



From darkness, light.

April 24, 2024

Holocaust Museum Houston Statement Regarding the Rise in On-Campus Antisemitism

Jewish students across the nation are facing the kind of antisemitism that previous generations believed would never happen in the United States. This virulent hatred spewed by protestors on college campuses is deplorable. Now more than ever, it is vital to combat anti-Jewish hate which undermines and threatens our democracy.

In 2023, the ADL reported an average of one antisemitic incident every hour of every day in the United States. This included more than 1,000 bomb threats and swattings of Jewish institutions.

Since October 7th, we have seen a 388% increase in antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and assaults. Immediately following the terrorist attack, demonstrations supporting Hamas and celebrating the murder and kidnapping of innocent Jews proliferated throughout society including higher education institutions. Hillel International reports a 700% increase of antisemitic incidents on college campuses. Jewish students are under attack and face threats, harassment, and attempts to exclude them from campus life.

Jewish students are subjected to threats such as, "Remember the 7th of October? That will happen not one more time, not five more times... but 10,000 more times," and chants such as, "Go back to Poland," and "From the river to the sea," a call for the ethnic cleansing of Israel. The harassment has become so extreme that students and professors have been denied access to their campus, and Jewish students at Columbia were advised to go home for their own safety.

This disruption to the right to a safe academic environment is intolerable and endangers our democratic values. We believe that everyone, including Jewish students, have the right to free speech but hate speech, harassment, intimidation, and violence have no place on college campuses.

Holocaust Museum Houston calls on allies to confront and combat antisemitism in all its forms. University leaders need to meet this moment in history and take strong action to ensure that Jewish students can safely participate in campus activities.

One way to join the fight is to support Holocaust Museum Houston's ongoing work to address and counter antisemitism through educational programming, classroom resources, exhibitions, and community outreach. Donate today by visiting www.hmh.org/donate.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barbara J. Herz in black ink.

Barbara J. Herz
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Tamara Savage in black ink.

Tamara Savage
Interim Co-Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Kristin Albers Lamm in black ink.

Kristin Albers Lamm
Interim Co-Executive Director