



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION TO CONDEMN CAMPUS ANTI-SEMITISM

Abstract: Due to overwhelming incidents of anti-Semitism occurring nationwide, locally, and directly on campus, it is in the best interest of Chapman University's Student Government Association to support and protect its Jewish students and its relationship with the Jewish community by taking an official stand against anti-Semitism and promoting a diverse campus climate. The purpose of this legislation is not intended to restrict anyone's right to free speech but rather is meant to define the line between civil, academic debate, and hate speech/actions.

Whereas: The United States Department of State adopts the definition of anti-Semitism as "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."¹

Whereas: The Department of State outlines the following as contemporary examples of anti-Semitism:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective—especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations.²

Whereas: The Department of State recognizes that Anti-Semitism manifests itself relative to Israel through words and actions that:

Demonize Israel

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis

¹ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

² <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- Blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions

Apply a Double Standard for Israel

- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation

Delegitimize Israel

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist

*However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic*³

Whereas: This legislation does not represent any political position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and should not be interpreted as a statement of support for one side or another. Its only purpose is to define the line between civil, academic debate and hate speech.

Whereas: This legislation is not intended to create restrictions on anyone's right to free speech, academic freedom, or participation in social activism. It solely represents Chapman University exercising its 1st amendment rights by using good speech to counter bad speech.

Whereas: In H. Res. 707, the U.S. House of Representatives resolved to condemn "the comparison of Israel to Nazis as an insult to the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust and an affront to those who survived and their children and grandchildren, the righteous gentiles who saved Jewish lives at peril to their own lives and to those who bravely fought to defeat the Nazis"⁴

Whereas: according to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Global 100, 1.09 billion people in the world today harbor anti-Semitic attitudes⁵. ADL also reported that the 2014-2015 school year "marked increase in the number and intensity of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incidents on American college campuses."⁶;

Whereas: Anti-Semitism is the bigoted targeting of a historically oppressed minority and should be taken as seriously as bigotry against all other historically oppressed minorities;

Whereas: The Chapman University Harassment and Discrimination policy states: "Chapman University is committed to providing an environment which is free of any form of harassment and discrimination based upon an individual's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by applicable state or federal law, so

³ <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

⁴ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-resolution/707/text>

⁵ <http://global100.adl.org>

⁶ <http://www.adl.org/press-center/press-releases/anti-semitism-usa/adl-voices-concern-about-increase-in-anti-semitic-anti-israel-activity-on-campus.html> - .VhGWNrTUh |

that all members of the community are treated at all times with dignity and respect. It is the University's policy, therefore, to prohibit all forms of such harassment or discrimination among University faculty, students, staff, and administration.”

Whereas: Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, students are protected from discrimination based on their race, color, or national origin at federally funded post-secondary educational institutions. Under the Marcus Policy initiated in 2004, Jewish students are now protected under Title VI, based on their ethnic or ancestral background⁷

Whereas: increasing incidents of anti-Semitism have occurred in Europe, most notably:

- On January 9, 2015 a kosher grocery store was attacked by men associated with terrorist organizations; they left four hostages dead⁸
- On February 6, 2015 hundreds of Jewish graves in France were discovered knocked over and desecrated with swastikas⁹; the swastika is a symbol of hatred and terror meant to evoke the atrocities committed in the Holocaust
- On February 16, 2015 the Great Synagogue of Copenhagen was attacked, and a volunteer security guard was shot dead¹⁰

Whereas: Prime Minister Manuel Valls declared in his speech to the French National Assembly, “when the Jews of France are attacked, France is attacked and the universal conscience is attacked”¹¹; so too, when the Jewish students of Chapman University are attacked, the Chapman University system is attacked; and

Whereas: incidents of anti-Semitism have occurred throughout the United States on college campuses most notably:

- On February 27, 2015 disturbing anti-Semitic comments on the University of Chicago’s social media “yik yak” were posted stating “Gas them, burn them and dismantle their power structure. Humanity cannot progress with the parasitic Jew.”¹²
- On April 9, 2015 a swastika, the illuminati symbol, and the word “hail” were drawn in ash on the walls of University of Missouri, the following day another swastika and the words “you have been warned” were drawn.¹³

⁷ <http://www.brandeiscenter.com/images/uploads/practices/title06.pdf>

⁸ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/paris-kosher-market-seized-in-second-hostage-drama-in-nervous-france/2015/01/09/f171b97e-97ff-11e4-8005-1924ede3e54a_story.html

⁹ <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/jewish-graves-france-desecrated-nazi-slogans-teens-held>

¹⁰ http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/danish-police-kill-copenhagen-shooting-suspect/2015/02/15/8bed7a70-b50a-11e4-9423-f3d0a1ec335c_story.html

¹¹ <http://www.adl.org/sp/condemn-european-anti-semitism/>

¹² <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

¹³ <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

- On April 20, 2015 a menorah was knocked down and damaged outside of the University of Illinois Chabad the weekend before National Israel Week began. The same incident happened again four months later in August.¹⁴
- On May 20, 2015 Students at Bates University received mock eviction notices under their doors to raise awareness of “Israel’s policy of ethnic cleansing”¹⁵ Similar incidents have been reported at University of Michigan¹⁶, New York University, Harvard University, and Northeastern University¹⁷
- At UC Berkley on March 2, 2015 “Zionists should be sent to the gas chamber” was written in a campus restroom¹⁸
- Multiple swastikas have been found on the houses of Jewish fraternities, the most notable reports in 2015 have happened at the campuses of University of California: Davis, George Washington University, Vanderbilt University, Tufts University, and Stanford University.¹⁹

Whereas: these incidences of blatant anti-Semitism, whether across the country, globe or within Chapman University, are unacceptable and must never be tolerated; and

Whereas: Chapman University Student Government Association can play an essential role in illustrating and counteracting the resurgence of anti-Semitism, especially within the campus community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by Chapman University Student Government Association that

1. Chapman University Student Government Association adopts the definition of anti-Semitism as stated above as well as the State Department’s understanding of anti-Semitism relative to Israel;
2. The above clause will not be used to condemn future Israel-related words or actions on campus unless they fall under the aforementioned categories of demonization, double standards, and delegitimization;
3. Chapman University Student Government Association unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism, and rejects attempts to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks as an acceptable expression of disapproval or frustration;

¹⁴ <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

¹⁵ <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

¹⁶ <https://www.michigandaily.com/article/fake-eviction-notices-cause-controversy>

¹⁷ http://www.jns.org/latest-articles/2014/6/22/campus-eviction-notices-are-fake-but-their-anti-semitism-is-real-experts-say-.VibIELTUh_I=

¹⁸ <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

¹⁹ <http://www.amchainitiative.org/ongoing-antisemitism-tracker-2015/>

4. Chapman Student Government Association recognizes that the Jewish people, like all peoples, have a collective right to self-determination, and considers attempts to undermine these rights, to be a form of bigotry;

5. Chapman University Student Government Association supports efforts against any form of hatred based on religion, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, nationality, citizenship status, class, or identity on our campus;

6. While Student Government Association will respect the right of all students to freedom of speech, it will not facilitate, promote, fund, or participate in any activities that directly or indirectly promote anti-Semitism or undermine the rights of the Jewish people to self-determination.

7. As the representatives of the student body, Chapman University Student Government Association will strive to be allies of the Jewish community and all diverse communities within Chapman University and pledge to actively seek open lines of communication with the leaders of the organized diverse communities on issues pertaining to their constituency.

Mitchell S. Rosenberg
President

Date

Alex Ballad
Speaker of Senate

Date