

Emerging Anti-Israel Trends and Tactics on Campus

INTRODUCTION

In the 2010-11 academic year, university and college campuses across the United States were host to a variety of campaigns, tours and programs designed to demonize Israel and portray Israelis as the aggressors and the perpetrators of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Much of the anti-Israel activity that takes place every year on dozens of college campuses is not new. "Israeli Apartheid Week" events and other programs supporting boycott and divestment campaigns against Israel have taken place on a consistent basis in the last few years and will likely continue in the future.

In the past year, however, some new trends have emerged. These trends include anti-Israel student groups' increasing refusal to dialogue with their pro-Israel counterparts, support for international "break the siege" of [Gaza campaigns](#) and a greater incidence of university departments sponsoring explicit anti-Israel events. These efforts, which are likely to continue in the coming school year, require carefully articulated responses and counter-programming by pro-Israel advocates on campus.

The growing strength of [Students for Justice in Palestine \(SJP\)](#), the primary organizer of anti-Israel events on campus, presents one of the biggest challenges. In 2010-11, new SJP chapters were created at Tufts University, Ohio University and the University of Vermont and there are now SJP chapters on more than 75 campuses across the country.

In addition, there are signs that the disparate SJP chapters, which are not formally unified under a national umbrella organization, are beginning to coordinate their efforts more closely. In October, a national SJP conference will take place at Columbia University. Organizers of the conference, titled "Students Confronting Apartheid," state specifically that one of the goals of the conference is to "develop coordination and cooperation between different student groups working for justice in Palestine."

Much of the increased role and organization of SJP can be traced to the [efforts of American Muslims for Palestine](#), a Chicago-based organization that has committed its resources to coordinating campus anti-Israel activity on campus via SJP. In the past year, AMP invited representatives from many SJP chapters to

two conferences and has organized conferences for regional SJP groups.

One early indication that AMP's campus efforts will continue is its 2011 Thanksgiving Weekend conference, called "A New Era for Activism," which will include an "SJP track" as part of the program.

These developments contribute to the growing efforts to delegitimize Israel on campus and present new challenges for pro-Israel groups working to present a positive message about Israel.

SILENCING THE PRO-ISRAEL VOICE: ANTI-NORMALIZATION TACTICS

An increased effort by anti-Israel groups to silence pro-Israel views and brand any dialogue between the two sides as illegitimate hinders the ability to have constructive conversations about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This tactic, dubbed "anti-normalization" by its proponents, is predicated on the claim that there is no conflict: Israel is the aggressor and Palestinians are the hapless victims and therefore, a debate between the two sides should be resisted. In other words, even describing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a "conflict" is too great a concession to the pro-Israel position.

The Columbia University chapter of [Students for Justice in Palestine \(SJP\)](#) established an explicit anti-normalization policy in April 2010. The statement, which was adapted from a position paper by the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (the leading pro-boycott group in the Palestinian territories), included the following provision:

Refuse to take part in whitewashing Israel's public image and therefore reject any Israeli-Palestinian meetings that do not recognize our inalienable rights, and explicitly aim to resist Israel's occupation, colonization and apartheid. Israeli-Palestinian meetings that are not committed to such principles give a false picture of equality between the two parties by ignoring and legitimizing Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. We will not contribute to any event that undermines our rights, or portrays Israel as anything but what it really is: an apartheid state.

The enactment of this policy has since rendered it impossible for pro and anti-Israel advocates on campus to engage in dialogue with one another. SJP leadership has refused to work with the pro-Israel group on campus and has rejected invitations to co-host events with Hillel because SJP considers Hillel to be a Zionist organization.

These so-called "anti-normalization" efforts have also been executed in the form of coordinated campaigns to confront and intimidate Israeli and pro-Israel speakers on campus. While the latter strategy

first [began](#) in the 2009-2010 year (with loud disruptions of, among others, speeches by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the University of Chicago and Israeli Ambassador Michael Oren at the University of California, Irvine), similar actions took place in 2010-11, often in the form of silent protests.

In October 2010, an Israeli soldier was invited to the University of Michigan to talk about his time in the IDF, but was "silently interrupted" by anti-Israel students in the audience. More than a dozen students stood up in the middle of his speech with duct tape fastened to their mouths and held signs reading "Silenced." After several minutes, they stood up again and left the room. One of the students who helped organize the action described the rationale: "we were simply not going to allow these soldiers to come to our college campus and attempt to justify atrocities..."

