

February 25, 2024

Hon. Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Hon. Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6100

Dear Chairwoman Foxx and Ranking Member Scott,

We are Jewish students at Northwestern University and write regarding antisemitism and discrimination against Jewish and Israeli students at Northwestern University. We are well aware that the House Committee on Education and the Workforce (the “Committee”) is investigating various universities for their respective responses to antisemitism on their campuses and the failure to protect Jewish students attending their universities. We are also aware that the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is already investigating Northwestern for alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We sincerely urge you to include Northwestern in your investigation.

We would like to make you aware of our own observations of what has taken place on our campus since October 7, 2023. Northwestern has bypassed its obligations and has signaled to Jewish students and the Department of Education that it is not serious about protecting its Jewish population from harassment, discrimination, and of their targeting based on their shared Jewish ancestry or Israeli national origin. Issues at Northwestern include not only traditional antisemitic tropes, blatantly false blood libels and incitement, but also antisemitic discrimination masked as “anti-Zionism” that targets Jews on the basis of their shared religious, ethnic and ancestral connection to the Land of Israel. Zionism, the belief in the right of Jewish people to self-determine in their ancestral homeland, is used as pretext to call for violence against Jews on Northwestern’s campus and globally.

Northwestern’s President Michael H. Schill oversees a campus that has seen an unacceptable spike in antisemitism and sustained activity since the October 7 terrorist attack. His response, or lack of response, has made it clear that Northwestern is not a welcoming place for Jewish students. The university’s major power centers (President, Board, bias/hate crime reporting centers, police department, DEI system, tenured faculty establishment, etc.), create a counter-institution that suppresses the civil rights of Jewish students. We have documented a serious record of systemic racism, discrimination, double standards, failure to protect Jewish students, silencing of students for whom Israel is central to their Jewish identity, harassment, and corresponding lack of attention or action by the administration.

Thus, we respectfully call on the Committee to exercise its oversight powers and investigate Northwestern's: (i) pervasive antisemitism on its campus; and (ii) failure to protect and hostile environment toward Jewish and Israeli students, faculty, and staff.

Northwestern's Failure to Address Antisemitic Conduct and Mitigate a Hostile Environment

1. Leadership Lapses & Governance Gaps; Failure to Protect Civil Rights

Leadership at Northwestern continues to ignore and delay fully addressing the safety concerns of its Jewish students and taking steps to protect them. This stands in marked contrast to allegations of code of conduct violations that involve other minority groups, when Northwestern has acted swiftly. This toxic climate is especially concerning given the scale of Northwestern's Jewish community: according to Hillel International, Jewish students represent approximately 21% of the student body.¹

The double standards are glaring. In a recent example, when Northwestern's chapter of the Northwestern University College Republicans (NUCR) invited a speaker for a May 2, 2023 event who did not agree with "critical race theory" (titled "The Dangers of Identity Politics and Intersectionality with James Lindsay") and published a flyer that was perceived to be anti-LGBTQA+, Northwestern's Associated Student Government (ASG) passed emergency legislation on May 4, 2023 (within 48 hours of the announcement), that wholly cut off funding for NUCR.² Molly Whalen, a Northwestern junior who served as co-president of ASG, confirmed to the Daily Northwestern that "they froze the funds because the flyers were allegedly in violation of the university's Policy on Discrimination & Harassment, which prohibits the display of 'offensive objects and pictures that are based on a protected class.'"³⁴ Regardless of one's feelings on this issue, this is just one illustration of different standards being applied on the identity of the aggrieved party. This example illustrates that offensive speech against some groups is deemed a violation of policy, but offensive speech against Jews is not.⁵

Northwestern's leadership has failed to take meaningful, concrete actions to address discrimination against Jewish students. President Schill consistently invokes constitutional considerations pertaining to free speech in a manner that is arbitrary, while public messages

¹ Northwestern University. (n.d.). Hillel International. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://www.hillel.org/college/northwestern-university/>

² Brown, J. (2023, May 9). *Northwestern student government freezes College Republicans funding over poster critical of LGBTQ community*. Fox News. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/northwestern-student-government-freezes-college-republicans-funding-poster-critical-lgbtq-community>

³ *Policy on Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct*. (2023, September 1). Northwestern University. <https://www.northwestern.edu/civil-rights-office/policies-procedures/policies/policy-on-discrimination-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct.pdf>

⁴ Andreone, J. (2023, May 4). *ASG freezes NUCR fund transactions*. The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/05/04/lateststories/asg-senate-passes-legislation-freezing-funds-for-nucr-indefinitely/>

⁵ Piro, G. (2023, May 11). *Northwestern must reverse student government's freeze on College Republicans' funding*. The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. <https://www.thefire.org/news/northwestern-must-reverse-student-governments-freeze-college-republicans-funding>

pertaining to antisemitic acts are consistently watered down with 1) opaque references to free speech, 2) redirected statements pertaining to “all forms of hate,” 3) vague administrative promises of action without any firm commitments or deadlines, and 4) a lack of commitment to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions for protesting and on campus.

It is clear that President Schill places a higher value on freedom of speech and freedom of expression for all, than he does on freedom from discrimination for Jews. Freedom of speech and freedom from discrimination are both essential human rights. Anti-discrimination laws and policies protect individuals and groups from harmful or prejudiced treatment. According to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the boundary of free speech and free expression is when discrimination takes place based on race, color, or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance. Northwestern receives hundreds of millions from U.S. federal agencies annually and enjoys full exemption from income taxes. It is most concerning that the President of Northwestern University had to form an “Advisory Committee on Free Expression and Institutional Speech” in February 2024, to seek advice on this matter of morality. President Schill should be able to identify the distinction between right and wrong, and good or bad behavior.

Northwestern’s leadership pays deference to free speech and academic freedom only when the topic involves antisemitism, but not other hate speech. This treatment explains why Northwestern ranks at the very bottom of the 254 institutions surveyed by the non-partisan Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression (FIRE).⁶ Slotted at the 242nd spot, Northwestern’s “speech climate” was labeled as poor by FIRE and it additionally ranked 225th spot in “disruptive conduct.” Northwestern demonstrates a clear double standard by tolerating antisemitic vandalism, harassment, and intimidation, but not tolerating hateful actions that involve other minority groups.

Northwestern spends millions of dollars annually on its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives which is centralized in the Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion (OIDI). Some of Northwestern’s DEI initiatives have included antisemitism (see the January 28, 2024 incident below). OIDI claims to offer protections focused on race, ethnicity, gender, political beliefs, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, religion or belief system, and nation of origin.⁷ Yet, Northwestern fails to protect Jewish students based on religion, ethnicity, belief system, and nation of origin; this is partially because antisemitism is not defined in the University’s policies.⁸

Northwestern’s leadership has failed to protect Jewish and Israeli students’ civil rights. A detailed description is included in Appendix A and includes, among other things:

⁶ *Free Speech Rankings*. (n.d.). The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression.
<https://rankings.thefire.org/rank>

⁷ *Climate Study for Diversity Undergraduate Students Only*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2024, from
<https://www.northwestern.edu/diversity/docs/climate-study-for-diversity-ugrd.pdf>

⁸ *2022 – 2023 Northwestern Student Handbook*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2024, from
<https://www.northwestern.edu/communitystandards/student-handbook/22-23studenthandbook.pdf>

- Double standard with respect to how the leadership traditionally regulates free speech and protects victims of hate speech or other code of conduct violations for other marginalized groups as compared to its Jewish and Israeli students.
- Senior administrative leadership's inability or unwillingness to provide consistent and clear communication with respect to the University's stated value system and beliefs.
- A decentralized governance structure that allows university officials to skirt responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of their students.
- Limited consistency in bias incident reporting and complaint response time, as Zionism is treated as a mere political belief and not an identity bridging protected category.
- Unwillingness to denounce and address antisemitism without equating it with other unrelated forms of hate, such as Islamophobia.
- A DEI program which focuses on supporting many discriminated groups (including Asians, Blacks, LGBTQIA+, Latinx, Native Americans, women, etc.), except for Jews. Antisemitism is not formally defined, trained on, or addressed by the DEI office.
- Consistent refusal to apply the University's non-discrimination policy to address the type of harassment and discrimination experienced by Jewish students at Northwestern.
- Rejection of adoption of any definition of antisemitism, despite the fact that the U.S. State Department, many countries, and some peer institutions have accepted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA") working definition of antisemitism, which many in the Northwestern community have explicitly proposed.⁹

2. Discriminatory Ecosystem and Hostile Environment

Northwestern's failure to adequately address rising antisemitism on campus has created a hostile environment. A timeline and detailed description of incidents is included in Appendix B, which includes the following:

- Incidents involving intimidation, bigotry, vandalism, and other alleged hate crimes (see Appendix B, sections within pertaining to a mezuzah being torn off from a door post, assault/battery/harassment, and broadly disseminated antisemitic parody student newspaper).
- Extremist Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter, which organizes anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish events that cross the line from protected speech to violations of the rights of other students, pushing antisemitic boycott campaigns and "anti-normalization" tactics, including the whitewashing of terrorism and the comparison of supporters of Israel's right to exist, on the one hand, to Nazis, on the other.
- The presence of a faculty-led Middle East Center ("MENA") that fosters a xenophobic and anti-Israeli program, unsurprisingly led by an anti-Zionist radical professor and staffed with antisemites who have published academic papers attempting to demonize even the slightest connection between anti-Zionism and antisemitism (see Appendix B, sections within pertaining to Professor Wendy Pearlman, Professor Elizabeth Hurd, and Professor Jessica Winegar).

⁹ *Defining Antisemitism*. (2016, May 26). United States Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/defining-antisemitism/>

- Emboldened participation by affiliated entities and the community in the antisemitic global Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaign, which, among other things calls for unlawful discrimination against Israelis and Jews. The BDS movement is considered antisemitic according to the Anti-Defamation League.¹⁰
- The uninvestigated influence of Northwestern's Qatar campus (NU-Q) and relationship with Qatar, resulting in legitimizing antisemitic, anti-Israel, and anti-American hate (*see* Appendix B, sections within pertaining Professor Justin Martin and Professor Khaled AL-Hroub).
- A student government and student newspaper that have exhibited a clear bias against Zionist (i.e. Jewish) voices. Approximately 80% of American Jews identify as pro-Israel (i.e. Zionist) and approximately 70% of younger Jews are very emotionally connected to Israel.¹¹
- An environmental culture of intolerance which does not allow for any productive fact-based discourse on the Hamas-Israel War or the Israel-Palestine issue.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of the Alums for Campus Fairness (ACF), Coalition Against Antisemitism at Northwestern (CAAN), Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC), and StandWithUs (SWU) for their commitment to helping us combat antisemitism at Northwestern.

