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Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on Combating Antisemitism (anti-Jewish Hatred) on Canadian University Campuses



Introduction



Antisemitic attacks on students. Illegal encampments. Glorification of terrorism. This is the reality of Canadian universities in 2024.

Allied Voices for Israel (AVI)'s Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights delivers recommendations to address the proliferation of hatred and support for violence emanating from both students and faculty on campuses across Canada. This phenomenon has reached a boiling point in the months after the Oct. 7 Hamas attacks. AVI is a charitable non-profit organization fighting anti-Jewish hatred on campuses together with students of all backgrounds. We focus on peace, coexistence, and allyship.

There are several grave threats facing Jewish Canadian students. The first are faculty and professors who actively promote the delegitimization, demonization, and destruction of Israel. These individuals spread contempt for the Jewish State and by extension, the Jewish Canadians (students included) who support it in their classrooms. This behaviour is then mimicked by students who feel emboldened to bully, harass, and intimidate anyone on campus who dares to support Israel, coexistence, peace, or any combination of the three.

When professors promote radical Marxist ideologies that are rooted in violence, it corroborates the notion that violence, murder, and hatred are justified when carried out under the guise of "pro-Palestinian" activism.

Another threat is that universities continue to allow this hatred to fester on campus. Students and professors have invited terrorist members to campus, raised funds for terrorist groups, share hateful and genocidal propaganda, and physically and emotionally harass, intimidate, and discriminate against any students who disagree. Antisemitism has been normalized on campus and Jewish students and their allies are facing the brunt of it.

To prevent any further harm to both Jewish and non-Jewish students, the Government of Canada must identify tokenized Jewish organizations not representative of the community that actively work in pursuit of Jewish suffering, and deliver just consequences to students and faculty disseminating hateful rhetoric in opposition to Canada's Criminal Code and Student Codes of Conduct. We implore you to hear from the Jewish and allied students who have directly experienced anti-Jewish hatred on campus and put into place measures to ensure university campuses can once again be bastions of learning where ideas can be freely exchanged while remaining a safe environment for all.



PREPARED BY
Allied Voices for Israel

PREPARED FOR
Standing Committee on
Justice and Human Rights

PRO-PALESTINIAN ENCAMPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CAMPUS IN DOWNTOWN TORONTO ON THURSDAY MAY 2, 2024. PHOTO BY ERNEST DOROSZUK /TORONTO SUN/POSTMEDIA

Attacks on Jewish & Non-Jewish Students



AVI STUDENT AND PROUD ALLY RAIHAANA ADIRA AT THE CANADIAN WOMEN AGAINST ANTISEMITISM'S RALLY TO STAND WITH STUDENTS, MAY 6TH

Since the horrific terrorist attack of October 7th by Hamas—the largest murder of Jews since the Holocaust—Canadian campuses have become a hotbed of anti-Jewish hatred, where Jewish students have been called “racists” and “murderers” simply because they are Jewish.

Non-Jewish students have also been attacked at campuses such as Queen’s and McGill, where students were doxxed for being allies to the Jewish people.

When universities allow hateful slogans and signs to be shared or displayed on campus, it sends the message that rules are not going to be enforced. This leads to students and professors openly attacking those they disagree with and creating an unsafe learning environment.

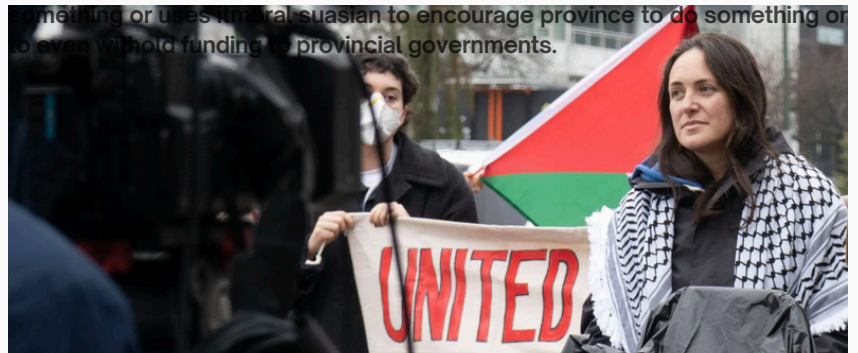
The York University Department of Politics Palestine Committee released a nine-page report of recommendations, including that any defense of Israel on campus is “Islamophobic and racist.” At a Pro-Palestinian Rally on October 28th in British Columbia, Langara College’s English instructor, Natalie Knight, referred to Hamas terrorist attacks as “the amazing, brilliant offensive waged on Oct. 7.”

Both these incidents and countless others further isolate Jewish students and allies who are already marginalized and contribute to a culture of hatred and divisiveness on campus.

There are many other examples, including professors who praised the Oct. 7 attacks such as Natalie Knight at Langara College in BC or Uahikea Maile at U of T. There are also profs or faculty who have referred to Israel as “Nazis,” or advanced documents that purport to advance education but actually rewrite and ignore Jewish history.

Such examples of anti-Jewish hatred emanating from professors, who do it under the guise of “activism” always cause harm to Jewish and allied students on campus, particularly when profs promote the notion of “resistance” itself. One could only imagine how harrowing that is for students on campus who have lost family members in the Oct. 7 attacks.

The federal government should endorse... The federal government can do something or uses financial suasion to encourage province to do something or to even withhold funding to provincial governments.



NATALIE KNIGHT AT THE PODIUM DURING A PRO-PALESTINE RALLY AT LANGARA-49TH STATION ON JAN. 23. PHOTO BY TY LIM

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Official Recommendations for the Government of Canada to Adopt



AVI STUDENT AMBASSADOR JUSTIN CHOW TAKES PART IN A STUDENT-LED PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, DEMANDING AN END TO THE ANTI-JEWISH AND ANTI-CANADIAN ENCAMPMENT AT UOFT, JUNE 23RD

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Recommendation 1: The Government must urge provinces across Canada to mandate that all faculty members receive mandatory training on the IRHA definition of antisemitism.

Recommendation 2: The government must urge provinces to better understand anti-Zionist speech as hate speech contrary to Canada’s Criminal Code.

As Prime Minister Trudeau has correctly asserted, Zionism should not be disparaged in a country like Canada yet it is being condemned and demonized on every major university campus in the country. The government must help provinces identify that anti-Zionism is antisemitism and that anti-Zionist rhetoric is hate speech that has a real and harmful effect on Jewish Canadians, especially students on campus who are constantly harassed for their Zionism.

Recommendation 3: The government must urge provinces to deliver consequences to radical students and faculty

Those who break the no-discrimination rules, support illegal encampments, and support terrorist groups must face consequences in Canada. Faculty, especially, must be reprimanded and removed from their positions of authority when responsible for proliferating hatred against students. Universities must discipline radical and hateful faculty and anti-Israel faculty and there must be a zero-tolerance policy for hatred and glorifying terrorism on campus.