Similar disruptions took place in November at Arizona State University and Benedictine University in Illinois, where approximately 100 students walked out in the middle of a speaking appearance by Israeli journalist Gil Hoffman, and then proceeded to make noise outside the hall in an attempt to make it difficult for the event to continue.

In April 2011, Brandeis University hosted Israeli Knesset member Avi Dichter, whose speech was repeatedly disrupted by representatives of the SJP group on campus. The students spread themselves out among the audience and took turns shouting "war criminal" and other accusations at him. They also chanted in Hebrew, "Avi, Avi, don't worry, we will meet you at The Hague."

It appears that this strategy will continue to be employed against pro-Israel groups and speakers on campus. At an Israeli Apartheid Week session at Rutgers University in March, anti-Israel blogger Max Blumenthal urged students to continue to reject "normalization" efforts and argued that because Israel is an "oppressor," the two sides should not sit down and negotiate in good faith with each other.

UNIVERSITY SPONSORSHIP OF ANTI-ISRAEL PROGRAMMING

In 2010-11 there were several instances of universities and university departments directly sponsoring anti-Israel programming. Such sponsorship creates the perception that the university sanctions hostile anti-Israel views, lending an added degree of legitimacy and credibility to anti-Israel advocacy.

In March, for example, the **University of California Hastings College of the Law** hosted a conference titled "Litigating Palestine: Can Courts Secure Palestinian Rights?" that focused on legal ways to delegitimize Israel.

The Hastings professor who organized the conference, George Bisharat, is an outspoken advocate for boycott campaigns and has criticized Palestinian National Authority President Mahmoud Abbas for acknowledging "Jewish right to the land of Israel."

He regularly writes inflammatory opinion pieces for Bay Area newspapers, including during the 2008-2009 Gaza war when he described Israel's military actions as "brutality" and "bloodletting" and argued that Israel "deliberately chose the path of blood" even though negotiations for a truce with Hamas were possible.

The majority of presenters at the conference were legal experts who have devoted their careers to waging litigation campaigns against Israel, including filing lawsuits against Israel's security fence, seeking arrest warrants for Israeli politicians traveling abroad and acting as consultants to groups organizing boycott campaigns against Israel.

When a variety of Jewish community organizations expressed their concern about the objectives of the conference, the board of the law school decided to remove its name and branding from the conference and the school's dean canceled plans to deliver the conference's opening address. The law school did not, however, renege on its sponsorship of the conference (instead noting on its Web site that its financial support "does not constitute endorsement of any viewpoints expressed) and offered MCLE (Minimum Continuing Legal Education) credits for attending the conference.

Various departments at several other universities sponsored anti-Israel programs as well, including:

- **DePaul University:** On May 24, 2011, the university's International Studies Department co-sponsored an event organized by the campus chapter of [Students for Justice in Palestine](#) that sought to highlight the efforts of the boycott movement against Israel. The event featured Ali Abunimah, a popular anti-Israel speaker who supports a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and has not hesitated to evoke comparisons to the Holocaust when describing Israeli policy.
- **University of California, Riverside:** In March 2011, the Department of Ethnic Studies hosted a conference on a range of ethnic issues that featured the following anti-Israel sessions: "Turtle Island and Palestine: Forging Alliances Against Settler Colonialism;" "Israeli Occupation as Racist Nation Building;" "Colonizing Palestine: the Spatial and Discursive Construction of

Identity and Difference under Israeli Military Occupation;" and "Palestinian Liberation and Conceptual Limits."

- **University of New Mexico, Albuquerque:** The American Studies and Peace Studies departments collaborated with several campus groups to hold a speaking engagement by Ali Abunimah on November 7, 2010.
- **University of California, Berkeley:** The Muslim Identities and Cultures Working Group, which is affiliated with the university's Townsend Center for the Humanities, was one of the sponsors of an October 26, 2010 event featuring a leader of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel and Hatem Bazian, a chairman of the extreme anti-Israel group American Muslims for Palestine.

