

## National Statement from Jews for Palestine | Sign on [HERE](#)

We are a coalition of Jewish and Israeli students and affiliates from Harvard, MIT, the University of Pennsylvania, and Jewish and Israeli organizations across the United States. In the past two months, there have been grave and chilling instances of antisemitism on our campuses. But when universities and political representatives wrongfully deploy the serious charge of antisemitism as a tool to silence criticism of the Israeli government and calls for Palestinian liberation, they undermine the severity of those horrific incidents. We are disturbed and frustrated by this dangerous conflation.

As Jewish students committed to peace and safety on our campuses and around the world, we stand in complete solidarity with the Palestinian advocacy groups on our campuses, including the Harvard Undergraduate Palestine Solidarity Committee, the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid, and Penn Against the Occupation.

On Tuesday, December 5th, the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania will testify before the Congressional Committee on Education and the Workforce in a hearing titled “[Holding Campus Leaders Accountable and Confronting Antisemitism](#).” The hearing calls on our presidents to “answer for [the] mishandling” of “countless examples of antisemitic demonstrations on college campuses.”

Antisemitism is a legitimate and rising danger. We see and experience it on our campuses and in our communities. We’ve been horrified by last month’s [neo-Nazi march in Wisconsin](#) and the [antisemitic threats on Cornell’s campus](#). At the same time, no discussion around antisemitism and how to eradicate it from our institutions can be honest or effective when it conflates all criticism of the Israeli state with antisemitism.

Our Jewish ancestors faced the horrors of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and expulsion; in our present moment, we are compelled to act in their memory and resist Israel’s militarized, colonial actions, which perpetuate the same violence towards the Palestinian people. Bearing our history and identities in mind, we find safety in solidarity and share with our campus groups a vision of peace for Palestinians, Israelis, and Jewish and Arab diasporic communities around the world.

For over 75 years, Palestinians have endured brutal and violent dispossession, displacement, and military siege. Today, we are witnessing a [genocide of the Palestinian people](#) and violent censorship of those who properly name it as such. This erasure of Palestinian culture, history, and people is paralleled by the silencing of Palestinian voices and advocates on our university campuses. We are disturbed by this silencing and the exacerbating of anti-Palestinian hate, Islamophobia, xenophobia, and racism on our campuses, abetted by national rhetoric.

At our universities, Palestinian, Arab, Black, and Muslim students have been disproportionately targeted for their advocacy. Their personal information has been leaked and their names and faces paraded on [billboard trucks](#); they have been defamed in [mass mail and mass social media campaigns](#) and they have faced verbal and physical harassment on and around university campuses. Students have [lost employment opportunities](#) due to their participation in protests; [student workers have faced job and housing insecurity](#). In Vermont, [three Palestinian college students were shot](#) simply for speaking Arabic and wearing keffiyehs.

These students are our peers, classmates, and friends. We condemn the violence perpetrated against Palestinians in the name of Jewish protection. We reject the idea that the safety of Jewish students requires the elimination of Palestinian organizing. Rather, we must recognize the intertwined nature of antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism across our campuses, the nation, and beyond. Jewish students are not safe until Palestinian, Arab, Black, and Muslim students are also safe.

We, Jewish and Israeli students, share a vision of peace and justice with Palestinian organizers and advocates on our campuses and beyond. We echo their demands and call for immediate reconciliation with the following truths:

- (1) Jewish safety — in Israel and the diaspora — is inextricably linked to Palestinian liberation; a permanent ceasefire is the only way towards peace for all people.
- (2) Criticism of the Israeli regime is not inherently antisemitic.
- (3) Free speech is not free until it protects Palestinian voices and advocates.

We have personally experienced the rise in antisemitism since October 7th. As we call for a ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the occupation of Palestine, we have had our Jewish identities questioned, ridiculed, and dismissed. We are Jewish and our advocacy for Palestine is rooted in our Jewish values — not in spite of them. Our Jewish history reminds us that never again means never again for anyone. Our Judaism tells us to struggle with and question authority when our moral autonomy comes into jeopardy.