Sincerely,



Michael Rutsky
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2025
Northwestern University
Pritzker School of Law (Pritzker Law)
michael.rutsky@law.northwestern.edu



Max Strozenberg
B.A. Candidate, Class of 2027
Northwestern University
School of Communication (SoC)
maxstrozenberg2027@u.northwestern.edu

We have spoken with alumni representatives and understand that thousands of Jewish alumni are also outraged at Northwestern University's deliberate indifference to antisemitism and discrimination against Jewish and Israeli students.

¹⁰ *The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign (BDS)* (2022, May 24). ADL.

<https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-campaign-bds>

¹¹ *American Jewry Position Survey* (2020, December 21). Ruderman Family Foundation. Retrieved February 24, 2024 from https://rudermanfoundation.org/white_papers/american-jewry-survey/.

Appendix A – Leadership Lapses & Governance Gaps; Failure to Project Civil Rights

NORTHWESTERN’S TROUBLING HISTORY OF ANTISEMITISM

- October 20, 2016, Brandeis University published a report tracking antisemitic activity across U.S. college campuses (the “Brandeis Report”).¹² Northwestern ranked as the worst university in the survey of 50 colleges. Approximately 3-of-4 students said that Northwestern has a hostile environment toward Israel and 1-in-3 said that Northwestern has a hostile environment towards Jews. Approximately 1-in-5 Jewish students said that they felt unwelcome at Northwestern because of their Jewish identity and 1-in-10 were victims of anti-Jewish social media insults. The Brandeis Report also identified the presence of an active SJP chapter as a material factor in creation of a hostile environment toward both Jews and Israelis. Not only did Northwestern fail to act to remedy the antisemitism reported in 2016, but it allowed an atmosphere in which antisemitism could flourish.
- On December 14, 2023, Brandeis University released a ranking of 51 colleges based on antisemitism and perceived hostility since the start of the Hamas-Israel war.¹³ Northwestern was ranked as having “above average antisemitic hostility” (second highest 25% of schools sample) on the *Antisemitic Hostility Index*. This category was immediately below the group of universities with “highest antisemitic hostility,” which included Columbia and Penn.
- On January 24, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education opened an investigation into Northwestern for potential violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.¹⁴

NORTHWESTERN’S DOUBLE STANDARD AND INCONSISTENT COMMUNICATION REGARDING HATE SPEECH DIRECTED TOWARDS JEWS

- On October 12, 2023, five days after the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, President Schill issued a personal statement pertaining to the “conflict in Israel and Gaza.”¹⁵ Recusing himself from a moral institutional perspective, President Schill issued a nihilistic public letter that suggested he would not issue a formal institutional statement in his capacity as President. The letter made reference to President Schill’s personal views on freedom of

¹² Saxe, L., Wright, G., Hecht, S., Shain, M., Sasson, T., & Chertok, F. (2016, October). *Hotspots of Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Sentiment on US Campuses*. Brandeis University, Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies. <https://hdl.handle.net/10192/33070>

¹³ Wright, G. W., Volodarsky, S., Hecht, S., & Saxe, L. (2023, December 14). *In the Shadow of War: Hotspots of Antisemitism on US College Campuses*. Brandeis Scholar Works. <https://doi.org/10.48617/rpt.1072>

¹⁴ Fox 32 Digital Staff. (2024, January 24). *Northwestern University under investigation by U.S. Department of Education for alleged Title VI violation*. Yahoo News. <https://news.yahoo.com/northwestern-university-under-investigation-u-235345949.html>

¹⁵ Schill, M. (2023, October 12). *Message from President Schill to Senior Leadership*. [www.northwestern.edu](https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/message-from-president-schill-to-senior-leadership.html). <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/message-from-president-schill-to-senior-leadership.html>

speech and the anti-censorship Chicago Principles.¹⁶ Schill did offer a condemnation in his personal capacity or otherwise.

- Despite his claims of free speech on the topic of antisemitism, as recently as in July 2020 and April 2021, President Schill made formal statements on social justice issues during his prior tenure as the President of University of Oregon.^{17 18}
- After arriving at Northwestern, President Schill made a formal statement in November 2022, titled “Recent Incidents Involving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict on Campus.”¹⁹
- On October 13, 2023, one day after refusing to make a statement, President Schill issued a new statement where he further clarified that the actions of Hamas were “clearly antithetical to Northwestern’s values.”²⁰
- On November 13, 2023, President Schill reversed his prior position and labeled the slogan, “From the River to the Sea,” as a “statement or banner that significant parts of our community interpret as promoting murder and genocide.” Schill urged the community to “emphatically reject” these hurtful statements or banners.
- On February 19, 2024, President Schill announced the formation of the “Advisory Committee on Free Expression and Institutional Speech,” which was tasked with reviewing “boundaries” for “free speech and academic freedom in teaching, research and public discourse.”²¹ The committee included:
 - English Department’s Professor Natasha Trethewey, who has been affiliated with the Jewish Voices for Peace (JVP), a radical anti-Israel and anti-Zionist activist group that advocates for the boycott of Israel and eradication of Zionism.²² JVP’s statements have included classic antisemitic tropes and JVP has expressed support for violence and terrorism.²³

¹⁶ Andersson, M. G. (2023, May 12). *The University of Chicago Isn’t Living Up to Its “Principles.”* The James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal. <https://www.jamesgmartin.center/2023/05/the-university-of-chicago-isnt-living-up-to-its-principles/>

¹⁷ Schill, M. (2020, July 15). *Schill on George Floyd Protests, Black Lives Matter, Deady Renaming.* Around the O. <https://around.uoregon.edu/content/schill-george-floyd-protests-black-lives-matter-deady-renaming>

¹⁸ *President calls George Floyd verdict “just a step toward justice.”* (2021, April 20). Around the O. <https://around.uoregon.edu/content/president-calls-george-floyd-verdict-just-step-toward-justice>

¹⁹ Schill, M. (2022, November 18). *Recent Incidents Involving the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict on Campus.* Www.northwestern.edu. <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2022/recent-incidents-involving-the-palestinian-israeli-conflict-on-campus.html>

²⁰ Schill, M. (2023b, October 13). *Our Northwestern Values.* Www.northwestern.edu. <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/our-northwestern-values.html>

²¹ Schill, M. (2024, February 19). *President’s Advisory Committee on Free Expression and Institutional Speech.* Www.northwestern.edu. <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2024/presidents-advisory-committee-on-free-expression-and-institutional-speech.html>

²² Dann, N. (2016, July 12), *Poetry is Not a Crime: Nine Pulitzer-Winners among 150+ Literary Figures Calling for Israel to Release Palestinian Poet.* [Www.jewishvoicesforpeace.org](http://www.jewishvoicesforpeace.org). <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/2016/07/12/poetry-not-crime-nine-pulitzer-winners-among-150-literary-figures-calling-israel-release-palestinian-poet/>

²³ *Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP): What You Need to Know.* (2022, November 17). ADL. <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/jewish-voice-peace-jvp-what-you-need-know>

- Medill School of Journalism’s Professor Peter Slevin, who honored the one-month anniversary of the October 7, 2023 attack by co-hosting an anti-Zionist event on November 7, 2023 with Northwestern’s MENA department, titled “Storytelling and the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Nathan Thrall in Conversation.”²⁴

DECENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ALLOWS UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SKIRT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANTISEMITISM

- On November 7, 2023, Michal Cotler-Wunsch, an Israeli-Canadian human rights activist who is currently serving as Israel’s Special Envoy for Combating Antisemitism, visited Northwestern and met with President Schill. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss antisemitism. Later that evening, Ms. Cotler-Wunsch met with approximately 35 Northwestern Jewish students. The meeting included all leaders of Northwestern’s primary Jewish organizations (Hillel, Chabad, and the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies) and an independent observer from the Jewish Agency for Israel, who transcribed these testimonials. In a town hall format, Northwestern students stated the following with respect to Jewish life on campus:
 - “Since he arrived on campus, President Schill has normalized antisemitism. He published a university-wide letter, where he openly said that ‘From the River to the Sea’ is commonly and acceptably viewed as a call for the plight of the Palestinian people and liberation.”
 - The student’s reference was to a November 18, 2022, statement issued by President Schill. (Schill, 2022)
 - After on-campus antisemitism exploded, President Schill reversed his statement on November 13, 2023.²⁵
 - “The President [Schill] has been ‘digging his heels in’ on the topic of antisemitism. He feels that if he ‘admits defeat’ and acknowledges that there is a problem with antisemitism here, then he ‘lost.’”
 - “I don’t feel protected here. The University’s leadership is unable to make clear public statements that antisemitism is unacceptable at Northwestern.”
 - “I can’t practice Jewish life freely.”
 - “I don’t feel safe being a Zionist.”
 - “I feel like Jews have become a marginalized community on campus. There are many minority groups on campus, but most of them have aligned with anti-Israel minority groups.”

