

Resolution GB 1905 - 2

Antisemitism on University Campuses

The Governing Board of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Ottawa on 15 May 2019,

NOTES WITH PROFOUND CONCERN the alarming number of antisemitic incidents taking place in recent years on University campuses, especially in North America, including the threat of and actual physical attacks against Jewish students and faculty;

NOTES that these incidents target student activists, organizations, and faculty that outwardly express their Jewish identity and affiliation or support the State of Israel;

RECOGNIZES that an academic environment must be open to and protective of all legitimate student views including those of Zionism and the right of the Jewish People for security in their national home;

STRONGLY CONDEMNS all forms of antisemitism on camps, including all attempts to intimidate, harass and stifle the voices of Jewish students, and all actions leading to a hostile environment on campus where Jewish students feel excluded and unsafe;

NOTES that the BDS movement is duplicitous in its aims, and purposefully conflates legitimate criticism of Israel with attacks on the Jewish right to self-determination as a concept; manifestations of BDS are often antisemitic.

NOTES that the university leadership has a fiduciary and legal obligation to ensure all students, including Jewish students, have a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment, free from intimidation, threats and violence.

NOTES Jewish students are often on the front lines of combating antisemitism, and it is in the best interests of the entire Jewish community to build their capacity to respond to this threat by encouraging student activism and empowering leadership from within the student ranks.

CALLS ON leadership of all universities to forcefully condemn antisemitism and take the necessary measures to effectively combat antisemitism on campus, particularly the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, including all of its examples, as a tool for defining the problem followed by concrete action to address incidents;

CALLS ON leadership of all universities to foster an environment which ensures the safety of all students and actively encourages dialogue, understanding and inclusiveness;

CALLS ON those who are responsible for and fund the universities of their respective countries to outline a clear plan of action for those universities and take concrete steps to combat antisemitism.