AMERICAN MUSLIMS FOR PALESTINE'S CAMPUS OUTREACH

In the past year, American Muslims for Palestine, an extreme anti-Israel organization based in Chicago, has made a [concerted effort](#) to engage in advocacy on campus and facilitate increased collaboration among anti-Israel students on campus, in particular the activity of [Students for Justice in Palestine \(SJP\)](#).

AMP first began to engage students in June 2010 when it hosted a conference in Detroit and invited representatives from SJP groups across the country to attend. Then, in December, AMP hired two full-time staff members to work specifically on helping coordinate the anti-Israel movement on campus, demonstrating a long-term commitment to this effort.

Over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, AMP leadership organized and participated in two weekend conferences and invited SJP leaders to attend. At the Christmas Weekend event, which was the [Muslim American Society-Islamic Circle of North America](#)'s annual convention, AMP led multiple sessions on advocacy training for more than 160 students from a few dozen universities in order to "organize and unify the work for Palestine on campuses in the United States." The group also organized a "closed-door" meeting for SJP chapters from the Midwest during the convention and described the meeting as an opportunity for "networking...and idea sharing," further evidence that AMP views its role as the facilitator of cooperation among regional SJP groups.

AMP has since set out to help organize regional SJP chapters on the ground. In January, AMP helped organize a conference for six Florida-based campus groups that took place at Florida International

University. AMP's two campus coordinators were scheduled to speak on "effective organizing and planning for pro-Palestinian organizations in the state of Florida," according to the event page on Facebook. AMP also hosted a day-long training conference for pro-Palestinian activists in San Diego in July that attracted students from local SJP and Muslim Student Association (MSA) chapters.

AMP has also, at times, helped organize or sponsor anti-Israel programs on campus. In January-February 2011, it was one of three off-campus organizations to sponsor a [tour](#) by anti-Zionist Holocaust survivors that visited several college campuses across the country. AMP's leader, Hatem Bazian, a lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley, regularly speaks at anti-Israel events on campus as well.

It appears that AMP intends to continue its campus efforts in the coming school year. In November 2011, the group will again host a conference over Thanksgiving Weekend and has announced that the conference program will include an "SJP/MSA track."

MAJOR ANTI-ISRAEL EVENTS

Each year, dozens of college campuses across the country hold weeklong anti-Israel programs to condemn Israel and cast it as a pariah state. Many of these events take place in the form of "[Israeli Apartheid Week](#)" (IAW), held in cities around the world each March, or other "Palestine Awareness Week" programs. Such programs were held in the 2010-11 academic year under a variety of names, including **UC Irvine's** "Palestine: An Invisible Nation," **UCLA's** "Taking Back Our Narrative," and **Brandeis University's** "Israeli Occupation Awareness Week."

In 2010-11, IAW events took place in close to two dozen U.S. cities, including on at least 16 college campuses: **American University; Bard College; Benedictine University; Boston University; Brown University; Case Western Reserve University; Central Connecticut State University; DePaul University; Florida International University; George Washington University Northeastern University; Rutgers University; University of California, Berkeley; University of Florida, Gainesville; University of Houston and Yale University.**

Some IAW events featured outdoor displays, including mock "apartheid walls," the term used by the anti-Israel movement to refer to Israel's security fence. The slogans and messages depicted on these walls are often quite extreme. One wall that has been displayed on campuses across the West Coast, for example, features an image of Laila Khaled, a member of the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine](#), holding an AK-47 assault rifle. Another wall that appeared at Boston University had graffiti that read, "Gaza

Similar to Warsaw Ghetto," offensively comparing the plight of Jews during the Nazi Holocaust to that of the Palestinians.

Speakers at a variety of campus IAW events expressed support for BDS campaigns against Israel, including at two events held at Florida International University. Muhammad Malik, an anti-Israel activist in South Florida, spoke at one of the events and encouraged students to pressure celebrities and artists not to visit Israel because it "normalize[s] the occupation." Events on other campuses featured even more radical rhetoric, including a speech by the Palestinian activist [Mazin Qumsiyeh](#) at Yale University during which he excused violent resistance as the right of "occupied peoples."

In addition to Israeli Apartheid Weeks, anti-Israel students often hold weeklong events in May to coincide with the anniversary of the declaration of the State of Israel, which Palestinians (and the pro-Palestinian community) refer to as the "Nakba," an Arabic term meaning "catastrophe."