²⁴ Pearlman, W. [@Wendy_Pearlman]. (2023, November 1) Chicago & Evanston, join us for a special event on Israel, Palestine & the power of human stories. [@MENAProgramNU](#) & [@MedillSchool](#) host [@NathanThrall](#), presenting his acclaimed new book in conversation with [@peterdslevin](#). Tuesday, Nov. 7, @5pm at [@NorthwesternU](#). [Image attached] [Post]. X https://twitter.com/Wendy_Pearlman/status/1719752617843097975/photo/1

²⁵ Schill, M. (2023c, November 13). *Announcing New Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate: Leadership Notes - Northwestern University*. [www.northwestern.edu. https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/announcing-new-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html](https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/announcing-new-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html)

- “Professors do nothing to protect Jewish students [or reject] anti-Israel comments in class.”
- “I’m scared and am embarrassed of this University.”
- “We have had meetings with the administration (President Schill & Deans) - they know about all these issues. They don’t care.”
- “Some faculty members are openly anti-Zionist and have extremist views.”
- “I don’t know of any issues with Islamophobia or anti-Islam hate on our campus, but that’s what the administration seems to be concerned about. Antisemitism is the problem here.”
- “President Schill took days to condemn the Hamas attacks.”
- “SJP constantly violates all sorts of university hate policies, but there is zero accountability. There is no adult in the room.”
- “The President seems to view antisemitism as a political issue, not as a religious one.”
- “I have filed several formal complaints about hate language at Northwestern. No administrative changes were made.”
- On December 20, 2023, Alums for Campus Fairness (ACF), announced the “launch of a six-figure digital and TV ad campaign exposing Northwestern’s refusal to protect Jewish students.” ACF accused Northwestern’s students and faculty of “intimidating Jews with ‘resounding support’ for Hamas terrorism while university leadership says and does nothing to protect the Jewish community.” ACF demanded that Northwestern “adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism and hold students and faculty accountable for violations of Northwestern Community Standards.”²⁶ ACF further added, “The U.S. State Department first adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism during the Obama administration.” Northwestern has made no public statements pertaining to its willingness to formally define antisemitism, which is a prerequisite for clarity with respect to policies and enforcement. Northwestern is a private university and has material control over how it interprets harassment and discrimination.
- On February 1, 2024, Crain’s Chicago Business profiled a Jewish advocacy ad campaign targeting President Schill and two Jewish members of the school’s Board of Trustees over “concerns of rising hostility toward Jewish students on campus.” Schill’s outspoken apologist, Gordon Segal (founder and former CEO of Crate & Barrel), a Northwestern Trustee who has been deliberately indifferent to antisemitism at Northwestern, is quoted in the article as stating: “There is no antisemitism going on at Northwestern’s campus.”²⁷ Gordon’s statement in Crain’s was 99 days after antisemitic “Fake Daily” was broadly

²⁶ ACF-Northwestern Launches Ad Campaign. (2023, December 20). Alums for Campus Fairness.

<https://www.campusfairness.org/acf-northwestern-launches-ad-campaign/>

²⁷ Dupré, B. (2024, February 1). *Ad campaign targets Northwestern trustees over school’s stance on antisemitism*. Crain’s Chicago Business. <https://www.chicagobusiness.com/education/northwestern-university-trustees-targets-antisemitism-ads>

distributed across the campus (a national news story) and 80 days after Schill broadly announced the formation of the Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate.

FLAWED BIAS REPORTING SYSTEM

- On November 13, 2023, a Northwestern Pritzker School of Law student filed a complaint with Coalition Against Antisemitism at Northwestern (CAAN).²⁸ The complaint stated, “During previous academic years, law student organization leaders were disseminating pro-BDS and anti-Israel statements without the consent of group membership. When my friend complained about such a letter, and complained about antisemitism within the group, she was repeatedly excluded from board positions. We reported this to [Northwestern’s] Office of Equity and Law School, but they refused to take any action. Student groups also retaliated against me because of my involvement in these complaints. The Office of Equity said that being a Zionist is a political belief, not a religious one, and that we were not discriminated against for our religion.”

DEI PROGRAM WHICH DOES NOT PROJECT JEWS

- On November 29, 2021, a senior Northwestern faculty member contacted Robin R. Means Coleman, Northwestern’s then-Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion (DEI), to file a complaint regarding antisemitism within Northwestern’s Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility (ACIR).²⁹ The faculty member wrote, “I had an opportunity to speak directly to Jewish students who had applied to be a student representative on ACIR. I was made aware of the verbal abuse that was thrust on at least one such student during an interrogation before a selection committee of the student government. I subsequently met with other Jewish students at NU who shared their stories of discrimination and fear.” Ms. Coleman did not respond to the complaint.

²⁸ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 13, 2023.

²⁹ *Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility*. (n.d.). Acir.northwestern.edu. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://acir.northwestern.edu/>

Appendix B – Discriminatory Ecosystem and Hostile Environment

EXTREMIST STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE (SJP) CHAPTER

- Northwestern’s Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) chapter is an official Registered Student Organization (RSO) of Northwestern which has received university funding. SJP is a chapter of National Students for Justice in Palestine (also known as “National SJP”), an anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli organization that: 1) organizes discriminatory and hateful campaigns, 2) has been a major force in promoting the antisemitic BDS movement, 3) regularly intimidates and harasses Jews and aggressively disrupts Israel-focused campus events, and 4) commonly whitewashes terrorism, compares Zionists to Nazis, and demonizes pro-Jewish campus organizations.³⁰ According to NGO Monitor, SJP National’s leaders are affiliated with numerous organizations which have been investigated for ties to terror groups, including Hamas.³¹
- May 2, 2017, during “Israeli Apartheid Week,” SJP hosted Rasmia Odeh, a convicted terrorist, inside Northwestern’s Technological Institute (commonly known as “Tech”). Odeh was convicted for involvement in the 1969 Jerusalem supermarket bombing, which resulted in the killing of two high school students.³² During her presentation, Odeh called on the students to “continue to fight American Zionism.”³³
- On October 13, 2023, just six days after the Hamas terrorist attack, Northwestern’s chapter of SJP projected the colors of the Palestinian flag on Northwestern’s Deering Library. Not surprisingly, this caused emotional distress to the Northwestern Jewish community. Northwestern subsequently issued a statement that said that “building lighting is controlled by Facilities Management” and that “Facilities Management discovered that the building lighting had been physically modified.” It is not known if any charges were pressed against SJP by Northwestern.³⁴



1,225 likes
nu.sjp thank you all for coming out tonight 🇵🇸

³⁰ *Students For Justice in Palestine*. (n.d.). AMCHA Initiative. Retrieved February 19, 2024, from <https://amchainitiative.org/sjp-chapters>

³¹ *Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP): Available Funding and Other Information*. (n.d.). NGO Monitor. Retrieved February 22, 2024, from <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/reports/funding-for-students-for-justice-in-palestine-sjp/>

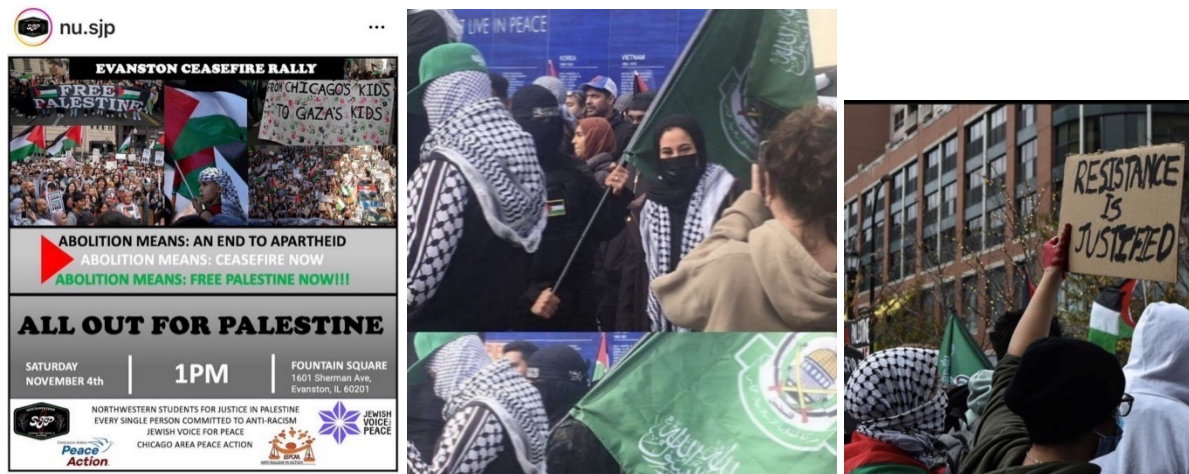
³² *Rasmia Odeh*. (2024, January 3). Retrieved February 14, 2024, from Wikipedia website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rasmia_Odeh

³³ *Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP)*. (2023, October 19). Anti-Defamation League, Center on Extremism. <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/students-justice-palestine-sjp>

³⁴ Schiciano, L. [@LoganSchiciano]. (2023, October 13). *Here’s the statement I received from a Northwestern spokesperson on the lights last night outside Deering*: [Image attached] [Post]. X. <https://twitter.com/LoganSchiciano/status/1712910220102410499>

- On November 4, 2023, Northwestern’s SJP chapter hosted an “All out for Palestine” protest in Evanston, Illinois.
 - SJP members were proudly photographed posing next to Hamas flags, which were present at the rally and were carried by individuals wearing paramilitary fatigues, similar to those worn by Hamas during its inhumane attack on October 7, 2023. The U.S. Department of State designated Hamas as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) in 1997.
 - Signs stated, “Intifada Until Victory” and “Resistance is Justified When People are Occupied: #AlAqsaFlood (U.S. Palestinian Community Network).”³⁵ Accompanying chants included, “Resistance is justified when people are occupied.”³⁶
 - A Northwestern senior filed a complaint with Coalition Against Antisemitism at Northwestern (CAAN) stating, “Someone in my cohort sent a flyer for the SJP rally to our cohort group chat. A couple of people liked the photo. During this rally, I was hiding in my apartment, while I heard people honking their horns and screaming. There were Hamas flags at the rally.”³⁷
 - Similar to the October 13, 2023 Deering Library incident, here too, SJP likely violated Northwestern’s Policy on Discrimination & Harassment.
 - Northwestern has not deactivated SJP or revoked its official student club status, continuing the flow of university resources towards the antisemitic, discriminatory, and hate-focused activities of a club that supports a terrorist organization like Hamas.

Student posing next to Hamas flag at Students for Justice in Palestine Protest (11/4/23)



³⁵ Documentation available upon request. The term intifada refers to violent uprisings and suicide bombings targeting Israeli civilians.

³⁶ Documentation available upon request.

³⁷ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 7, 2023.

- On November 10, 2023, a sophomore at Northwestern filed a complaint with CAAN stating that, “SJP-organized protests featured masked individuals threatening Jews and calling nearby Jewish people ‘pussies.’”³⁸ The same student shared an official university communication from their instructor for the Human Development: Childhood and Adolescence (201-0-20) class, Professor Keira Leneman, who canceled class on October 25, 2023 so that students could attend a talk by an anti-Zionist speaker. In a note titled, “Accommodations for student protest in support of Palestinian liberation today,” Professor Leneman wrote, “I understand that this interferes with class time, but want to support the protest against injustice...Additionally, I welcome information about additional demonstrations so that I can physically stand in solidarity with students against Israeli oppression and apartheid...In support of ‘good trouble.’”³⁹ Professor Leneman directly denied equal access to educational opportunities and services to Jewish students based on their shared ancestry and ethnicity, in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

XENOPHOBIC AND RACIST FACULTY-LED MIDDLE EAST CENTER (MENA) WHICH PROMOTES TERRORIST GROUPS, IDEOLOGIES, AND SLOGANS

- On November 25, 2020, Northwestern’s Crown Professor Wendy Pearlman, a radical activist, directed her Twitter followers to an event hosted by Masar Badil, a revolutionary Palestinian movement.⁴⁰ Masar Badil (Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path, also known as PARP) is an affiliate of the Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network (also known as Samidoun, which was founded in 2011), which was banned by Germany in November 2023 due to its terrorist activities and antisemitism.^{41 42} Samidoun is a terrorist-listed entity in Israel and is intimately tied to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a terrorist-listed entity throughout Europe and North America, via the senior PFLP leader Khaled Barakat, who is a co-founder of Masar Badil.⁴³ According to the ADL, Samidoun is one of the primary leaders in organizing anti-Israel rallies in the United States and its social media accounts have referred their followers to social media

³⁸ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 10, 2023.

