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# California State Legislature

## CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE JEWISH CAUCUS



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March 9, 2016

Ms. Yolanda Gorman  
University of California Los Angeles Alumni Association  
325 Westwood Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Dear Regent Gorman,

We commend you for recognizing the current threats facing Jewish students at UC and forming a Regents Working Group to address all intolerance on campus with a particular focus on quelling the most rapidly growing form of bigotry, anti-Semitism.

As you know, the rise of anti-Semitism at UC has been of grave concern to the members of our Caucus, our Legislative colleagues, and to millions of our constituents, of all faiths. We have watched with shock as incident after incident of anti-Semitism has occurred on campuses across California. Shamefully, the pervasiveness of the epidemic has left no part of our state untouched.

This past year SCR-35 passed the California Senate and Assembly with unanimous support and garnered 75 additional co-authors. The resolution called on UC to condemn all forms of anti-Semitism. Unfortunately, modern day anti-Semitism has moved beyond swastikas and what most recognize as traditional anti-Jewish discrimination. Anti-Zionism plays an enormous role in today's anti-Semitism. The world's preeminent scholars of anti-Semitism and global leaders including President Obama, Pope Francis, British Prime Minister Cameron, French Prime Minister Valls, former Secretary of State Clinton and many of the current presidential candidates, understand that anti-Zionism is at the heart of the rise in global anti-Semitism. An examination of anti-Semitic behavior at UC demonstrates how true this is on California campuses.

We understand the Working Group's proposed Statement of Principles Against Intolerance will be considered at your March meeting. We urge the Regents to recognize the role of anti-Zionism in the escalation of anti-Semitism at UC. The UC community must understand the difference between acceptable scholarly criticism of Israel and hateful anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions that threaten the safety of our students. Criticism of Israel's policies, including raising concerns about the expansion of Israeli settlements or the living conditions and rights of Palestinians, or criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country, is not anti-Zionism and should be part of healthy discussion and debate on any university campus. However, as our

global leaders have recognized, anti-Zionism, which advocates for Israel's destruction, is anti-Semitism.

Students need to understand this distinction. Such an understanding is critical to ensuring that Jewish students are afforded the same protections as all other minorities at UC. It is critical to restoring respectful and meaningful debate on our campuses, without threats to student safety – a step that is beneficial to all students.

On behalf of the millions of our constituents who care deeply about this issue, we urge you to ensure the Statement of Principles Against Intolerance is meaningful by including anti-Zionism in your condemnation of anti-Semitism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marty Block", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marty Block  
Senator, District 39  
Chair, California Legislative Jewish Caucus