



AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The following resolution herewith has been proposed by the following parties:

Nicole Rosenzweig (Duke University)
Elliot Bachrach (Brandeis University)
Talía Freedhoff (University of King's College)
Jacob Schmeltz (Columbia University)
Antisemitism Committee

Views expressed are those of the Ambassador Program and not Jewish on Campus as a whole, unless explicitly stated.

Resolution 2223-5: A Resolution to Call for Solidarity in Response to Mainstream Antisemitism

Introduction

Antisemitism, often recognized as the [world's oldest hatred](#), has been around for centuries, and it frequently changes in form. Antisemitism is on the rise nationally and globally. According to recent [FBI data](#), Jewish people make up approximately two percent of the U.S. population yet are victims of 60 percent of religiously motivated hate crimes. Recently, antisemitism has dominated mainstream conversations, including among celebrities and on social media.

Rapper Kanye West (also known as Ye) has espoused a series of [antisemitic comments](#), blaming “Jewish media” and “Jewish Zionists” for a number of issues and spreading conspiracy theories related to Jewish power and control. On October 8, Kanye [tweeted](#) that he would go “death con 3 [sic] On JEWISH PEOPLE,” further claiming, “You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda.” This tweet has since been removed by Twitter, and many individuals and organizations have denounced Kanye’s antisemitic rhetoric. Adidas and other businesses [cut ties](#) with Kanye over his antisemitic comments and actions.

Soon after Kanye’s antisemitic tirade, NBA player Kyrie Irving shared a link to an [antisemitic film](#) on Twitter and Instagram. The film promoted various harmful tropes, denying the Holocaust and alleging Jewish people have been lying about their origins. The Brooklyn Nets suspended Irving for a minimum of five games after he initially failed to apologize for his tweet.

Assumptions

This resolution operates under the following assumptions:

1. Antisemitism is defined according to the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, as adopted by the Ambassador Program in Resolution 1 of the 2021-2022 cohort.
2. This resolution is by no means exhaustive in its discussion of mainstream antisemitic rhetoric. Rather, it focuses on recent notable examples to emphasize the need for the proposed solutions.

Articles

Article I: Words Have Consequences

- I. The Ambassador Program recognizes that words can have far-reaching consequences.
 - A. Kanye West had over [31 million](#) followers on Twitter when he threatened to go “death con 3” on Jewish people in October. The global Jewish population is approximately [15 million](#) people, meaning Kanye had more Twitter followers than there are Jewish people in the world when he posted these antisemitic conspiracy theories.
 - B. On October 22, 2022, a group of demonstrators hung [large banners](#) expressing antisemitic messages over a Los Angeles highway. One banner read, “Kanye was right about the Jews.” The white supremacists stood behind the banners performing Nazi salutes.
 - C. During the October 29th [football game](#) between the University of Florida and University of Georgia at TIAA Bank Stadium in Jacksonville, Florida, the phrase “Kanye is right about the Jews” was projected onto the exterior of the stadium’s scoreboard, reaching the nearly 76,000 fans in attendance.
 - D. On November 14, 2022, [police were called to a Jewish cemetery](#) in a Chicago suburb of Waukegan, Illinois, and found 16 gravestones painted with swastikas and another 23 defaced. One gravestone was spray-painted with the words “Kanye was rite [sic].”
 - E. When Kyrie Irving shared the link to an antisemitic film on his social media accounts, he had 17.6 million followers on Instagram and 4.6 million followers on Twitter. The largely unknown film—*Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America*—which had been released years prior rose to [number one](#) on Amazon’s chart of best-selling documentaries after Kyrie posted it. The book version of the documentary became Amazon’s leading seller in its “Christian Education” section and [sat at number four](#) on Amazon’s chart of most sold nonfiction books during the week of November 13, 2022.
- II. The Ambassador Program condemns the harmful antisemitic tropes present in extremist sectors of the [Black Hebrew Israelite Movement](#), including in Kanye West and Kyrie Irving’s recent tweets.

- A. In accordance with Black Hebrew Israelite ideology, Kanye tweeted, “The funny thing is I actually can’t be Anti Semitic because Black people are actually Jew also.” The movement proposes that people of color are the true ‘children of Israel’. Extremist members of this movement additionally believe that Jewish people are evil, liars and not ‘real Jews’, with several extremist sects promoting the antisemitic trope that Jews have control over the world.
 - B. These antisemitic stereotypes surrounding world domination and an overall misrepresentation of Jewish people cause real harm to Jewish communities. An example of this is the [antisemitic film](#) shared by Kyrie Irving on Twitter, *Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America*, which perpetuates harmful ideas that Jewish people falsified events such as the Holocaust, places undue responsibility on Jewish people for the slave trade, and erroneously claims that Jews stole the religious heritage of Black people.
 - C. The messages espoused by extremist sectors of the Black Hebrew Israelite Movement promote a harmful divide between the Black and Jewish communities.
- III. The Ambassador Program encourages college students to use their voices to condemn antisemitism and stand firmly against all types of hatred and bigotry.
 - A. Just as words can be used as a powerful tool to spread hate, words can also be valuable in fostering unity and combating discrimination.
 - B. Whether through campaigns, events, conversations with friends, student government initiatives, social media posts, or other methods, students have the power to take a stand against antisemitism.

