



University Student Senate  
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## RESOLUTION

To: USS Plenary

From: Co-authored by Delegate Baruch College Yehuda Wexler,  
Vice-Chair of Fiscal Affairs Joel De La Cruz

Date: 3/14/2021

Title: Condemning Anti-Semitism and Supporting the CUNY Jewish Community

**Whereas:** CUNY has a robust Jewish community consisting of approximately 17,000 students, represented in the numerous Jewish and Jewish affiliated undergraduate student organizations on CUNY campuses, including, but not limited to, Chabad, Hillel, the Jewish Student Union, AEPi, etc.

**Whereas:** Despite making up approximately 1.7% of the total population of the United States, hate crimes against Jews, according to the 2019 FBI Hate Crime Statistics report, accounted for 60.2% of all religiously-motivated hate crimes in the United States;

**Whereas:** in recent years, there has been a record spike in antisemitic attacks across the nation<sup>4</sup>, such as:

- Kansas City (MO): Jewish Community Center Shooting (2014)
- Charlottesville (NC): Demonstration of White Supremacists, where they were chanting “Jews Will Not Replace Us” (2017)
- Pittsburgh (PA): Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting (2018)
- Poway (CA): Chabad Synagogue Shooting (2018)
- Jersey City (NJ): Shooting at a Kosher Supermarket (2019)
- Monsey (NY): A knife-wielding man stormed into a rabbi’s home and stabbed five people as they celebrated Hanukkah in an Orthodox Jewish community north of New York City (2019)
- During the months of December - October 2019-2020, there were 38 attacks against Jews in Brooklyn, NY.<sup>5</sup>
- Isla Vista (CA): Antisemitic flyers were found on car windshields and in mailboxes<sup>6</sup>(2019)
- Washington (DC): Antisemitic imagery was rampant at the Capitol Hill insurrection (2021)<sup>7</sup>, and;

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/antisemitism-in-the-us>.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-tracker-of-antisemitic-incidents?field\\_incident\\_location\\_state\\_target\\_id=4787&keys=Brooklyn%20&page=4](https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resource-knowledge-base/adl-tracker-of-antisemitic-incidents?field_incident_location_state_target_id=4787&keys=Brooklyn%20&page=4).

<sup>6</sup> <https://jewishjournal.com/news/california/296349/anti-semitic-flyers-found-in-uc-santa-barbara-neighborhood/>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.usnews.com/news/politics/articles/2021-01-13/anti-semitism-seen-in-capitol-insurrection-raises-alarms>

**Whereas:** in the month of August 2020, there was an extreme spike in attacks against Jews in collegiate institutions, such as:

- University of Southern California (USC) Student Government Vice President resigned citing antisemitic bullying
- University of Delaware Chabad set on fire
- Brandeis University bomb threats
- University of Oregon Chabad set on fire *twice*

**Whereas:** There have been a number of antisemitic incidents within CUNY in recent years. These incidents include:

- (The City College of New York-2018) Swastikas and the words “White Power” were written on the “Hillel” sign posted on the door of the shared Hillel and Chabad office on campus.
- (Medgar Evers- 2015) A Jewish student was assaulted, punched in the head, face, and stomach, and told “I don’t like white and Jewish boys, leave the school you Jew”.
- (Queens College- 2019/2020) Swastikas were found in Queens College restrooms.
- (CUNY LAW-2020) A Jewish student dropped out after antisemitic attacks and bullying, as well as a lack of recourse from school administration.

**Whereas::** according to the FBI’s Hate Crime Report, 11.9% of reported hate crimes in 2010-2018, and 12.5% of reported hate crimes in 2000-2009 were classified as anti-Jewish, and;

**Whereas:** Jewish students, like any other student group, have a right to feel safe and welcome on any campus, including all CUNY campuses, and should feel comfortable wearing religious symbols including anything that identifies them as being Jewish, such as, but not limited to, a yarmulke, Star of David, or the logo of a Jewish institution, without fear of being targeted; **AND**

**Whereas:** the International definition of Antisemitism defines antisemitism:

“Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities,”<sup>2</sup> and;

**Whereas:** Anti-Semitism is a unique and ancient form of hate that has evolved to mean different things over the millennia, and;

**Whereas:** There is intersectionality within the Jewish community and many Jews experience other forms of hate as well, and;

**Whereas:** we all are safest and strongest when we work together to understand and support one another, and;

**Whereas:** Nothing in this resolution can or should be used in any way to target or discriminate against other vulnerable communities at our university, or to in any way obstruct legitimate activism, debate, and academic inquiry, and;

**Whereas:** the International Working Definition of Antisemitism was recognized by the United States under Title VI<sup>3</sup>, as well as by Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, the French National Assembly, Austria, Scotland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Moldova, Greece, Cyprus, North Macedonia, Serbia, Argentina, the European Parliament, Albania and countless other governmental institutions and universities across the world. Therefore, be it;

<sup>2</sup><https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>.

<sup>3</sup><https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-titleix-anti-semitism-20210119.pdf>

**Resolved:** that the University Student Senate, adopts the International definition of Antisemitism in the capacity stated above.

**Resolved:** that the University Student Senate unreservedly condemns all acts of racism, bigotry, and violence against the Jewish community, under the full extent of the CUNY purview. The University Student Senate stands by the Jewish community and condemns all acts of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination against members of the CUNY system.

**Resolved:** That the Plenary calls upon CUNY to create a streamlined and easily accessible system for reporting instances of hate crime and bias. Including, but not limited to those committed against the Jewish community.

**Resolved:** That the plenary calls upon CUNY to create a training for all students that is Culturally affirming and sensitive to identities such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ability. This training will include a section on antisemitism.

**Resolved:** That the Plenary calls upon CUNY to create a training for public safety officers and other university employees that is Culturally affirming and sensitive to identities such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and ability. This training will include a section on antisemitism.

**Resolved:** That the Plenary calls upon the Chancellor as well as the newly formed commission to address Black, Race, and Ethnic studies to include a history of antisemitism, as well as the affirmation that it still exists today, in any ethnic studies curriculum that is written.

**Resolved:** That a statement regarding this resolution will be made publicly, affirming the University Student Senate's support of its Jewish constituents.

**Resolved:** in order to implement the above clauses, the Plenary shall send a copy of this resolution to CUNY Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez, as well as the Board of Trustees for CUNY.