³⁹ *Human Development: Childhood and Adolescence (201-0-20)*. (n.d.). Northwestern Class Descriptions. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://class-descriptions.northwestern.edu/4930/SESP/SESP/24792>.

⁴⁰ Pearlman, W. [@Wendy_Pearlman]. (2020, November 25) *Online event this Sunday, 29 Nov, 8:00 pm Jerusalem time, to discuss the Alternative Palestinian Path Conference: an initiative to revitalize the Palestinian national struggle with a vision & strategy invigorated for these times. Zoom code below. See @MasarBadil for details.* [Image attached] [Post]. X. https://twitter.com/Wendy_Pearlman/status/1331617732329082886

⁴¹ *Masar Badil: The German state’s ban on the Samidoun Network is a fascist, racist act of political repression.* (2023, November 3). Palestinian Alternative Revolutionary Path Movement. <https://masarbadil.org/en/2023/11/4422/>

⁴² Gesley, J. (2023, November 3). *Germany: Ministry of the Interior Bans Activities of Hamas and Samidoun*. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/item/global-legal-monitor/2023-11-03/germany-ministry-of-the-interior-bans-activities-of-hamas-and-samidoun/>

⁴³ Halevi, L. C. (ret) J. D. (2023, November 5). *Masar Badil advocates for supporting Hamas “glorious, heroic” attack on Israel*. The Documentation Project: Anti-Semitic and Anti-Israel Campaigns in Canada. <https://canadadocs.org/masar-badil-advocates-for-supporting-hamas-glorious-heroic-attack-on-israel/>

channels featuring pro-Hamas propaganda.⁴⁴ Pearlman is known to have been associated with the antisemitic BDS movement since 2002. In a 2002 letter to the editor, Pearlman wrote, “I write as a member of the Harvard-M.I.T. Divestment Campaign.”⁴⁵ Pearlman has also recently acknowledged her role as President of the SJP chapter at Harvard, where she received a PhD in 2007.⁴⁶ Ironically, Pearlman holds a Crown Professorship of Middle East Studies, funded by Lester Crown (a major donor to pro-Israel causes and Lifetime Trustee).^{47 48}



- On May 14, 2021, Northwestern’s Middle East and North Africa (MENA) department, led by Crown Professor Wendy Pearlman, a radical activist, issued an official “MENA Program Statement on Palestinian Rights.”⁴⁹ The statement exclaimed: “We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people who are fighting against dispossession of their homes and are enduring bombings and raids...We insist that colonialism is a form of racism to be combated...In doing so, and in joining our voices to those of the people of Palestine, we reaffirm our commitment to equity and justice.”
- On October 9, 2023, three days after the Hamas-led terrorist attack on October 7, 2023 (also known as Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, Black Saturday, and the Simchat Torah Massacre), Northwestern’s MENA department issued a statement on Instagram, stating, “We resoundingly support Palestinian resistance to over 75 years of Israeli state-sanctioned violence...We accept this moment in history is integral to rightfully earning

⁴⁴ *Who are the Primary Groups Behind the U.S. Anti-Israel Rallies?* (2023, October 20). Defamation League, Center on Extremism. <https://www.adl.org/resources/blog/who-are-primary-groups-behind-us-anti-israel-rallies>

⁴⁵ “Israel’s Critics and Defenders,” October 17, 2002; NYT, <https://www.nytimes.com/2002/10/17/opinion/israels-critics-and-defenders.html>

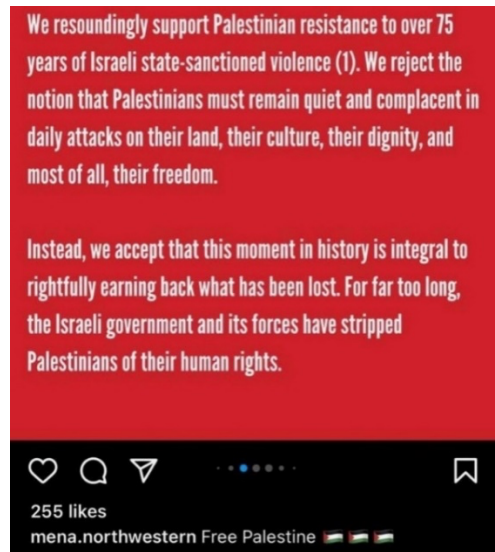
⁴⁶ Pearlman, W. (2023, December 13). *Opinion: The conversation we can’t avoid about pro-Palestinian campus protests*. KESQ; News Channel 3. <https://kesq.com/cnn-opinion/2023/12/13/opinion-we-need-a-congressional-hearing-on-backlash-against-pro-palestinian-voices-too/>

⁴⁷ Wendy Pearlman. (n.d.). Retrieved February 24, 2024, from <https://polisci.northwestern.edu/people/core-faculty/wendy-pearlman.html>

⁴⁸ *Crown Gift Boosts Middle East Studies* (Spring 2010); Retrieved February 24, 2024, from <https://weinberg.northwestern.edu/after-graduation/weinberg-magazine/crosscurrents-archive/2010-spring-summer/crown-gift-middle-east-studies.html>

⁴⁹ *MENA Program Statement on Palestinian Rights*. (2021, May 14). Middle East and North African Studies Program. <https://mena.northwestern.edu/about/mena-program-statement-on-palestinian-rights.html>

back what has been lost.”⁵⁰ The department did not issue any statements referring to the civilian victims of the October 7 massacre.



- On October 16, 2023, a group of Northwestern Professors (including Elizabeth Hurd, Wendy Pearlman, and Jessica Winegar) wrote an article in the school newspaper victim-blaming Israel for Hamas’ terrorist attack on October 7, 2023. Their article in the Daily Northwestern said that “[t]o condemn Hamas’s attack while ignoring this broader context is to fail to understand how we got where we are today. Decontextualized declarations dismiss Palestinians’ struggle for rights and self-determination. They neglect the root causes of today’s violence.”⁵¹
- In a public lecture on November 13, 2023 (lecture with Professor David Shyovitz, Director of Northwestern’s Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies), Northwestern’s Wendy Pearlman, Crown Professor of Middle East Studies and Interim Director, MENA, made a series of defamatory and xenophobic comments against Jews and Israelis. Professor Pearlman stated that “Israel is an ethnonationalist state, which claims to be a democracy, but partakes in occupation, genocide and apartheid.” Pearlman identified “the Zionist Movement” as the “main issue.” She further said that “claims of antisemitism” are being used to “silence Palestinian rights.” President Schill was in attendance at the November 13, 2023 event, which was recorded by the University.
- On November 6, 2023, Northwestern’s Professor Elizabeth Hurd, Professor of Political Science and Professor and Chair of Religious Studies, posted on X / Twitter stating that, “Israel’s legitimacy grows out of the tragedy of the Holocaust and the West’s guilt about this makes Palestinians killing Israelis wicked in a way that Israelis killing Palestinians

⁵⁰ Documentation available upon request.

⁵¹ Feldman, H., Hoffman, K., Johnson, R., Hurd, E. S., Ingram, B., Pearlman, W., Rakowitz, M., Winegar, J., & Yildiz, E. (2023, October 16). *LTE: Open letter on NU leaders’ responses to war in Palestine and Israel Opinion*. The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/10/16/lateststories/lte-open-letter-on-nu-leaders-responses-to-war-in-palestine-and-israel/>

cannot be.”⁵² Professor Hurd, a racist ideologue, posted on November 21, 2023 asking, “Since when is fervent Zionism a litmus test for being Jewish?”⁵³ Hurd was a Crown Chair in Middle East Studies (2019-2022), which was funded by the Crown family.

- On November 16, 2023, 65 student groups and faculty members, including MENA’s Professors Pearlman and Hurd, co-authored an article in the Northwestern Daily, arguing against the University forming a committee to combat antisemitism.⁵⁴ In an article titled, “LTE: From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” they stated, “At least 1.6 million people have been displaced, a number that is more devastating than the 1948 Nakba, or Catastrophe, which ethnically cleansed half of the native population... Indeed, we know there is a genocide happening, and it is happening to Palestinians by the Israeli apartheid government... The deliberate silencing and censorship of pro-Palestinian activism is nothing but repressive and authoritarian.” The article concludes with the phrase, “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free....until liberation.”⁵⁵
- On December 5, 2023, Northwestern’s MENA Professor Elizabeth Hurd published an article in the Chicago Tribune, where she argued that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism.⁵⁶ The article failed to condemn Hamas or acknowledge the rise in antisemitism on college campuses.⁵⁷ The Chicago Tribune article profiled Professor Hurd “professor and chair of religious studies and a professor of political science at Northwestern University.” On December 15, 2023, Hurd posted on X, stating that, “The definition of anti-Semitism is broad enough that it attempts to silence those, including Palestinians and Jews, who criticize Israel’s current actions in Gaza or voice their support for BDS.”⁵⁸ Professor Hurd’s X account prominently includes, as part of her profile, her title as Professor of Religion and International Politics at Northwestern University.⁵⁹

⁵² Hurd, E. S. [@eshurd]. (2023, November 9). “*unlearning what it means to be Jewish*” @ataliaomer explains why so many US Jews are opposing Israeli violence against Palestinians [Thumbnail with link attached] [Post]. X. <https://twitter.com/eshurd/status/1722603063985222038>

⁵³ Hurd, E. S. [@eshurd]. (2023, November 21). “*Since when is fervent Zionism a litmus test for being Jewish?*” [Thumbnail with link attached] [Post]. X. <https://twitter.com/eshurd/status/1726943148331425836>