Some of the May 2011 programs included:

- **University of California, Irvine - "Palestine: An Invisible Nation":** The program featured at least two speakers who expressed support for Hamas during their talks. One, Amir Mertaban, used the term "freedom fighters" to describe Hamas, and Michael Prysner, an activist with an antiwar [ANSWER Coalition](#), responded to a question about his support for Hamas with: "I am in support of all those standing in the way of U.S. imperialism." Prysner's speech was particularly vitriolic, including accusing Israel of committing a Holocaust against the Palestinians, describing Zionism as a "bastardization" of Judaism and claiming that Israel is just a "proxy" of the U.S. Another speaker named Matan Cohen, a former activist with the Israel-based Anarchists Against the Wall, claimed that most Israelis want "segregation" and separation and that Israel is not really a democracy. He also expressed support for a one-state solution. [Neturei Karta](#) leader Yisroel Dovid Weiss, despite being introduced by the organizer as a representative of a minority view in the Jewish community, claimed that rabbis in every community oppose Zionism and that he represents the true Jewish religion and Jews around the world. He described Zionists as "haughty devils" and "pig-eaters," an attempt to claim that observant Jews are not supporters of Israel.
- **University of Maryland - "Palestinian Solidarity Week":** The event featured a mock apartheid wall display titled, "The Wall Must Fall," an effort to compare the Berlin Wall to Israel's security fence. There was also a session about "Israeli Apartheid" and a speech by

Norman Finkelstein condemning Israel's actions during the 2008-9 Gaza war. The event was organized by the [Students for Justice in Palestine](#) chapter on campus.

- **Brandeis University – "Israeli Occupation Awareness Week"**: [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) and SJP chapters co-sponsored a program featuring speeches by Noam Chomsky and Diana Buttu, a former PLO lawyer who describes Israeli policy as "apartheid." The program also included a music performance by the Palestinian rap group DAM whose lyrics often include support for violence against Israel.
- **UCLA – "Palestine Awareness Week"**: The weeklong program featured a mock "apartheid" wall and checkpoints on campus, as well as speeches by [Alison Weir](#) and Hatem Bazian."

Off-campus anti-Israel groups also regularly sponsor events on campus. In January and February 2011, for example, American Muslims for Palestine, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network and the Middle East Children's Alliance [organized](#) a campus tour called "Never Again for Anyone" featuring several anti-Zionist Holocaust survivors and other speakers. The purpose of the tour, which visited approximately a dozen well-known universities, was to reject the notion that the "Never Again" label is only applicable to the Holocaust and to compare the Israeli government to Nazi Germany. Speakers at the events described Israeli policy as "Nazi tactics" and accused Zionists and the state of Israel of exploiting the Holocaust in order to carry out the "dehumanization" and abuse of the Palestinians.

BDS ACTIVITY

Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) efforts experienced some decline in the latest academic year, following the frenzied [divestment campaigns](#) that took place in '09-'10 at the University of California, Berkeley and elsewhere.

There were, however, several pro-BDS campaigns and events worth noting. At DePaul University, an effort to pressure the university to stop selling Sabra hummus (which is partially owned by the Israeli company Strauss Group) garnered significant attention and the product was temporarily removed from the shelves of various food establishments on campus. After two weeks, the hummus was returned pending a review by the university's *Fair Business Practices* Committee. In May, the committee ruled that Strauss Group has not violated any of the university's regulations and should continue to be sold on campus.

Student activists also held a campus-wide referendum that failed to attract enough support for the ban.

Divestment campaigns seeking to pressure the university to disinvest from companies that benefit from Israel and the Israeli occupation similarly failed at several universities:

- **University of Vermont:** A proposal for divestment was submitted to the university's Socially Responsible Investing Working Group and a bill supporting divestment (which was introduced by the newly formed [Students for Justice in Palestine](#)) was ultimately tabled by the Student Government Association on the grounds that the issue requires a lot more dialogue and education.
- **University of Colorado:** A local anti-Israel activist and University of Colorado, Boulder alumnus tried to petition the Board of Regents to divest from Israel. The activist claimed to have support from close to 1,500 other individuals but the Board did not take up the issue and there appears to be no traction for the proposal.
- **University of Michigan:** The Michigan Student Assembly rejected a proposal that called for divestment from several companies, including Northrop Grumman, because of their dealings with Israel. Several members of the students and faculty who spoke at the MSA meeting expressed support for the resolution, including Associate Professor Robert Lipton, who spoke in favor of divestment on "social justice" grounds.