Article II: Call for Solidarity

- I. At a time when some individuals are attempting to divide the Black and Jewish communities against one another, it is imperative that we stand together and commit to combating all forms of hatred and bigotry.
 - A. The [Great Replacement Theory](#) and other white supremacist ideologies pose a threat to both the Black and Jewish communities.
 - B. Attempts to ignite tensions between the Black and Jewish communities ignore the lived experiences of Black Jewish people.

- II. The Ambassador Program condemns Kanye West's anti-Black statements and actions, in addition to his antisemitic comments.
 - A. Kanye has made extremely [harmful statements](#) about the Black community, including his suggestion that African-American slavery was 'a choice'.
 - B. In [2015](#), Kanye told an interviewer that "racism is a dated concept" and that the idea of racism is "stupid."
 - C. Kanye also made [false claims](#) about George Floyd's death, alleging that Floyd died from a fentanyl overdose despite the direct evidence that police officers' restraint of Floyd's body and compression of his neck were the primary causes of death.
 - D. Prior to the end of his partnership with Adidas, Kanye designed [shirts](#) with the phrase "White Lives Matter" for his clothing line, undermining and dismissing the Black Lives Matter movement and the presence of institutional racism in American society.
 - E. These actions, among others, are incredibly harmful and warrant public outcry and condemnation.
- III. The Ambassador Program recognizes the importance of centering Jewish voices in efforts to define antisemitism, just as other communities have the right to define what constitutes hatred and bigotry against them.
- IV. As antisemitism becomes mainstream and increasingly normalized, it is essential for college students to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community.

Article III: The Ambassador Program's Statement

- I. The Ambassador Program shall publish in a reasonable time upon passage of this resolution the following statement to express the views embedded in its articles:
 - A. **Headline:** Jewish on Campus Ambassador Program calls for solidarity in response to mainstream antisemitic rhetoric, citing recent statements by Kanye West and Kyrie Irving
 - B. "The Jewish on Campus Ambassador Program formally condemns the recent antisemitic statements made by Kanye West and Kyrie Irving. As antisemitism becomes mainstream and increasingly normalized, it is

essential for college students to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community.

- C. Many have understated the impact of Kanye and Kyrie's antisemitism. However, the Ambassador Program recognizes that words have consequences. Kanye West had over 31 million followers on Twitter when he threatened to go "death con 3" on Jewish people in October. The global Jewish population is approximately 15 million people, meaning Kanye had more Twitter followers than there are Jewish people in the world when he posted these antisemitic conspiracy theories. There have already been multiple demonstrations, instances of vandalism, and public displays claiming "Kanye was right about the Jews" in the aftermath of Kanye's antisemitic statements.
- D. At a time when some individuals are attempting to divide the Black and Jewish communities against one another, it is imperative that we stand together and commit to combating all forms of hatred and bigotry. The Ambassador Program condemns Kanye's anti-Black statements and actions, in addition to his antisemitic comments.
- E. We encourage college students to use their voices to condemn antisemitism and stand firmly against all types of hatred and bigotry. Just as words can be used as a powerful tool to spread hate, words can also be valuable in fostering unity and combating discrimination. Whether through campaigns, events, conversations with friends, student government initiatives, social media posts, or other methods, students have the power to take a stand against antisemitism."

Voting

29 Ambassadors voted “Yea.” 0 voted “Nay.” 0 abstained. 3 were not present. Voting occurred on 11/22/2022.

Representative of Boston University, Yea	Representative 2 of Indiana University, Yea
Representative 1 of Brandeis University, Yea	Representative 3 of Indiana University, Yea
Representative 2 of Brandeis University, Yea	Representative of Northwestern University, Absent
Representative of California State University (Long Beach), Yea	Representative of Simmons University, Yea
Representative of California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), Yea	Representative 1 of Tufts University, Yea
Representative of Columbia University, Yea	Representative of Tulane University, Absent
Representative of Duke University, Yea	Representative of University at Buffalo, Yea
Representative of George Washington University, Yea	Representative of University of California (Berkeley), Yea
Representative 1 of Georgia Institute of Technology, Yea	Representative 1 of University of Chicago, Yea
Representative 2 of Georgia Institute of Technology, Yea	Representative 2 of University of Chicago, Absent
Representative of Illinois State University, Yea	Representative of University of Guelph, Yea
Representative 1 of Indiana University, Yea	Representative of University of King’s College, Yea

Representative of University of Minnesota (Twin Cities), Yea	Representative of University of Rochester, Yea
Representative of University of Missouri (Columbia), Yea	Representative of Utah State University, Yea
Representative of University of Oregon, Yea	Representative of 1 Western Washington University, Yea
	Representative of 2 Western Washington University, Yea

Approval

Approved by Blake Ziegler, Ambassador President [11/22/2022]