⁵⁴ Pierre, D. J. (2023, November 16). *Northwestern University Students, Faculty Slam School for Forming Committee to Combat Antisemitism*. The Algemeiner. <https://www.algemeiner.com/2023/11/16/northwestern-university-students-faculty-slam-school-forming-committee-combat-antisemitism/>

⁵⁵ *LTE: From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free*. (2023, November 16). The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/11/16/opinion/lte-from-the-river-to-the-sea-palestine-will-be-free/>

⁵⁶ Hurd, E. S. (2023, December 5). *Elizabeth Shakman Hurd: How the US is making it illegal for students to disagree with Israel*. Chicago Tribune. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2023/12/05/elizabeth-shakman-hurd-how-the-us-is-making-it-illegal-for-students-to-disagree-with-israel/>

⁵⁷ *Letters: Professor fails to condemn Hamas and acknowledge threats to Jewish students on campuses*. (2023, December 10). Chicago Tribune. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2023/12/10/letters-professor-fails-to-condemn-hamas-and-acknowledge-threats-to-jewish-students-on-campuses/>

⁵⁸ Hurd, E. S. [@eshurd]. (2023, December 15). *The definition of anti-Semitism is broad enough that it attempts to silence those, including Palestinians and Jews, who criticize Israel’s current actions in Gaza or voice their support for BDS. I signed this letter from—and also for—Berlin*. [Thumbnail with link attached] [Post]. X. <https://twitter.com/eshurd/status/1735672926890770485>

⁵⁹ Hurd, E. S. [@eshurd]. (n.d.). *Posts* [X Profile] X. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from https://twitter.com/eshurd?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

- On January 5, 2024, Northwestern's MENA department hosted Dr. Nour Joudah (UCLA) to speak in the "Palestine 101" event series.⁶⁰ The lecture was attended by approximately 40 students, including Jewish students who observed an anti-Zionist tirade where Dr. Joudah, 1) accused Jewish people of "settler colonialism" in Palestine, 2) accused Israel of "genocide," and 3) suggested that Israel is proposing, "forcible displacement and ethnic cleansing." The Jewish students in attendance found the remarks emotionally distressing.
- On January 30, 2024, Professor Pearlman and Professor Hurd co-founded Northwestern's chapter of Educators for Justice in Palestine (EJP).⁶¹ The statement read, "We support the work of Students for Justice in Palestine and other pro-Palestinian student groups at Northwestern," and "We reject the conflation of antisemitism with criticism of the policies and actions of the Israeli state, critiques of Zionism, or support for Palestinian liberation, and we will resist moves to shut down discussions of any of these topics on such grounds."
- On February 10, 2024, Professor Pearlman took part in an interview by The Electronic Intifada, a publication that, on October 8, 2023 (day after the terrorist attack), praised the "innovative Palestinian resistance" and described the attack as, "astonishing," "astounding," and "incredible."⁶² ⁶³ In the interview, Pearlman describes studying at Birzeit University in the West Bank earlier during her studies. At Birzeit University candidates linked to Hamas recently won the May 2023 student council elections.⁶⁴ Buildings at Birzeit are named after terrorists and military parades are held on campus featuring students wearing mock explosives and showing public support for Hamas and PFLP.⁶⁵ Earlier, in one of her books, Pearlman described attending Birzeit University for five months in the period between January 2000 and August 2008.⁶⁶ Pearlman writes, "At the turn of the millennium I did a tour of Israel and then spent five months in the West Bank, where I studied at Birzeit University and worked at a local organization. The following summer I lived and worked in the Gaza Strip." In 2007, Pearlman co-authored a study in *Journal of Palestine Studies* with Ali Jarbawi, a professor at Birzei

⁶⁰ MENA | Palestine 101 | Palestine Lives: A Story of Survival. (n.d.). Northwestern University Events. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://planitpurple.northwestern.edu/event/608489>

⁶¹ Northwestern faculty, staff, librarians, and graduate students form chapter of Educators for Justice in Palestine (EJP). (2024, January 30). Www.nuejp.org. <https://www.nuejp.org/press-release>

⁶² Murphy, M. C. (2004, February 6). Interview: Wendy Pearlman, author of "Occupied Voices: Stories of Everyday Life from the Second Intifada." The Electronic Intifada. <https://electronicintifada.net/content/interview-wendy-pearlman-author-occupied-voices-stories-everyday-life-second-intifada/4978>

⁶³ Massad, J. (2023, October 8). *Just another battle or the Palestinian war of liberation?* The Electronic Intifada. <https://electronicintifada.net/content/just-another-battle-or-palestinian-war-liberation/38661>

⁶⁴ Palestinian student elections provide rare test of voter mood. (2023, May 24). Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinian-student-elections-provide-rare-test-voter-mood-2023-05-24/>

⁶⁵ Caschetta, A. J., & Sheva, A. (2022, January 18). *Birzeit University Sure Loves Its Jihadis*. Middle East Forum. <https://www.meforum.org/62951/birzeit-university-sure-loves-its-jihadis>

⁶⁶ Violence, Nonviolence, and the Palestinian National Movement, 2011.

University.⁶⁷ Ali Jarbawi is a known antisemite, as summarized in a 2016 article titled, “Muslim antisemitism? We’ve been warned.”⁶⁸ Pearlman joined Northwestern as a College Fellow in 2008.



SUPPORT FOR ANTISEMITIC BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, AND SANCTIONS (BDS) MOVEMENT

- On August 7, 2018, Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism extended a job offer to Steven Thrasher as “Chair of Social Justice.”⁶⁹ At New York University’s graduation ceremony in May 2019, Thrasher stated that he supports the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement.⁷⁰ He stated, “I am so proud, so proud of NYU’s chapters of Students for Justice in Palestine and of Jewish Voice for Peace, and of GSOC [Graduate Student Organizing Committee], and of the NYU student government, and of my colleagues in the Department of Social and Cultural Analysis for supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against the apartheid state government in Israel.” Northwestern did not rescind Thrasher’s job offer.^{71 72} Since joining Northwestern in August 2019, Thrasher has regularly posted anti-Israel content on his public X (formerly known as Twitter) profile.⁷³ Thrasher did not make any posts about the Israeli civilian victims of the October 7 massacre that involved murder, rape, and kidnapping.

⁶⁷ Jarbawi, A., & Pearlman, W. (2007). *Struggle in a Post-Charisma Transition: Rethinking Palestinian Politics after Arafat*. Institute for Palestine Studies. <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/41905>

⁶⁸ *Muslim antisemitism? We’ve been warned*. (2016, November 24). *www.thejc.com*. <https://www.thejc.com/lets-talk/muslim-antisemitism-weve-been-warned-biuxdac6>

⁶⁹ *Medill names Daniel H. Renberg Chair on social justice, LGBTQ media studies*. (2018, August 7). Northwestern Medill. <https://www.medill.northwestern.edu/news/2018/steven-thrasher-renberg-chair.html>

⁷⁰ *BDS*. (n.d.). BDS Movement. <https://bdsmovement.net/>

⁷¹ Richardson, V. (2019, May 27). *Northwestern won’t rescind job offer to Steven Thrasher over anti-Semitism allegations*. *The Washington Times*. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/may/27/northwestern-wont-rescind-job-offer-steven-thrasher/>

⁷² *Statement regarding Steven Thrasher by president, provost*. (2019, May 24). Northwestern Now. <https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2019/05/steven-thrasher/>

⁷³ Thrasher, S. W. [@thrasherxy]. (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2024, from https://twitter.com/thrasherxy?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor

- On November 14, 2023, Northwestern’s chapter of SJP issued a statement that demanded “complete Northwestern boycott, divestment and sanctioning of Israel’s apartheid and genocide” and demanded “the full disarming, disbanding, and defunding of Northwestern’s Police Department (NUPD).”⁷⁴
- On January 24, 2024, Northwestern announced members of its newly formed committee to fight hate.⁷⁵
 - Members of this committee included Jessica Winegar, Northwestern’s Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Chair in Middle Eastern Studies (Department of Anthropology). Jessica Winegar is a self-described activist and leader in the BDS movement.⁷⁶ Ironically, Winegar is the Director of The Alice Kaplan Institute, which aims to foster an innovative culture of humanities at Northwestern. The Institute was created in 1992 with a major gift from Morris Kaplan, a Jewish donor (NU ’35 and Lifetime Trustee).
 - Other members signed the November 16, 2023 Northwestern Daily article titled “LTE: From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” rejecting condemnations of antisemitism.

TROUBLING TIES TO TERROR SPONSORS IN QATAR

- In 2008, Northwestern partnered with the Qatar Foundation to open a Northwestern campus in Qatar, known as “NU-Q.”⁷⁷ The venture cost over \$602 million. Northwestern receives annual multi-million (royalty-like) compensation for the ongoing commercial relationship.⁷⁸ Funded by the Qatar Foundation and the Al Jazeera Media Network, NU-Q’s faculty members have limited academic freedom given Qatar’s authoritarian government.^{79 80} Al Jazeera’s “left-center”-biased reporting commonly fails to implement fact checks and “favors [an] extreme editorial bias that favors Qatar.”⁸¹ According to the U.S. Department of State, Qatar-based media outlets often carry

⁷⁴ Instagram post by nu.sjp on November 14, 2023

⁷⁵ Schill, M. (2024, January 23). *Update on President’s Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate*. [www.northwestern.edu. https://www.northwestern.edu/president/about-the-office/special-projects/committee-preventing-antisemitism-hate/news/update-on-president-advisory-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html](https://www.northwestern.edu/president/about-the-office/special-projects/committee-preventing-antisemitism-hate/news/update-on-president-advisory-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html)

⁷⁶ *Jessica Winegar*. (n.d.). Canary Mission. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from https://canarymission.org/professor/Jessica_Winegar

⁷⁷ *Northwestern University in Qatar*. (n.d.). [www.northwestern.edu. https://www.northwestern.edu/fm/projects/our_projects/other/northwestern-university-in-qatar.html#:~:text=In%202008%2C%20Northwestern%20University%20partnered](https://www.northwestern.edu/fm/projects/our_projects/other/northwestern-university-in-qatar.html#:~:text=In%202008%2C%20Northwestern%20University%20partnered)

⁷⁸ Arnold, N. (2022, Sept. 12). *Outsourced to Qatar*. National Association of Scholars. <https://www.nas.org/reports/outourced-to-qatar/full-report>

⁷⁹ *Northwestern Qatar University: Qatar’s Multimillion-Dollar Plan to Influence American Media*. (2022, Feb.). Canary Mission. https://canarymission.org/campaign/Northwestern_Qatar_University

