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**58 California Rabbis, 104 UC Faculty Members and 521 UC Alumni  
Ask the UC System to Formally Adopt the U.S. State Department's  
Definition of Anti-Semitism**

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## 58 California Rabbis Ask the UC System to Formally Adopt the U.S. State Department's Definition of Anti-Semitism

May 18, 2015

President Janet Napolitano  
Office of the President,  
University of California  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Board of Regents  
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94067

Dear President Napolitano and the Board of Regents,

We are 58 rabbis who are deeply concerned about the safety and well being of Jewish students at the University of California. We hail from across the State of California and represent diverse streams of Judaism. Many of us, and many of our congregational members, send our children to UC schools and/or are alumni of the UC system, and we are all California taxpayers.

We echo the concerns of the AMCHA Initiative-led coalition of 23 organizations who have [written to you](#) recently regarding antisemitism on UC campuses. We, too, commend you for [your statement](#) against antisemitism, and we applaud the students at [UCLA](#), [UC Berkeley](#) and [UC Santa Barbara](#) for their resolutions condemning antisemitism.

We agree with the 23 organizations that in order to fully meet the needs of Jewish students facing antisemitism and to address the root causes of antisemitism in the UC system, **the University of California must, first and foremost, formally adopt the U.S. State Department's [definition](#) of antisemitism as a means of accurately identifying all forms of antisemitic expression on UC campuses.**

In addition, we, too, believe that it is essential for campus administrators and staff to be trained in using the State Department definition to identify antisemitic behavior and to address it with the same promptness and vigor as they do other forms of racial, ethnic, and gender bigotry and discrimination. It is also important to educate the entire campus community about anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish discrimination.

Defining antisemitism formally and educating administrators and the student body about anti-Jewish discrimination are critical steps to ensuring antisemitism will be appropriately addressed both now and in the future, throughout the entire UC system.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. We appreciate your actions to protect Jewish students at the University of California.

Sincerely,

58 California Rabbis

## 104 UC Faculty Members Ask the UC System to Formally Adopt the U.S. State Department's Definition of Anti-Semitism

May 18, 2015

President Janet Napolitano  
Office of the President,  
University of California  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear President Napolitano:

We are a group of 104 University of California faculty members who wish to express our concern over growing antisemitism on UC campuses. This problem is highlighted by the following recent incidents:

- At UCLA, a candidate for student government was challenged for being Jewish by several councilmembers, who suggested her Jewishness was grounds for disqualification of her candidacy.
- At UC Davis, an anti-Israel divestment vote was accompanied by the heckling of Jewish students with chants of "Allahu Akhbar," followed by two swastikas spray-painted on a Jewish fraternity house and antisemitic graffiti on the wall of a Hillel building.
- At UC Santa Cruz, anti-Israel faculty and students tried to shut down a Hillel-sponsored LGBT event, threatening that protestors would drown out the speaker and intimidate audience members. As a result of these threats, the event had to be moved to a safer location. Nevertheless, anti-Israel protesters still disrupted the meeting, bursting into the room and declaring Israel an "Apartheid state" and chanting "Long live the Intifada!"

These are just the most recent in a series of anti-Jewish incidents that go back several years on various UC campuses. (See [examples of antisemitic activity](#) on UC campuses since 2001).

We are fully aware that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has become a major point of contention on UC campuses. Indeed, it is a prime motivator of the anti-Jewish expression that has infected our campuses and led to the verbal and physical intimidation and harassment of many Jewish students, especially those who wish to assert their Jewish identity and/or support for the Jewish state of Israel.

While the University of California is not the only university infected by this virus, UC campuses are rapidly acquiring the reputation of being among the most antisemitic in the nation. It is critical for you and the UC Chancellors to speak out and act forcefully. We urge you to do the following:

- Formally adopt the [U.S. State Department's definition of antisemitism](#), which acknowledges that anti-Israel rhetoric can cross the line into anti-Semitism, and use the definition to accurately identify and publicly condemn future acts of anti-Jewish bigotry;
- Develop and implement training programs for university staff about the nature and scope of campus antisemitism and how to appropriately address the problem;
- Educate the UC campus communities about the dangers of Jew hatred, how it is being spread, and where history has shown that it can lead.

People of good faith can disagree on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and we are not advocating for a silencing of

free speech. However, opposition to Israel's policies or actions is no excuse to cross the line into Jew hatred. The time to act and provide moral leadership is now, before we experience a tragedy on one of our campuses, a tragedy that we all want to avoid.

Sincerely,

104 UC Faculty Members

## 521 UC Alumni Ask the UC System to Formally Adopt the U.S. State Department's Definition of Anti-Semitism

May 19, 2015

President Janet Napolitano  
Office of the President,  
University of California  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Board of Regents  
Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to the Regents  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94067

Dear President Napolitano and the Board of Regents,

We are 521 University of California alumni who are deeply concerned about the safety of Jewish students at our alma mater.

We heartily commend the UC Berkeley, UCLA, and UC Santa Barbara student senates for responding to the alarming escalation of anti-Semitic activity on UC campuses by unanimously passing resolutions which condemn anti-Semitism and resolve that their respective student senates will adopt the U.S. State Department's definition of anti-Semitism for identifying anti-Semitic activity.

We also applaud you for your own statement condemning anti-Semitism. Taking a public stand is a very important first step. However, it is critical that you do more to ensure the safety of Jewish students at the University of California.

We join the coalition of 23 organizations that have recently [written to you](#), urging you to take the following steps in order to adequately address the rising tide of anti-Jewish bigotry at the University of California:

1. Formally adopt the U.S. State Department's [definition](#) of anti-Semitism in order to identify all forms of anti-Semitic expression on UC campuses.
2. Charge UC chancellors with training campus administrators and staff involved in discrimination prevention, student affairs, and equity, diversity and inclusion, to identify anti-Semitic behavior, and direct them to develop clear protocols for addressing campus anti-Semitism with the same promptness and vigor as they do other forms of racial, ethnic, and gender bigotry and discrimination.
3. Charge UC chancellors with developing initiatives for educating the campus community about anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish discrimination.

No student should feel harassed, intimidated, threatened or marginalized. We implore you to better protect Jewish students at the University of California.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

521 UC Alumni