



## **Christian Leaders Speak Out to Protect Jewish Students**

*Urge University Presidents and the White House to Respond to Violent Antisemitism on Campus*

**(WASHINGTON, D.C. – Oct. 24, 2023)** One hundred and fourteen Christian leaders representing approximately 60 million American Christians united under the banner of American Christian Leaders for Israel (ACLI) to respond to increased antisemitism on college campuses.

The group sent a **letter to approximately 300 Ivy League and state university presidents** urging them to **fight antisemitism on campus and ensure the safety of their Jewish students.**

***There will be a press conference on Thursday at 11 a.m. via Zoom to discuss the letter. To register for the event, reach out to Clem Boyd, director of public relations, at [clem@infinityconcepts.com](mailto:clem@infinityconcepts.com) or text or call him 724.930.4003.***

The letter was written in response to widespread reports from Jewish students that they are experiencing an increase in explicit hostility and threats from faculty, other students, and members of the public in the wake of Hamas's attack against Israel. **Students are being subjected to angry chants of "Gas the Jews" and "Hamas, Hamas, Hamas," as well as actual physical assaults.**

Highlighting the hostility of the current campus environment, the ACLI also sent a letter to U.S. President Joe Biden earlier in the week urging him to cut federal funding for institutions condoning antisemitic violence.

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Signatories, who include Dr. James Dobson, Gary Bauer, Michelle Bachmann, Troy Miller, Samuel Rodriguez, and Star Parker, provided the universities with clear guidance on how to proactively respond to this wave of hostile antisemitism. Their recommendations include:

- Providing tangible security and safety measures for Jewish students
- Adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which states, "Antisemitism 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"
- Communicating to their academic community (and parents) that any forms of antisemitism espoused by faculty members, staff members, student groups, and students will be swiftly met with disciplinary actions
- Making it known that campus facilities and resources may not be used for furthering any antisemitic or anti-Zionist notions

- Preparing, publishing, and communicating to their entire student body, and specifically the Jewish students, a security plan so that no student feels threatened, intimidated, or vulnerable to verbal or physical assault for being Jewish or displaying any indicators that may denote a religion or ethnic affiliation (for example, Star of David pendant, kippah, etc.)
- Offering mental health and other support services to students suffering from the trauma of the events from Oct. 7, 2023, as many Jewish students have personal ties to victims, Israeli citizens and security forces

The letter also warned university leaders that history would not look kindly on them should they continue to turn a blind eye to the situation, stating, “A legacy of damaged and traumatized students is surely not the goal of your prestigious and respected institution. Stand up for, beside, and behind your Jewish student population.”

ACLI’s executive director, Dr. Susan Michael, who also serves as the U.S. National Director for the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, commented, “This is a nightmare for Jewish students and their parents. No student should have to live and study in a hostile environment such as this. **Many of these young people feel like they must hide their Jewish identities to be safe** and are being abandoned by their institutions’ leadership.”

To read ACLI’s letter to university presidents, visit <https://aclforisrael.com/letter-to-universities/>

To read ACLI’s letter to the White House, visit <https://aclforisrael.com/letter-to-white-house/>

To access ACLI’s resources on antisemitism, visit <https://aclforisrael.com/anti-semitism-resources/>

### **About American Christian Leaders for Israel**

American Christian Leaders for Israel seeks to provide a unified voice of truth to the American public in support of Israel and the Jewish people and on behalf of the tens of millions of American Christians we collectively represent. ACLI is a project of the U.S. Branch of the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem.

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