⁸⁰ Glaser, M. (2015, June 12). *Northwestern in Qatar Takes on Free Press Issues in Middle East*. MediaShift. <https://mediashift.org/2015/06/northwestern-in-qatar-takes-on-free-press-issues-in-middle-east/>

⁸¹ *Al Jazeera – Bias and Credibility* (2023, Oct. 13). Media Bias/Fact Check. <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/al-jazeera/>

antisemitic content.⁸² Given the institutional relationship and host setting, it is not surprising that Al Jazeera writings are commonly used in courses on Northwestern's Evanston campus.⁸³ A February 2022 report by Canary Mission found:

- "NU-Q trains students to legitimize antisemitic, anti-Israel, anti-American narratives in Western media."
- "In 2013, NU-Q signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Al Jazeera to 'deepen the ties between the two organizations.' According to the memorandum, Al Jazeera agreed 'to support NU-Q students with scholarships and training opportunities.' Between 2013-2019, more than two-thirds of the Al Jazeera staff members that lectured NU-Q students had either expressed support for terrorists, demonized Israel, or backed the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement."
- Canary Mission reviewed 37 NU-Q academic members or speakers that it profiled: "73% posted support for terrorism, 81% demonized Israel and Zionists, 54% support the BDS Movement, and 27% posted extreme antisemitic content, ex. praising Adolf Hitler."
- Canary Mission also profiled 17 NU-Q students, of which "76% posted for terrorism, 70% demonized Israel and Zionists, and 65% support the BDS Movement."
- These attitudes were so pervasive that on May 14, 2021, then NU-Q Professor Justin Martin tweeted, "27 professors from Northwestern University in Qatar issued a statement condemning Israel's system of apartheid and ongoing forced displacement of Palestinians. The signatories, of which I'm one, represent a two-thirds majority of @NUQatar's full-time faculty."
- On October 16, 2023, Khaled AL-Hroub, a professor at Northwestern University in Qatar claimed in an NPR interview that Israel has "fabricated civilian deaths" and has "fed the media from Day 1 with kind of misinformation."⁸⁴ According to Canary Mission's profile of Al-Hroub, he "has spread incitement, glorified terrorism, whitewashed the terror group Hamas and spread hatred of America."⁸⁵

ANTISEMITIC VANDALISM, HARASSMENT, HAZING, AND MENTAL HEALTH TRAUMA

- On November 9, 2022 (approximately one year before the October 7, 2023 terror attack), a Northwestern junior, Lily Cohen, detailed the antisemitic environment at Northwestern

⁸² 2022 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Qatar. (n.d.). United States Department of State. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/qatar/#:~:text=The%20constitution%20provides%20for%20freedom>

⁸³ Example: Al Jazeera readings were assigned as part of "History of the Present" (History 219, Fall 2023), co-taught by Professor Kathleen Belew and Professor Lauren Stokes.

⁸⁴ Mills, R. (2023, October 17). *NPR Does Damage Control after Guest with History of Whitewashing Terror Claims Israel "Fabricated" Civilian Deaths*. National Review. <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/npr-does-damage-control-after-guest-with-history-of-whitewashing-terror-claims-israel-fabricated-civilian-deaths/>

⁸⁵ Khaled Hroub. (n.d.). Canary Mission. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from https://canarymission.org/professor/Khaled_Hroub

in an article in Northwestern's student newspaper, the Daily Northwestern. The article was titled, "Cohen: I am more proud of my Jewish identity than anyone can ever hate me for it."⁸⁶ The article detailed how Cohen faced a hostile environment, where the hate slogan "From the River to the Sea" was commonly posted in physical and social media in Northwestern settings. After publishing the article, Cohen was called a "terrorist and a colonizer" and received implicit death threats.^{87 88} Days later, on November 14, 2022, Cohen's op-ed about Jewish pride was printed and turned into a large sign, painted with the words "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" and hung in the center of the campus.⁸⁹



- On October 25, 2023, shortly after the terrorist attack, Northwestern's campus was covered with fake versions of the student run newspaper publication, The Daily Northwestern which is published by Students Publishing Company (SPC), a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit corporation, governed by a board of directors.⁹⁰
 - The "Fake Daily" single-page newspaper leaflets were primarily wrapped around the October 23 issue of the authentic Daily.⁹¹ The fake article headlined "Northwestern complicit in genocide of Palestinians." The fake Daily also included a fake advertisement for Birthright Israel (a heritage trip to Israel) accusing Israel of stealing land: "One man's home is another man's former home!" The image was stolen from the website of the Jewish Federation of

⁸⁶ Cohen, L. (2022, November 10). *Cohen: I am more proud of my Jewish identity than anyone can ever hate me for it*. The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/11/09/opinion/cohen-i-am-more-proud-of-my-jewish-identity-than-anyone-can-ever-hate-me-for-it/>

⁸⁷ Yellin, D. (2023, June 8). *"Fighting with love:" Jewish students stand up, push back against campus antisemitism*. NorthJersey.com. <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2023/06/08/fighting-college-antisemitism-programs-in-nj-nationwide-fight-back/9320461002/>

⁸⁸ Public comments at an antisemitism event held on November 7, 2023, at Northwestern Chabad in Evanston, IL.

⁸⁹ Klein, Z. (2022, November 15). *Pro-Jewish op-ed turned into pro-Palestinian poster at Northwestern University*. The Jerusalem Post. <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-722453>

⁹⁰ *Students Publishing Company*. (n.d.). The Daily Northwestern. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://dailynorthwestern.com/students-publishing-company/>

⁹¹ Wendler, J. (2023, October 26). *False pages of The Daily Northwestern circulated at Northwestern*. The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/10/26/campus/imitated-front-pages-of-the-daily-northwestern-circulated-across-nus-campus/>

Nevada for a Spring 2024 mission to Israel, organized by the Jewish Federation, Birthright, and Hillel.⁹²

- The fake article dehumanized the Israeli hostages captured by Hamas and held in Gaza, writing that Northwestern “Dining Facility staff held a conference announcing that it would no longer serve food or water until 13 missing OZZIs are returned.” OZZIs are reusable plastic take-out containers used at Northwestern’s dining halls.⁹³ In effect, the hostages—many of whom have been killed and/or raped, and include babies—were equated in jest to objects meant to be used and recycled.
- The fake article included fabricated quotes of President Schill and Medill’s Dean Charles Whitaker, dismissing the significance of the massacre. The article quoted President Schill as saying, “I will not be releasing a statement on the situation...I already said what I didn’t say and I’m not going to say it again...what are we even talking about!” The article also quoted that Dean Whitaker said, “Well this conflict has nothing to do with journalism, so I don’t think I’m the guy to talk to.” Neither Schill, nor Whitaker, took any measures to disclaim or in any way distance themselves from these falsified comments. Northwestern did issue a statement about the fake Daily article, though it did not reject the statements claimed to have been made by President Schill and Dean Whitaker.⁹⁴
- For many Northwestern students, Zionism is integral to their Jewish identity. The Jewish people’s history, theology, and culture are deeply intertwined with the Land of Israel. This hateful act caused significant emotional distress to Jewish students.
- According to The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the gold standard definition of antisemitism, the fake Daily was antisemitic according to the following definition parameters:
 - Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews.
 - Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group.
 - Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
 - Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
 - Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

⁹² *Birthright Nevada*. (n.d.). www.jewishnevada.org. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://www.jewishnevada.org/birthrightnv>

⁹³ Cahillane, J. (2022, March 1). *Go Green with OZZI*. www.northwestern.edu. <https://www.northwestern.edu/sustainability/news/2022/go-green-with-ozzi.html>

⁹⁴ Charles Whitaker is Dean of Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications.

- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.⁹⁵



- A Northwestern PhD student filed a complaint with CAAN on November 7, 2023, where they stated, “Northwestern failed to take action and did not remove any of the fake newspapers from campus.”⁹⁶
- Northwestern identified two suspects, both Northwestern students, and pressed charges in November 2023. The two identified suspects were charged in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois with a petty misdemeanor crime of, “Theft of Advertising Services.”
- A February 2, 2024, a letter from 89 organizations asked the SPC to drop the charges due to a “gross overcharge.”⁹⁷ The co-signatories included Students for Justice in Palestine, Jewish Wildcats for Ceasefire, the Middle Eastern North African Student Association (MENA), and NU’s newly formed chapter of

⁹⁵ Working definition of antisemitism. (n.d.). International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

⁹⁶ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 7, 2023.

⁹⁷ Powers, S., & Wendler, J. (2024, February 3). Letter asks SPC to drop complaint for imitated copies of The Daily. The Daily Northwestern. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2024/02/02/lateststories/letter-calls-on-students-publishing-company-to-drop-criminal-complaint-against-two-students-connected-with-imitated-copies-of-the-daily/>

Educators for Justice in Palestine (EJP). A change.org petition on the same matter had 5,403 signatures as of February 4, 2024.⁹⁸

- Northwestern's Student Publishing Company (parent of the Daily) dropped the charges on February 6, 2024. Cook County's State's Attorney Office dropped the charges on February 7, 2024.
- Northwestern took no action to address the situation other than to issue a statement that the newspaper is student-run and that the newspaper organization was looking into this. The university did not issue a statement about any action that it is taking, nor about any supportive services offered in connection with the incident. Northwestern made no public statement of potential consequences for the violative conduct.⁹⁹
- On November 2, 2023, a Northwestern student found an antisemitic flyer near his room at a Northwestern dormitory. The flyer pictured a Star of David, images of red blood, and a photo of a child, and was titled "Murdered by Israel."



- On November 9, 2023, a group of activists blocked entrance to Northwestern's Tech building to protest against companies that trade with Israel, shouting, "Don't be complicit. That means you." The loud protest was disruptive to morning classes.
- On November 10, 2023, a Northwestern student found an antisemitic caricature of President Schill with horns (an antisemitic stereotype) at the Willard Residential College dormitory.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸ Pressure Northwestern to drop criminal charges against two Black students. (2024, January 30). Change.org. https://www.change.org/p/pressure-northwestern-to-drop-criminal-charges-against-two-black-students?source_location=search

⁹⁹ Syed, Z. (2024, February 6). Northwestern roiled by criminal charges against two students who made parody copies of student paper (M. Buckley, Ed.). Chicago Tribune. <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/02/05/northwestern-roiled-by-criminal-charges-against-two-students-who-made-parody-copies-of-student-paper/>

¹⁰⁰ Documentation available upon request.

