benefit the campus as a whole. In contrast to the current approach of protecting students by virtue of their membership in legally protected groups, which can easily lead to the exacerbation of group differences and an unhealthy competition for group rights, the proposed approach focusing on individual rights and their equal protection offers the possibility of a healthier campus climate. This is not only because group differences become irrelevant when ensuring the protection of individual students, but also because the notion of individual rights itself exists within the framework of a set of shared values concerning the equality and dignity of every person, values that can serve to inspire and unite the campus community if properly communicated.

Nevertheless, although this behavior-based approach is rooted in rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, including the freedom of expression, religion, assembly and association, there is currently no well-established legal process or robust governmental enforcement mechanism similar to those established for Title VI for pursuing complaints about harass-

The Jewish community must invest in strengthening Jewish life on campus and enabling Jewish students of all backgrounds and levels of prior Jewish engagement to be part of a vibrant community that can provide the support, encouragement, education and fellowship necessary for not only weathering the toxic campus climate, but thriving as Jews.

ing behavior that suppresses these rights. Therefore, in order for this approach to succeed, considerable efforts must be made to educate university and government officials about the unfairness and inadequacy of current identity-based policies and laws, and to advocate for the establishment of behavior-based policies and laws and an enforcement mechanism no less robust than the one that currently exists for adjudicating complaints of “protected class” harassment.

Given the degree of the threat to Jewish life on college and university campuses and well beyond, we believe it is essential that Jewish communal attention and resources be directed to developing these behavior-based strategies in order to safeguard the rights of Jewish students—and all students—to full and equal participation in campus life, with the right to define and express their identity as they see fit. We are not suggesting abandoning the Title VI avenue; both approaches could be pursued in tandem, serving to complement and support each other and providing a much-needed safety net for Jewish students.

Finally, while securing equal and adequate protection for Jewish students is crucial for addressing the current assault on Jewish identity, it is not sufficient. The Jewish community must invest in strengthening Jewish life on campus and enabling Jewish students of all backgrounds and levels of prior Jewish engagement to be part of a vibrant community that can provide the support, encouragement, education and fellowship necessary for not only weathering the toxic campus climate, but thriving as Jews.

About the Researchers

LEILA BECKWITH is Professor Emeritus at UCLA and the co-founder of AMCHA Initiative. After receiving her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, Beckwith went on to teach and do statistical research for more than 30 years at the Neuropsychiatric Institute and the Department of Pediatrics at UCLA. She has published more than 80 research publications in scientific, peer-reviewed journals. She is a board member of the California Association of Scholars and Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. A renowned scientist and researcher, she has been an editorial board member of *Child Development*, *Infant Behavior and Development*, and the *Infant Mental Health Journal*, as well as an ad hoc reviewer for research papers submitted to *Developmental Psychology*, and grants submitted to the National Science Foundation and the National Foundation for the March of Dimes. Beckwith served as an appointed member of research review committees for the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the National Institute of Child Health and Development. She was also a prevention research advisory committee member for the National Institute of Mental Health and a principal investigator for research grants from the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and the Center for Disease Control.

TAMMI ROSSMAN-BENJAMIN is cofounder and director of AMCHA Initiative, and was a faculty member in Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the University of California from 1996–2016. Rossman-Benjamin has written articles and reports about academic anti-Zionism and antisemitism and lectured widely on the growing threat to the safety of Jewish students on college campuses. She has presented her research in scholarly talks and academic conferences at several universities, including Indiana University, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Harvard University and McGill University. Rossman-Benjamin's research has been featured in several volumes on antisemitism. In July 2010, she co-organized a two-week scholarly workshop entitled "Contemporary Antisemitism in Higher Education" at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Articles and opinion pieces from Rossman-Benjamin have been published in *Newsweek*, *The Hill*, *New York Daily News*, *Los Angeles Daily News*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Contra Costa Times*, *Jewish Journal of Los Angeles*, and dozens of others.

Appendix

Examples of Threats to Jewish Identity by Category and Subcategory from Incidents Occurring at Schools Most Popular with Jewish Students 2021-2022