Other divestment initiatives were briefly introduced but were unsuccessful at Stanford University, Columbia University, Eastern Mennonite University and several others.

While BDS campaigns on campus have been a complete failure, support for this tactic has not diminished and anti-Israel groups continue to organize events in support of BDS on campus. In May, for example, DePaul University hosted an event called "The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights: The Boycott Movement Against Israeli Occupation."

In April, Omar Barghouti, the co-founder of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel (PACBI) went on a speaking tour of several universities in the Northeast, including Rutgers University, Princeton University, Brown University, the University of Massachusetts, Brandeis University, Columbia University and Harvard University. At the events, which were timed to promote his new book, *BDS: Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions - The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights*, Barghouti claimed that a successful BDS movement would end the occupation, end discrimination against Palestinians and "secure the right of return." He also stated that BDS has real potential because of the "power of the

purse."

SUPPORT FOR THE FLOTILLA

Some anti-Israel groups on campus have demonstrated support for efforts to "break the siege of Gaza," including the campaign by the [Free Gaza Movement \(FGM\)](#) and various international organizations to send flotillas to Gaza in 2010 and 2011. These initiatives, though often promoted as humanitarian in nature, are solely intended to delegitimize Israel and demonstrate support for Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip.

So-called "survivors" of the May 2010 flotilla, which was stopped by the Israeli Navy before reaching Gaza, were invited to speak at a number of American college campuses in the 2010-11 academic year, including at Stanford University, Arizona State University and San Diego State University. In addition, Huwaida Arraf, the leader and co-founder of FGM, visited several campuses.

Some groups went so far as to assist in raising funds for the second Freedom Flotilla, which was planned for June 2011 but was ultimately not allowed to set sail for Gaza. Fundraising events took place on at least five campuses:

- **Temple University:** A fundraising event called "Palestinian Nights" was hosted by [Students for Justice in Palestine](#) on April 22. The event was held in the Student Center at the university and was promoted as an event to "celebrate the Palestinian culture."
- **Earlham College:** A fundraising dinner for the flotilla took place on March 27. It was organized by a campus group called Students for Peace and Justice in Palestine.
- **University of Oklahoma:** FGM co-founder Huwaida Arraf was invited by the group Sooners for Peace in Palestine to speak on March 3 about "The Audacity of Hope," which was the name of the U.S. boat that was supposed to participate in the 2011 flotilla. The campus newspaper reported that Arraf was "collecting donations" for the flotilla.
- **Rutgers University:** A student group called BAKA – Students United for Middle Eastern Justice held an event on November 4 featuring several FGM activists that was described as a "U.S. To Gaza fundraiser." After extensive requests by the pro-Israel community to prevent the funds from supporting the flotilla, the university announced that the money raised at the event would not be donated to the flotilla.
- **University of Texas, Austin:** The Palestine Solidarity Committee hosted a speaking appearance

by Huwaida Arraf in February to raise money for the U.S. Boat to Gaza.

ADL RESPONDS

As both a civil rights and Jewish community organization, the Anti-Defamation League addresses anti-Israel activity on American college campuses in a nuanced and thoughtful manner. The rights to free speech and academic freedom are sacred and deserve protection. At the same time, when anti-Israel activity crosses the line into anti-Semitism and expressions of support for terrorism, or when the Israel activity is so pervasive and severe that it creates a hostile environment for Jewish students, it is imperative to expose these incidents, speak out in opposition and urge university officials to issue condemnations.

ADL also works with Hillel professionals and students to determine how to advocate for Israel on campus, and how to respond to anti-Israel programming when it occurs. Often, anti-Israel sentiment on campus is best countered with alternative pro-Israel programming that seeks to educate rather than further inflame tensions, which can be the result of direct protests of anti-Israel events. Effective pro-Israel advocacy requires meaningful discussions about the conflict as well as events that highlight Israel's culture, society, history and people. For more information, please see our comprehensive resource, [Fighting Back: A Handbook for Responding to Anti-Israel Campaigns on University and College Campuses](#).

