

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

A Sense of the Senate supporting Northeastern University's Jewish community against antisemitism

SS-FA-20-105

- Whereas:** Northeastern University has a robust Jewish community consisting of approximately 1,000-1,200 students, represented in the numerous Jewish and Jewish affiliated undergraduate student organizations on campus, including, but not limited to, Chabad, Hillel, the Jewish Student Union, AEPi, Jewish Queers at Northeastern, etc.; **AND**
- 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; **AND**
- Whereas:** Some of the most notorious and recent antisemitic incidences include the Tree of Life shooting on October 27, 2018, where eleven people, including one Holocaust survivor, were killed during Shabbat services in an outwardly antisemitic attack, and, more recently, the intentional act of arson on the Chabad House at the University of Delaware; **AND**
- Whereas:** Various incidents have alarmed Jewish students on campus over the years, including, but not limited to, the discovery of white supremacist recruitment fliers in Snell Library in June, 2019, with "International Jewry" as one of the main areas of interest, the appearance of a swastika on an International Village whiteboard in 2015, statements from a faculty member telling students that being called an antisemite is a "sign of distinction" and proves that you are working for the "right side", etc.; **AND**
- Whereas:** The Northeastern University undergraduate Student Government Organization ("SGA") condemned White Supremacy and Fascism in SS-FA-19-105, but did not include any mention of the antisemitic language and nature of these pamphlets; **AND**
- Whereas:** Jewish students, like any other student group, have a right to feel safe and welcome on any campus, including Northeastern's, and should feel comfortable wearing religious symbols and articles of clothing without fear of being targeted; **AND**
- Whereas:** On May 26, 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA") adopted a "working definition" of antisemitism that reads "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.”¹;
AND

Whereas: The IHRA definition includes numerous examples of antisemitic acts, including delegitimization, dehumanization, and demonization of the Holocaust, Jewish self-determination, and accusations of dual loyalty that, in its totality, are all inextricably linked with, and cannot be severed from, what constitutes modern antisemitism; **AND**

Whereas: As of September, 2020, the IHRA definition has been adopted by 28 member states of the United Nations, including, but not limited to, the United States, Canada, Argentina, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Albania, Greece, and Israel; **AND**

Whereas: Executive Order 13899, titled *Combating Antisemitism*, issued on December 11, 2019, has expanded the IHRA definition to the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights and the Office for Students²; **AND**

Whereas: The IHRA definition has been endorsed by the World Union of Jewish Students, which has encouraged other centers of Higher Education to follow suit; **AND**

Whereas: Similar resolutions have been presented, passed, and adopted by Stanford University, Pace University, Arizona State University, Sarah Lawrence College, University of California, Davis, Foothill College, Florida State University, and other universities across the United States; **THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The SGA recognizes that antisemitism is an issue, both on campus and across the nation, stands in solidarity with the Jewish community at Northeastern University, and unequivocally condemns all forms of antisemitism and bigotry on our campus.

AND FURTHER THAT:

Both the SGA and Northeastern University formally adopt the IHRA definition and all examples included within the definition of antisemitism as a guideline in order to effectively counter and act upon any future antisemitic incidents that may occur on campus.

AND FURTHER THAT:

¹ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

² <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/16/2019-27217/combating-antisemitism>

Northeastern University will ensure that it be applicable to all students, faculty, and staff members, and include the IHRA definition in the Undergraduate Student Handbook, relevant trainings, and other areas of importance as determined by the University in order to effectively counter antisemitism.

AND FURTHER THAT:

All student organizations represented, with the assistance of SGA, will work directly with both the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the President in effectively implementing any changes to University policy moving forward.

AND FURTHER THAT:

SGA and the University as a whole respect the right and encourage all students to engage in free speech and academic discourse, but will not deliberately facilitate, promote, fund, or participate in any activities that promote antisemitism.

Respectful submitted to the Senate,

Maya Michlin
Chabad Senator

Mark Morton
Hillel Senator

Josh Glickman
AEPi Senator

Harrison Garcia
Jewish Student Union Senator

Yehuda Gannon
CSSH Senator

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Chase Barnett
College of Engineering Senator

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