REDEFINITION

- Zionism ≠ Judaism – including claims that Judaism is just a religion that doesn't include nationhood or connection to Israel; Zionism is a settler colonial political project that exploits Judaism to achieve its goals
 - Religion, Conflict and Peace Initiative at **Harvard University** held the event "Yom Ha'atzmaut and the Colonization of American Judaism," where Harvard Professor Atalia Omer stated, "Today's event is very much connected to the broader efforts... to...decolonize or de-Zionize Jewishness itself." Rabbi Brant Rosen, co-founder and co-chair of the Jewish Voice for Peace Rabbinical Council expressed, "The central aspect of my project has been the composition of new Jewish prayers that consciously interrupt the assumptions of Zionism and Jewish nation statism." And Visiting Professor at Harvard Law Daniel Boyarin promoted his book about "Jewish resistance to Jewish evil as an important part of Jewish identity."
 - A paper by Noura Erekat entitled "Beyond Discrimination – Apartheid is a Colonial Project and Zionism is a Form of Racism" was posted on a departmental website at **Rutgers University**, with a directive that community members "READ" it. The article claimed that "the Zionist belief that Jews constitute a race and a singular people, irrespective of religious piety or identification, produces 'three corollaries:

racial self-segregation, racial exclusiveness, and racial supremacy,” and that “Jewish supremacy is not an unintended feature of hawkish politicians – it is a constitutive feature of the Zionist project across the political spectrum.”

- SJP at **Tufts University** released a statement countering Hillel’s claims that “Tufts Hillel is committed to providing... a wide range of programs that highlight Israel’s deep religious and spiritual significance and topics related to Jewish tradition,” claiming: “REALITY: A land can hold spiritual and historical significance to a people without the establishment of an apartheid state where citizenship is based on ethno-religious identity. Judaism has a rich history of anti-Zionist, liberatory thought that Israel seeks to delegitimize. Jewish diasporic traditions have existed for thousands of years, and can be celebrated in their own right without centering a 73 year old nation-state.”
- At a departmentally sponsored event at **Columbia University**, a speaker stated, “[W]hat’s happening with Zionism is the mythologization of its religion in its attachment to land rather than a historical claim for the genealogy of that religion... Zionism...seeks religious legitimation for ethnic or settler colonial policies.”
- **Anti-Zionism ≠ Antisemitism – including claims that antisemitism only comes from the right/white supremacists/racists/Europe; that Zionism is itself antisemitism; that anti-Zionism is part of larger movements to fight oppression and is praiseworthy; that the IHRA definition is illegitimate; that the attempt to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism is a malign effort to cover up Israel’s crimes and harass and silence pro-Palestinian activists**
 - Students for Black and Palestinian Liberation at **Washington University** issued a statement, claiming, “[T]he statement that opposition to Zionist organizations is antisemitism conflates Zionism, a political ideology, with all Jewish people, which is itself antisemitic.”
 - At **University of Houston**, the student government passed a resolution that stated, “Houston Student Government Association unequivocally rejects the debase-ment of Palestinian activism through the false conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism.” The resolution also denigrated campus members who speak out about the anti-Zionist motivated harassment of Jewish students, claiming that “the association of constitutionally protected pro-Palestine activism with antisemitism is reflective of an orientalist, discriminatory and outdated framework utilized to demonize Palestinians, Arabs and Muslims.”
 - At a departmentally sponsored event at the **University of Florida**, a speaker stated, “So much of this framing of anti-Zionism...as antisemitism...is a reflection of white supremacy Zionism. Rather than combatting the white supremacists, these white supremacist notions [instead] internalizes them and builds this settler colo-

ny in the Middle East in order to achieve acceptance within Europe.”

- At a departmentally sponsored colloquium at **New York University**, one speaker stated, “[C]ollapsing anti-Zionism and antisemitism, as if they are synonymous, is part of the settler colonial project...it flattens identities, and it flattens experiences to make them more palatable for propaganda, for dehumanization.” Another speaker stated, “My commitment to combat antisemitism goes hand in hand with my commitment to combat and to dismantle Zionism.”
- **Zionism is anti-progressive - including claims that Zionism is incompatible with other progressive struggles and contradicts and/or seeks to exploit them to achieve its goals.**
 - At a departmental event at **Harvard University**, a speaker stated, “You cannot have... a justice discourse... within a Zionist framework.”
 - An SJP leader at **Northwestern University** was quoted in the student newspaper as condemning a recent speaker at the university for his stance on Israel and Palestine, stating, “You can’t be progressive while failing to acknowledge genocide and what’s one of the worst human rights violations in the past several decades.”
 - Palestine Solidarity Alliance of **Hunter College** sent a letter to the Human Rights Program protesting the inclusion of the Israeli Consulate in an event on domestic violence, stating, “Intimate partner violence could have been advocated for without adding Israel to the panel, but the Human Rights Program found it fit to add a violent entity to an event about violence...The normalization of Israel is dangerous, and any progressive academic institution with integrity should abandon its role in accepting and neutralizing the apartheid state.”
 - At a departmental event at **Cornell University**, a speaker promoted BDS as an effective way to “re-center Palestine in the political programs of progressive causes and movements worldwide,” and urged “understanding Zionism as a project of racial capitalism” akin to “carceral regimes here in the US.”
- **Jew Splitting - Delegitimizing Zionist Jews by promoting anti-Zionist Jews as more authentic; demonizing Zionist Jews as oppressing fellow Jews**
 - In an op-ed in the **University of Chicago** student newspaper, the author praised the “[m]any Jewish organizations and movements, like Jewish Voice for Peace” that are “openly anti-Zionist,” as well as the “[m]any UChicago Jewish students [who] are anti-Zionists, actively voicing their support for Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions.”
 - SJP at the **University of Washington** shared “key takeaways” from their recent “reading group” that claimed, “We must develop a Jewish and anti-Zionist left that is in solidarity with all other marginalized groups and develop an intersectional framework to understand antisemitism...The idea that Jews are inherently unsafe

in the diaspora is antisemitic.”

