

A Resolution in Support of Jewish Students Amidst Rising Antisemitism

WHEREAS, there has been a recent surge in antisemitic hate crimes and attacks on the Jewish community amid the escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

WHEREAS, the ongoing tensions across the world have impacted our Jewish, Israeli and Palestinian students close to home, within the U.S. and within the Bruin community.

WHEREAS, the hateful anti-Jewish rhetoric, physical assaults against Jewish people, and vandalism targeting Jewish businesses¹ have been used to perpetuate antisemitism, white supremacy, and neo-nazism.

WHEREAS, the Jewish community in Los Angeles is facing harassment and violent attacks, like the hate crime attack against four Jewish people eating at a sushi restaurant on Tuesday, May 18.²

WHEREAS, four Jewish synagogues in Arizona, Illinois, and New York³ have been vandalized by antisemitic aggressors in the past month.

WHEREAS, a family spending the Jewish holiday Shavuot in Florida were harassed with antisemitic remarks and sexually violent threats⁴ by a white SUV with four young men inside.

WHEREAS, the violent attacks on Jewish communities throughout the United States, and in Los Angeles, have been a direct result of the harmful antisemitic rhetoric that is currently being pushed online.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned attacks have been a few of a long history of antisemitic attacks against the Jewish community, as perpetuated by white supremacy and neo-nazis.

WHEREAS, the Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) strives to build cross-cultural solidarity with marginalized communities across campus to combat the forces of white supremacy, neo-nazism, and systemic racism, as well as fight for equity and justice.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the USAC strongly condemns antisemitism and hate crimes against the Jewish community, and that we strive to cultivate a campus environment that is free of discrimination, bigotry, and violence, and that is safe to all students.

¹ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-05-19/l-a-sushi-restaurant-attack-is-being-investigated-as-an-antisemitic-hate-crime>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2021/05/20/us/los-angeles-police-investigating-restaurant-altercation-possible-hate-crime/index.html>

³ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/york-synagoques-vandalized-brazen-attacks-surveillance-video-released/story?id=77316099>

⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/antisemitic-attacks/2021/05/23/8907864e-bbdd-11eb-83e3-0ca705a96ba4_story.html

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on university administration, the Academic Senate, academic departments, and individual professors to practice academic leniency for Jewish and Israeli students and to recognize the fear experienced by the Jewish and Israeli community during this time. We strongly urge professors to simplify finals, and we condemn making remote finals more difficult and strenuous for students.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) to offer a greater number of counseling sessions to our Jewish and Israeli students who have been particularly impacted by the hate crimes occurring in Los Angeles.

LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the USAC calls on the university, systemwide administration, and students to exercise empathy in this distressing time for many Jewish and Israeli Bruins and heed our demands to practice academic leniency.