As the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania prepare to testify before Congress about antisemitism on college campuses, we ask that they consider our perspectives they claim to represent and protect their Jewish students. We call on our presidents to shut down Congress' efforts to denounce criticism of Israel as inherently antisemitic and reaffirm their commitment to freedom of speech, especially speech regarding Palestine.

University and government leaders, we implore you to listen to the students who will inherit this world, and join us on the path to peace and liberation for all people.

## Signatories | Sign on [HERE](#)

1. Harvard Jews for Palestine (J4P)
2. MIT Jews for Ceasefire
3. Penn Chavurah
4. BrownU Jews for Ceasefire Now
5. Harvard Law School Tzedek Association
6. Jewish Voice for Peace at the Claremont Colleges
7. NYU Jews Against Zionism (JAZ)
8. Harvard Graduate School of Design Jews in Design
9. Princeton Alliance of Jewish Progressives
10. Yale Jews for Ceasefire
11. Jewish Voice for Peace at the University of Maryland
12. Jewish Voice for Peace at the George Washington University
13. Jewish Voice for Peace Boston
14. Jewish Voice for Peace at Rochester Institute of Technology
15. Jewish Voice for Peace at Georgetown University
16. Harvard Graduate School of Design Trans In Design (TID)
17. Jewish Voice for Peace at Haverford and Bryn Mawr (Bi-Co)
18. IfNotNow Boston
19. Northeastern University School of Law Jewish Students for Palestine
20. Jewish Voice for Peace Vermont and New Hampshire
21. Debra Levine, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
22. Jewish Voice for Peace at Columbia-Barnard
23. Clark University Jews Giving a Fuck
24. Ne'ametz NYU
25. Alternative Jews at Tufts (Alt-J)
26. Harvard Divinity School Jews for Liberation
27. Queer Jews for Liberation
28. Jewish Voice for Peace DC Metro
29. Oberlin Jews For a Free Palestine
30. University of Cambridge Jews for Justice in Palestine
31. Songs for Ceasefire
32. Law Students for a Free Palestine Jewish Solidarity Committee
33. Jewish Voice for Peace Rhode Island
34. Nishmat of the Claremont Colleges
35. Christos Nikolaou, University of Cambridge
36. Jewish Voice for Peace Knoxville
37. Jewish Voice for Peace at the University of Florida
38. Jewish Voice for Peace Central New Jersey

39. Williams College Jews for Ceasefire
40. Jewish Voice for Peace at the University of Michigan
41. Tzedek Chicago
42. IfNotNow DC
43. Benjamin Allen, Emmanuel College
44. NYU Jews Against Zionism
45. JVP at UC Berkeley
46. John Womack, Jr., Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
47. Columbia Jews for Ceasefire
48. Jewish Voice for Peace Atlanta
49. Dr. Robert Newman, University of North Dakota
50. Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, University of New Hampshire
51. Chloe Diamond-Lenow, SUNY Oneonta
52. Queer Mikveh Project
53. UChicago Jews for a Free Palestine
54. Jewish Voice for Peace Kansas City
55. Jewish Voice for Peace Hawai'i
56. Independent Jewish Voices Hamilton
57. Josh Dubnau, Stony Brook University
58. Jewish Voice for Peace Gainesville
59. David Joselit, Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
60. Georgetown Law Jewish Students for Justice
61. Judaism On Our Own Terms (JOOOT)
62. Jewish Voice for Peace at Michigan State University
63. Jewish Voice for Peace Cleveland
64. Edinburgh University Kehillah
65. Jewish Voice For Peace Western Massachusetts
66. IfNotNow Bay Area
67. Jewish Voice for Peace New Orleans
68. Jewish Voice for Peace Triangle North Carolina
69. Jewish Voice for Peace at Pratt Institute
70. Jewish Voice for Peace New Orleans
71. Jewish Voice for Peace Pratt
72. Jewish Voice for Peace Pittsburgh
73. The New Yiddish Bund of Binghamton
74. Greg Afinogenov, Georgetown University
75. Jewish Voice for Peace Syracuse
76. The Progressive Jewish Law Society at Columbia Law School
77. Nashville Jews for Justice
78. Miryam Segal, CUNY Queens College

79. Meira Gold, NYU Gallatin