- At a departmentally sponsored event at **Harvard University**, one speaker stated, “Israel and its political ideology have devastated Jewish communities over the world since 1948... [T]he new-new Jews if we might call them that... are recreating many of these same themes [of] labor agriculture, presence on the ground and even military-like movements and preparedness, but from a diasporic perspective with the aim of dismantling [the] Zionist enterprise and demonstrating solidarity with Palestinians.”
- An op-ed in **Princeton University**’s student newspaper the *Daily Princetonian* by anti-Zionist Jews expressed support for a BDS referendum, stating, “This referendum has been met with unfounded allegations of antisemitism... Criticisms of the State of Israel, including anti-Zionism and the BDS movement, are not... antisemitic... Attempts to slander activists associated with Palestinian solidarity movements are unjustified and deliberately deceptive... Rather than fostering an unsafe environment, this referendum is a genuine effort to fulfill Princeton’s unofficial motto to be ‘in the service of humanity.’”

DENIGRATION

- Vilifying campus or U.S. Zionists or Zionist organizations with accusations of malign intent and undue privilege, power or influence used to cause, support or promote harm to Palestinians or their supporters
 - SJP at **Duke University** published a letter to the editor in the student newspaper that accused Zionist student groups of engaging in “targeted harassment” of pro-Palestinian students and stated, “Zionist groups may try to build a home on campus, but they will always be alien to the institution of justice.”
 - An article in the student newspaper at **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** quoted a student as saying that “the University was more concerned with protecting donor money from Zionist alumni. ‘They’ll throw any group of people under the bus for that donor money.’”
 - A student-authored article in **Duke University**’s student newspaper titled “False claims of antisemitism obscure the need for accountability from pro-Israel organizations” vilified Students Supporting Israel (SSI), a pro-Israel student group on campus, claiming, “SSI and other pro-Israel organizations have chosen the racist route... Fallacious claims of antisemitism may seem universal to Jewish groups at Duke if only because of the rigid and force-fed narrative the university has afforded to Jewish organizing.... Students Supporting Israel is antithetical to living authen-

tically as a Jew...Denouncing falsely-proposed claims of antisemitism is essential [as] combatting these false claims asks Pro-Israel organizations to finally begin repairing the deep trauma that they have caused to their classmates...Subjugating Zionism is necessary in recognizing the humanity of us all."

- After Law Students for Israel (LSFI) at **NYU Law School** circulated an email to the law school's student body, SJP responded with an email that berated "Islamophobic, Zionist-funded United States and Western media;" denigrated LSFI for calling Israel a democracy, stating that "[b]eing a democracy and supporting human rights fundamentally entail providing equal rights to ALL peoples, not just the ones that look like you," and "invoking indigeneity while defending a settler colonial state is egregious and disturbing;" and claimed that the "Zionist supremacy narrative is the orientalist, Islamophobic idea that Ashkenazi Jewish whiteness is fundamentally superior to Palestinian lives, culture, and identity." Eleven student groups wrote to the law school's all-student listserv to express their support for SJP's statement.
- **Vilifying specific Jews or Jews generally with accusations of malign intent and undue privilege, power or influence**
 - Two posts on the Greek Rank webpage at **Indiana University** stated that everything Jews are about is "money, greed and sexually assaulting," "the truth is that their huge noses, afros, and smelliness prevent them from being attractive so they rape and justify it with their sick way of looking at the world," "their families are in a position of power therefore they get away with everything," and they are "dangerous humans."
 - At **Michigan State University** a student using a Nazi swastika as a profile picture joined a Biology class chat group and stated that "Jews are scum."
 - At **Florida International University**, an antisemitic flyer posted at the beginning of Passover stated, "Every Single Aspect of the COVID Agenda is Jewish," and contained a list of public officials who are Jewish.
 - At **Arizona State University**, antisemitic flyers were found on campus that depicted a vampiric image of a hook-nosed Jew and a Jewish star and text questioning, "Who controls the world...Government, Big Business, The Banks, The Media, Pornography, Academia," and in large letters answering the question, "Jews Do."