Throughout the academic year, ADL strives to provide the broader Jewish and pro-Israel community on campus with the tools to respond to anti-Israel activity, including strategizing with pro-Israel advocates, contacting university officials when the circumstances require it and issuing accurate and factually-based reports on the tenor and trends in the anti-Israel movement.

Below are just a few examples of ADL's work on campus in the 2010-11 academic year, including efforts to speak out against anti-Israel programming, defending Jewish and pro-Israel students on campus, and encouraging university officials to use their platforms to speak out when necessary.

- **Exposing Possible Illegal Activity:** ADL uncovered that approximately two dozen fundraisers for the failed [2011 flotilla](#) were scheduled to take place around the country, including at least five on college campuses. In addition to writing letters to various government officials warning that such fundraising may constitute violations of several U.S. laws, ADL reached out to university officials where these events were scheduled to take place to inform them that the fundraising was in possible violation of two federal laws, the statute against providing material assistance to Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) and the Neutrality Act, which prohibits U.S. citizens from breaking maritime blockades imposed by nations friendly to the U.S., in this case, Israel.

- **Reporting on and Condemning Anti-Semitic and Extreme Events:** The "[Never Again for Anyone](#)" tour previously mentioned in this report was promoted as an effort to speak out against "oppressed minorities" everywhere, but the events and its speakers solely focused on Israeli policy, describing it as "Nazi tactics" and accusing Israel of exploiting the Holocaust in order to carry out the "dehumanization" of the Palestinian people. After the tour had made stops at several American universities, ADL issued a statement condemning the misappropriation of the message of "Never Again" and provided information about the tour stops that had already taken place and its upcoming locations. In this case, ADL sought to expose the nature of this tour in an effort to ensure that the general public was aware of its extreme motivations and not be misled by its guise of idealism.
- **Educating University Officials:** Students on campus have the right to organize events and invite speakers who are critical of Israel to speak to their fellow students. The campus, after all, is a marketplace of ideas. ADL does, however, object to the sponsorship of anti-Israel events by a university or university department because it inherently creates the perception that the views expressed at the event are endorsed by the sponsor. When ADL became aware that UC Hastings College of the Law was sponsoring a conference featuring anti-Israel speakers discussing how to wage "lawfare" against Israel, ADL urged the university to rescind its sponsorship. Ultimately, the law school's board voted to remove its branding from the event and canceled a planned introductory address by its dean.

In other cases, ADL encourages senior university officials to use their bully pulpits to speak out or distance themselves from certain incidents. In September 2010, an English professor at Lincoln University, Kaukab Siddique, spoke at an annual Al Quds day event in Washington, D.C. where he referred to the September 11 terrorist attacks as a "Zionist plot" and called for unity in the effort to "defeat, to destroy, to dismantle Israel – if possible, by peaceful means." These statements by Siddique, who is the leader of an extremist group in Baltimore named [Jammat al-Muslimeen](#), crossed the line into hate speech and ADL urged the university president to condemn it. In response, the president issued a statement declaring that he abhors and distances himself from Siddique's statements, which he called "an insult to all decent people." Strong statements like these go a long way toward keeping extreme positions on the fringe and ensuring that Jewish and pro-Israel students feel safe on campus.

- **Lobbying to Make a Difference:** In October 2010, the US Department of Education's Office of Civil

Rights (OCR) issued new guidance to schools stating that anti-Semitic harassment on campus can be prohibited, under certain circumstances, by federal civil rights law. ADL had called for clarification on this issue several months earlier in a letter that the League had coordinated with 12 other Jewish organizations. The letter called on the Department of Education to interpret Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act broadly to include Jewish students and protect them from anti-Semitic harassment, intimidation and discrimination – including anti-Israel and anti-Zionist sentiment that crosses the line into anti-Semitism. The OCR's new guidance explicitly notes that the agency has authority to apply its Title VI enforcement powers to protect Jewish students from a hostile environment "on the basis of actual or perceived shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics." The guidance states that schools are responsible for addressing incidents of discriminatory harassment and describes the obligations schools have to respond, including investigating and dealing with the incident in a timely manner, disciplining, and addressing the general campus environment that gave rise to the incident.