- On November 13, 2023, a sophomore at Northwestern filed a complaint with CAAN stating that a classmate of hers said that she was a “Nazi-Zionist pig.” The classmate also said that “the Jews are playing the victim and that the atrocities of October 7th never happened.” The same student continued: “She made broad antisemitic remarks during class. Stating that the Jews control the world/the media. She explained to the class that this is not a war, but a one-sided colonization/genocide. She made a presentation explaining the trauma the IDF inflicts on the children of Palestine.” The student further noted, “I have been especially uncomfortable with the professor allowing this to happen in the classroom.”¹⁰¹
- On November 13, 2023, a Northwestern graduate student filed a complaint with CAAN.¹⁰² The complaint stated, “Got harassed by a 2023 NU grad on Instagram. Somebody sent her a story [that] I uploaded, and she started accusing me of racism and genocide etc.”¹⁰³ The student further states, “I did file a complaint, but Northwestern never even followed up with me, let alone handle the situation...I'd definitely say [that] it was mishandled. I'm no longer a student at NU though, so I'm not sure if there's anything else I can do.”¹⁰⁴
- On November 14, 2023, a Northwestern student posted: “The campus is already infested with white colonial Zionism.”¹⁰⁵
- On November 16, 2023, a student spotted a fake Israeli hostage poster by Northwestern’s Annenberg Hall. The fake poster read, “Missing Cow. Reward: A box of chalk and a can of beer.”¹⁰⁶ Identical posters were identified the same day at the UPenn campus.¹⁰⁷
- On November 16, 2023, a protest occurred inside the Chicago campus of the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.
 - Slogans at the protest included: 1) “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free,” 2) “I don’t have the stomach for genocide”, and 3) “We are fighting human animals.”
 - At approximately noon, the protest’s co-leader aggressively confronted a Jewish student. The Jewish student was subsequently stalked and harassed by another student while seeking to file a complaint with the law school the same day.
 - The Jewish student subsequently filed a report (assault/battery) with Northwestern University Police (NUPD) at approximately 8:45pm on Thursday, November 16, 2023, with Officer Walsh, Star Number 36, Case Number 23-519.
 - The Jewish student also filed a complaint with CAAN on November 15, 2023.¹⁰⁸ The complaint stated, “I felt personally harassed, intimidated, and scared during two specific incidents.” The first incident involved the student being shoved. The

¹⁰¹ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 13, 2023.

¹⁰² Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 13, 2023.

¹⁰³ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 14, 2023.

¹⁰⁴ Student update on February 23, 2024 on complaint filed with Northwestern.

¹⁰⁵ Documentation available upon request.

¹⁰⁶ Documentation available upon request.

¹⁰⁷ Documentation available upon request.

¹⁰⁸ Student complaint filed with CAAN on November 16, 2023.

second incident involved the student being harassed as they went to file a complaint. The student further noted, “I was in such shock from the whole thing. I went outside and began to cry. I didn't want to cry in front of them.” “When I went to go into the office of the student services to clarify what had happened (as I think she was trying to scare me) and to report the incident from earlier, she followed me and stood outside the partially-glass door where I could see her. I felt intimidated, threatened, and harassed by that too. I filed a police report with the University. I have some photos and video...I'm absolutely exhausted from what I endured today.”

- On November 20, 2023, Northwestern Pritzker School of Law’s National Lawyers Guild (NLG) and International Refugee Assistance Program (IRAP) chapters co-hosted an event named “Palestine Teach-In; Stop the Genocide in Palestine”.
 - The event was held inside the law school at the Bluhm Legal Clinic (which renamed in 2000 in honor of Neil Bluhm, a major Jewish donor to Northwestern and a Life Trustee). Omar Shakir, the Human Rights Watch’s Israel and Palestine Director and known antisemite, led the event.¹⁰⁹
 - The President of the Jewish Law Student Association (JLSA), Michael Rutsky, attempted to attend the event. At the door of the event, Michael was denied entry by a faculty member, who first claimed the event was “at capacity and he did not RSVP.”
 - Michael asked if he was not being allowed entry because he was Jewish, to which the faculty member said ‘No.’ Later on, it became public knowledge that other non-Jewish students were let into the event after Michael was denied entry, despite not RSVPing themselves.
 - The incident brought emotional distress and loss of educational and extracurricular opportunities.
 - Michael Rutsky filed a complaint with Northwestern on November 21, 2023. Rutsky met with Northwestern’s Office of Civil Rights and Title IX Compliance (“NU OCR”) on December 6, 2023. It took Northwestern approximately 100+ days to conduct an initial investigation into the discriminatory incident and to prepare another investigation into the event. Michael Rutsky was then contacted on February 21, 2024 by NU OCR to set-up another meeting with outside investigators who are working on behalf of NU OCR.

¹⁰⁹ Omar Shakir. (n.d.). Canary Mission. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from https://canarymission.org/individual/Omar_Shakir



- On December 18, 2023, an anonymous student posted on Fizz (NU’s university-wide social media app), “Should people be celebrating Hannukah since it’s technically a ZIONIST holiday?”¹¹⁰
- On January 31, 2024, CAAN was made that during the Fall 2023, a Northwestern student informed their Residential Advisor (RA) that an individual had “torn off” a mezuzah, a Jewish religious object whose use is commanded in Hebrew scriptures (Deuteronomy 6 and 11), from their doorway at the Foster Walker Complex Dormitory. Tearing-down a mezuzah is a form of intimidation, bigotry, and vandalism.
 - The student also verbally communicated this antisemitic incident at a formal Northwestern event to discuss antisemitism which was held at Wieboldt House (President’s residence) on January 30, 2024.
 - The event included approximately 40 Jewish students. President Michael Schill, Provost Kathleen Haggerty, co-chairs of Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate, and Hillel’s Executive Director were in attendance.
 - During a public debrief with the entire group present, President Schill was informed of the mezuzah vandalism. Schill told the group that the incident may be a Title VI violation, but made no public announcement of the incident or of NUPD launching any investigation into the alleged hate crime.
 - The incident highlights the need for Northwestern to clearly define antisemitism in the Student Handbook. “IHRA specifically addresses how antisemitism could be a physical manifestation directed at Jewish individuals’ property. Thus, the defacing of a mezuzah is clearly defined as an antisemitic act.”¹¹¹ If IHRA was adopted and enforced at Northwestern, the administrators would know that this act was a religious-based discriminatory incident, allowing the university and NUPD to take the appropriate criminal and disciplinary measures.
- On February 7, 2024, Northwestern Law School hosted their annual Global Village event, which allows students to share their unique culture and heritage by preparing food from

¹¹⁰ Documentation available upon request.

¹¹¹ Levy, Taylor (2021, September 24). *Mezuzah Taken Down at Tufts University on Two Separate Occasions in One Month*. Jewish on Campus. Retrieved February 24, 2024, from <https://www.jewishoncampus.org/media/mezuzah-taken-down-at-tufts-university-on-two-separate-occasions-in-one-month>

their native country or region. At this event, there was a student-led Palestine table which contained a map of Israel (claimed to be Palestine), small cards with the poem, “If I Must Die” by Refaat Alareer,¹¹² and various other items. The official Northwestern Law School Instagram posted a photo of this table and the aforementioned objects to its Instagram Story, demonstrating institutional support for Palestine.¹¹³ This conduct was in direct violation of the Global Village event guidelines (and the post was taken down), but no known action has been taken against the offending students by the University and the University did not make any formal comment about the violation.

- On February 10, 2024, the Association of Jewish Psychologists (AJP) launched a clinical psychology survey at Northwestern University to determine the impact of antisemitism on mental health, including screening for anxiety and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among Jewish undergraduate and graduate students.

ANTISEMITIC ACTIVITY BY FACULTY, ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS, AND GUEST SPEAKERS

- On October 13, 2023, Northwestern’s Associate University Chaplain and Director of Interfaith Engagement, Tahera Ahmad, started an antisemitic and anti-Zionist online campaign via her public social media accounts (which were also used for official Northwestern communication and where her university title was listed prominently at the top of both Facebook and X (Twitter) profiles), including the following public statements:¹¹⁴
 - October 13, 2023: “Anyone else’s post being removed by Facebook for speaking out against genocide of Palestinians?”
 - October 30, 2023: “Palestine Digital Action Toolkit” (w/BDS chapter), which includes links to protest websites that include digital toolkits on how to organize rallies which disrupt transportation and how to anti-doxing resources.^{115 116}
 - November 8, 2023: “For Every Pharoah Will Come a Moses #Free Palestine”



¹¹² Antoon, S. (2023, December 27). “If I Must Die,” A Poem by Refaat Alareer. In These Times. <https://inthesetimes.com/article/refaat-alareer-israeli-occupation-palestine>

¹¹³ Documentation available upon request.

¹¹⁴ Northwestern’s Tahera Ahmad’s social media accounts include Facebook with 5,100 followers (<https://www.facebook.com/shaykhataheraahmad/>) and X with 2,788 followers (<https://twitter.com/taherahahmad?lang=en>)

¹¹⁵ All Out for Palestine - Digital Action Toolkit. (2023, October 27). Palestinian Feminist Collective. <https://palestinianfeministcollective.org/all-out-for-palestine/>

¹¹⁶ Resources. (n.d.). Gaza Is Palestine. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://www.gazaispalestine.com/resources>

- November 12, 2023: "...IDF is lying about Hamas using hospitals as base."
- November 13, 2023: "Jewish scholar...repost of YouTube film titled 'The Palestine Laboratory: Israel Profits from Occupation.'"
- Ms. Ahmad did not post about the civilian victims of the October 7 massacre.
- On October 17, 2023, faculty of Northwestern's The Asian American Studies Program issued a formal statement that incorrectly conflated criticism of Hamas (a barbaric terrorist organization) with Islamophobia.¹¹⁷
- On November 13, 2023, in direct protest against President Schill's request, Northwestern's Professor Steven Thrasher posted on X, "The world is on your side, and one day, Palestine will be free from the river to the sea."¹¹⁸ The post had 14,000 views.
 - Professor Thrasher's X account prominently includes, as part of his profile, his title as endowed Renberg Chair professor of social justice at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism.
 - Northwestern's Faculty Handbook clearly states, "When responding to inquiries in their fields of professional competence or acting as private citizens on issues of general public interest, faculty members may use their academic titles for purposes of identification but should make it clear that they speak, write, and act for themselves and not for the institution."¹¹⁹



- On November 20, 2023, Northwestern's Anthropology Department hosted the screening of Israelism, which has received criticism for anti-Zionist and antisemitic narratives.¹²⁰
- On November 29, 2023, Northwestern's Department of Black Studies hosted a lecture titled "What's Black Studies got to do with the Israel-Palestine Colonial War." A cross section of the Israeli flag with its Star of David, were pictured. The advertisement for the event included four inaccurate maps of Israel (1946, 1947, 1949-1967, 2012), falsely overlaying 5 million disappearing Palestinian refugees.¹²¹ In actuality, according to The Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU), "there are approximately 1.6 million

¹¹⁷ Asian Studies Program (2023, October 17) Northwestern University. Retrieved February 17, 2024, from <https://asianamerican.northwestern.edu/about/news/2023/open-letter-to-nu-leadership-on-islamophobia.html>

¹¹⁸ Documentation available upon request.