SUPPRESSION

- Calls to eliminate Zionism from campus and beyond, cut all ties to Israel, Zionism/Zionists
 - SJP at **CUNY Brooklyn College** promoted the protest of an Israeli Independence

Day celebration with the messages, "Zionism is not welcome on campus" and "#zionismoutofcuny."

- At **Brandeis University**, the Brandeis Leftist Union organized and promoted a rally to "protest Zionism on Campus".
 - At **State University of New York, New Paltz**, two Jewish members a support group for survivors of sexual violence were ousted from the group after sharing their Zionist views on Instagram. A statement on the group's Instagram page read, "Supporting a settler-colonial state [Israel] goes against what we stand for and thus we cannot organize with members who do so."
 - At **CUNY Queens College**, QC Adjuncts Unite, a group of rank and file adjuncts in PSC-CUNY expressed on social media, "@ChancellorCUNY ignores Palestinian voices within CUNY yet takes trips to Israel and entertains the Zionist lobby that tries to threaten and silence students", "@CUNY voices are proudly pro-Palestine and antiracist", "You do not represent us" and "#ZionismOutOfCUNY."
- **Attempts to boycott, shut down, or cancel specific Israel-related programs, events, trips, articles, or collaborations or dialogue with Zionists or Zionist student groups**
 - A Jewish student at the **University of Connecticut** was kicked out of an a capella group because of pro-Israel remarks she had made on social media.
 - At the **University of Chicago**, SJP launched a campaign called "Don't Take Sh*tty Zionist Classes," that urged students to boycott several classes containing a "Zionist agenda."
 - SJP at **Tufts University** urged fellow students to boycott Jewish and Zionist student groups that "legitimize the settler-colonial state of Israel and justify violence."
 - In response to the **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** Chancellor's eblast encouraging "respectful engagement around difficult issues," SJP urged supporters to flood the Chancellor's emails with the message, "We will never give a platform to Zionist voices."
 - **Encouraging students to reject Birthright trips; Denigrating Birthright and those who go on it**
 - SJP at the **University of Delaware** posted an Instagram urging Jewish students to boycott Birthright, writing, "To participate in Birthright is to promote the...apartheid state, and the settler-colonial movement as a whole... to promote the denial of Palestinian refugees' right to return; and to be complicit in the white-washing of all Israeli war-crimes... So if you decide to board that plane, know that embarking on this trip, meeting with settlers - colonizers - and contributing to the Israeli economy are only a few of the many ways in which these trips normalize and reinforce

violence and oppression.”

- At the **University of Wisconsin, Madison**, the featured speaker at an SJP protest outside of Hillel called Birthright “propaganda that manipulates Jewish heritage and identity into support for the Israeli apartheid state,” and claimed, “When someone participates in Birthright they are actively supporting the Israeli apartheid state and rejecting Palestinians their rights.”
 - At **Washington University**, Students for Black and Palestinian Liberation’s “Divest from Death” campaign materials urged supporters to “Spot the Difference” between the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front’s flyer and “Israel, Register for Winter Birthright,” stating “both violently uphold white supremacy, only one ‘condemned’ by WashU”, and ended with “Free Palestine” and “Death to All Forms of Settler Colonialism.”
 - After returning from a Birthright trip, an **Emory University** student was accused of being a “direct contributor to [Israel’s] apartheid and killing of indigenous people,” of “promoting war and genocide,” and of “support for colonial murderers.”
- **Bullying, intimidation to silence Jewish and Zionist expression**
- Following a rally held by SJP at **Rutgers University**, participants in four cars drove and parked outside the Jewish fraternity AEPi on the seventh day of Passover and harassed the Jewish students, calling them “baby killers” and “terrorists” and yelling other antisemitic remarks, spitting in their direction and throwing miscellaneous items at them.
 - A diversity, equity and inclusion student senator at the **University of Southern California** posted on social media threatening messages that included: “Curse the Jews,” “I want to kill every motherf*cking Zionist,” “Yes I f*cking love Hamas now stfu,” “Zionists are going to f*cking pay,” and “A Jew’s head was set ablaze in Haifa, long live the heroes’ arms.”
 - At **University of Central Florida**, protestors wearing swastikas yelled antisemitic slurs at passing cars, including “The Jew is the devil,” “Jews rape children and drink their blood,” and “Jews brought slaves here.” When the protestors noticed the Israeli flag on the license plate of a Jewish student who confronted them, they directed antisemitic slurs at him, including “f*cking k*ke” and Nazi salutes, and then spit on, punched, kicked and pepper sprayed the Jewish student.
 - SJP at the **University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign** held an on-campus “Emergency Protest” in front of Hillel, which was in the midst of providing kosher food for Jewish students celebrating Passover, that included a verbal assault and a rock thrown by a student towards Jewish students and the Hillel building.