



NAVIGATING THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

A RESOURCE FOR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATORS

4 WAYS THE WAR IMPACTS THE CAMPUS JEWISH COMMUNITY

- 1 Eight-in-ten U.S. Jews say caring about Israel is an essential or important part of what being Jewish means to them. This makes the events of October 7, 2023 **feel like a personal attack on their identity and safety as Jews**.
- 2 The attack on October 7 was not "war as usual" or just "one more event" in the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict. **More Jews were murdered on October 7th than on any other single day since the Holocaust.**
- 3 Hostilities between Israel and Hamas often result in an increase in antisemitic incidents targeting Jews worldwide. In the weeks since the war broke out, there has been a **388% increase in antisemitic incidents in the U.S.** This increase takes place amid already rising antisemitism.
- 4 In a 2021 study, a majority of Jewish students reported feeling the need to hide their Jewish identity because of potential marginalization and harassment from peers. This fear is now amplified as some student groups and faculty members engage in **rhetoric and activities that are experienced by many in the Jewish community as hurtful and harmful.**

6 STEPS TO SUPPORT YOUR CAMPUS JEWISH COMMUNITY

- ✓ **Let Jewish students, colleagues, and friends know you are there for them.** Many in the Jewish community are hurting and in shock as they process the horrific attacks that took place against their people. Some have family and friends in Israel who were directly impacted. Simply let them know you are there for them.
- ✓ **Exercise moral leadership to call out and condemn terrorism** and the deliberate targeting of civilians. Use your platform as a campus leader or call on senior administrators to do so. For AEN's statement on the need for university leaders to exercise moral leadership in response to the current crisis, visit www.academicengagement.org/aen-statements-and-letters/.
- ✓ **Speak out and condemn speech that is inimical to the university's values.** Regardless of one's views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, language that demonizes or delegitimizes fellow students, traffics in antisemitic tropes or justifies violence against civilians is never acceptable. University leaders must counter such "bad speech" with "better speech."
- ✓ **Encourage civil discourse.** Set community expectations around respectful dialogue and engagement across difference. Foster opportunities for diverse communities to come together and ensure that educational opportunities on campus represents multiple viewpoints. Reinforce the campus community's commitments to civil discourse, open inquiry, robust dialogue, and mutual care and support.
- ✓ **Bring antisemitism awareness education to your campus.** Educate your campus community about the diversity of Jewish identity, historical and contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and strategies to support Jewish inclusion. Reach out to AEN to bring a professional development workshop to your campus.
- ✓ **Learn about what's happening in the region.** The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is complex and cannot be understood through simple slogans or talking points. Use credible resources to become more knowledgeable about the issues.



SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE
EMAIL NAOMI@ACADEMICENGAGEMENT.ORG

We hope the information provided here will help you in your efforts to create a safe and inclusive campus climate.

Email us for additional support, advice, or a private consultation.

**SHINE
ALIGHT**
on Antisemitism