

## **Responding to Antisemitic Hatred on Campus: UCLA leads the way with document titled 'Principles against Intolerance'**

*The top human rights issue on University campuses across North America and Europe today is the growing wave of anti-Semitic hatred set in motion by the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Student unions across the country have been holding referendums targeting Israel, cloaking anti-Semitic prejudice in the garb of anti-Zionism. Anti-Semitic symbols and slogans that just a few short years ago would have been considered shocking are now becoming commonplace, leading to the widespread intimidation and marginalization of Jewish students who simply want to gain an education.*

### **A Model Response**

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Canadian universities should take their cue from the University of California's (UCLA) Board of Regents, which recently adopted a groundbreaking statement addressing anti-Semitism in response to escalating displays of anti-Jewish hate on campus. In a statement titled "[Principles against Intolerance](#)," the Board not only condemned anti-Semitism, but also defined it – adopting the [US State Department's definition of anti-Semitism](#):

***"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."***

The State Department's definition also explicitly references the demonization and delegitimization of Israel, as well as the application of double standards to Israel, as being anti-Semitic. This too is reflected in the UCLA statement:

***"Opposition to Zionism often is expressed in ways that are not simply statements of disagreement over politics and policy, but also assertions of prejudice and intolerance toward Jewish people and culture. Anti-Semitism, anti-semitic forms of anti-Zionism and other forms of discrimination have no place at the University of California"***

Clearly defining anti-Semitism in this way ensures that the UCLA faculty and student body have an objective measure by which to evaluate and respond to behaviour on campus.

Importantly, the UCLA statement also reaffirms the institution's unwavering commitment to the First Amendment right of freedom of speech, while noting that the First Amendment cannot be used as a cover for hateful expressions of anti-Semitism.

### ***Call to Action***

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**UCLA's statement is an important first step in addressing the urgent problem of growing anti-Semitism on campus and offers an excellent template that other universities ought to follow, including those here in Canada.**

**Continuing to ignore this issue is simply unacceptable, as it would mean complicity in the promotion of anti-Jewish hate and the unjust marginalization of Jewish students.**

### **Related:**

[Simon Wiesenthal Center Statement on Critical UC Regents Vote Declaring Forms of Anti-Israel Speech as Anti-Semitic](#)