¹¹⁹ Northwestern's Faculty Handbook (2021, August 5). Northwestern University. Retrieved February 17, 2024, from https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/docs/faculty_handbook_aug2021.pdf

¹²⁰ Documentation available upon request.

¹²¹ Documentation available upon request.

Palestinian citizens in Israel, comprising approximately 20% of the total Israeli population.”¹²² Northwestern’s Professor Barnor Hesse (2004-Present), Director of Undergraduate Studies at Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences, organized the event.

- Although he specializes in many important topics, it is unclear what academic expertise Hesse holds specifically on the Israel-Palestine discourse.¹²³
- The November 29, 2023 program included speakers Miracle Burt (Northwestern Pre-Med student ’25; no academic expertise in Israel-Palestine) and Charlene Caruthers (Northwestern PhD student ’25; no academic expertise in Israel-Palestine, although she has visited Palestine with other activists and falsely posted on X in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict, stating, “Folks, they are saying exactly what Palestinians said they were doing. The US government is lying. The mainstream media is lying to us. Palestinians have been telling the truth all along... Why would HAMAS want to go to war with Israel?”)^{124 125}



- On January 28, 2024, one day after the International Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27, 2024), a guest speaker made antisemitic remarks at a large university event. Northwestern’s Alpha Phi sorority members attended the “Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil” at Northwestern’s Alice Millar Chapel, which was organized by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Northwestern’s Religious and Spiritual Life (RSL), and Northwestern administration.

¹²² Palestinian Citizens of Israel (n.d). Retrieved February 24, 2024, from <https://imeu.org/topic/category/palestinian-citizens-of-israel#:~:text=After%20the%20war%2C%20around%20150%2C000,of%20the%20total%20Israeli%20population>

¹²³ Baron Hesse. (n.d.). Northwestern University. Retrieved February 24, 2024, <https://blackstudies.northwestern.edu/people/faculty/barnor-hesse.html>

¹²⁴ Charlene Carruthers (2024, February 24). Retrieved February 24, 2024, from Wikipedia website: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlene_Carruthers

¹²⁵ Carruthers, Charlene A. [@CharleneCac]. (2023, November 12). “Folks...” [Post]. X. <https://twitter.com/CharleneCac/status/1723718776376676383>

- The event was a mandatory-attendance event for the sorority’s members as part of Alpha Phi’s DEI curriculum. The DEI chair sent a message to Alpha Phi Northwestern members on January 28, 2023, stating, “For this afternoon, we will be attending the postponed MLK vigil at the Alice Millar Chapel. I just want to remind everyone that although the vigil is held in a Baptist setting, it is not a religious event and should not be focusing on any religious ideals. However, if you have any issues with attending the vigil, message me...”¹²⁶
- President Schill and Provost Haggerty were in attendance.¹²⁷
- According to a Jewish student, Rev. Reginald Williams, the keynote speaker, “made a comparison to the Nuremburg Laws in Nazi Germany to what Israel is doing to Palestinians in Gaza. He called Israel an apartheid state, comparing it to South Africa, and also said that there was a genocide in Israel.”
- Rev. Williams’ speech was recorded and included antisemitic comments between 37-38 minutes into the video.^{128 129}
 - Rev. Williams said, “[the United States] a nation whose Jim Crow regime set the blueprint for apartheid in South Africa and legalized Nuremberg laws in Nazi Germany. And if you don't believe me, read James Whitman’s *Hitler's American Model*. That's why South Africa has brought charges against Israel at the World Court and the World Court has sided with South Africa to show that there is the probability of genocide in Israel against Palestinians.”
- According to IHRA, Rev. Williams’ remarks were antisemitic according to the following definition parameters:
 - Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective.
 - Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
 - Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
 - Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
 - Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
 - Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Several students walked out of the event.

¹²⁶ DEI Education. (n.d.). Alpha Phi. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://alphaphi.org/dei-education/>

¹²⁷ Ozturk, A. (2024, January 30). *NU honors Martin Luther King Day with candlelight vigil*. North by Northwestern. <https://northbynorthwestern.com/nu-honors-martin-luther-king-day-with-candlelight-vigil/>

¹²⁸ 2024 MLK Candlelight Vigil. (n.d.). Northwestern.hosted.panopto.com. Retrieved February 14, 2024, from <https://northwestern.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=694d23b3-0b5a-4499-a079-b10701372065&start=0>

¹²⁹ Martin Luther King, Jr. - Northwestern University. (n.d.). Wwww.northwestern.edu. <https://www.northwestern.edu/mlk/>

- The President of Northwestern's Alpha Phi sorority issued a formal apology to its members, though the sorority chapter's DEI Chair refused to make a formal apology (although, per protocol, it would be her responsibility to do so).
- On February 22, 2024, Northwestern's Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies hosted a lecture titled, "Is Zionism Settler-Colonialism? The pre and post 10/7 discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in Academia and Activism."^{130 131}
 - The lecture was presented by Professor Arnon Degani, who is a member of an anti-Israel group called Breaking the Silence, which the Israeli government has accused of "threaten[ing] its state security."¹³² Degani has argued that "the Israeli Military Government was only one of several mechanisms of control, surveillance, oppression, and manipulation which Israel imposed over the Palestinian-Arabs within its borders" and that, "the cancellation of the Military Government...was congruent with settler-colonial patterns of consolidation."¹³³ Degani has also stated that Israel is "heading more towards an arrangement similar to that of South African settler colonialism: a consolidation into a democratic republic in which the Whites are recognized as sons of the land and yet still enjoy many of the privileges they accumulated during Apartheid."¹³⁴
 - It should further be noted that it is public knowledge that Northwestern's hiring (biases within search committees and "other" conditions to employment), funding, and placement policies in the undergraduate programs have created an academic caste system that is unwelcoming to the recruitment of Zionist academicians (although Jewish donors have attempted to reverse this trend).¹³⁵ Based on this hiring trend and the culture of systemic antisemitism at Northwestern, it is not surprising that even the Israel and Jewish studies center (ironically, endowed by the Crown family), would host such a speaker.

¹³⁰ The Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies (2024, February 22). Northwestern University Events. Retrieved February 22, 2024, from <https://planitpurple.northwestern.edu/event/610726>

¹³¹ Lester Crown, 1925-. (n.d.). Retrieved February 22, 2024, from: www.israeled.org.
<https://israeled.org/lester-crown-1925/>

¹³² *Breaking the Silence*. (2024, February 14). Retrieved February 14, 2024, from Wikipedia website:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_the_Silence_\(organization\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Breaking_the_Silence_(organization))

¹³³ Degani, Arnon Yehuda. 2015. "The decline and fall of the Israeli Military Government, 1948–1966: a case of settler-colonial consolidation?" *Settler Colonial Studies* 5 (1): 84-99. DOI: 10.1080/2201473X.2014.905236

¹³⁴ Degani, Arnon Yehuda. 2016. "Israel Is a Settler Colonial State - and That's OK." *Haaretz*. September 13.
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Arnon-Degani/publication/308204638_Israel_is_a_Settler_Colonial_State_And_Thats_OK/links/57ddf4c108ae4e6f1849ac64/Israel-is-a-Settler-Colonial-State-And-Thats-OK.pdf

¹³⁵ Crown Gift Expands Israel Studies. (2014, January 31). Retrieved February 24, 2024 from
<https://giving.northwestern.edu/s/1479/282-giving/21/news.aspx?sid=1479&gid=282&pgid=7768&cid=13343&ecid=13343&crd=0&calpgid=7226&calcid=1279>

DIRECT USE OF TAX-PAYER AND DONOR FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF HAMAS

- On February 14, 2024, the *Chicago Sun Times* stated that relatives of a Northwestern Pritzker law student had collaborated with Hamas. The article stated, “Elisha Breton, a spokesperson for the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest said in an email that the brothers had been ‘arrested for collaboration with Hamas.’”¹³⁶ On February 16, 2024, Northwestern Law’s International Refugee Assistance Project (NLaw IRAP) hosted a phone-a-thon inside the law school’s library, utilizing Northwestern’s tax-payer AND donor funded facilities, to encourage U.S. government officials to pressure Israeli government officials to free the two Hamas collaborators, who are relatives of the law student.

From: All Law Students <LAW-STUDENTS@LISTSERV.IT.NORTHWESTERN.EDU> on behalf of Law Student Services <law-student-services@NORTHWESTERN.EDU>

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 12:00:17 PM

To: LAW-STUDENTS@LISTSERV.IT.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

Subject: [IRAP] Call Your Rep Event TODAY



Dear NLaw,

On Thursday February 8, Yasmeen Elagha, a student at Northwestern Law, received distressing news that Israeli forces kidnapped her male relatives from Gaza, including her two American cousins, Hashem Alagha and Borak Alagha. As of now, it has been nearly a week since they were taken, and the U.S. government has not exerted sufficient pressure on the Israeli government to ascertain the whereabouts of her cousins or to ensure their safe release. **TODAY, IRAP will be hosting a “call your reps” event from 12-2pm in L426 (in the library) to call our representatives and discuss other opportunities to support the Alagha family.** We plan to have this be an ongoing event and will update with more dates and times. Please feel free to share this event with your networks. Thank you!

NLaw IRAP

Disclaimer: *This event is sponsored by International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) Northwestern Law Student Group Organization. The use of Northwestern University facilities for this event does not constitute an endorsement by the University.*

¹³⁶ Issa, N. (2024, February 14). Israel confirms arrest of 2 brothers from Chicago suburbs, won’t reveal charges against them. *Chicago Sun-Times*. <https://chicago.suntimes.com/israel-hamas-war/2024/02/14/israel-gaza-borak-hashem-alagha-yasmeen-elagha-arrest-lombard-idf>