

Dear Campus Partner,

[On June 26, I wrote to you](#) in the immediate aftermath of a spring term that saw unprecedented antisemitic acts which, in many places, turned violent and were solely intended to intimidate and ostracize Jewish students. As the calendar turns to fall and students are returning to campus, I want to assure you that **Alpha Epsilon Pi, the world's leading Jewish college fraternity, is here to work with you and your colleagues as both a resource and a convener of expertise to help confront these difficult situations and to protect Jewish students and institutions on your campus.**

I again offer you eight simple steps to protect your Jewish community:

1. Insist that all students and student organizations comply with your codes of conduct and the policies and procedures that your campus requires. Do not be afraid to enforce your rules. If fraternities or religious affinity groups (such as Hillel or a fraternity) have to register events, maintain security, and reserve facilities, then all groups should be required to do so. I urge you not to succumb to the tyranny of the mob. Apply your own code of conduct equally.
2. If you maintain a campus police or security force, ensure that they are prepared to liaison with federal, state and local agencies on matters of antisemitism and domestic terrorism and that they are aware of Jewish institutions (such as the AEPi house) and places of worship.
3. If you have not already done so, please adopt the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) definition of antisemitism](#) so that it is clearly identifiable on your campus.
4. Monitor rhetoric in student newspapers and on social media. Antisemitic or racist rhetoric should not be printed in student media or on networks which utilize university resources. The First Amendment does not cover hate speech or speech which incites violence. Your students and student organizations are subject to your code of conduct even when operating online and you are therefore responsible for adjudicating their conduct in accordance with your student code(s).
5. Encourage your DEI offices and officers to include Jewish narratives and voices in their initiatives and training of undergraduates and staff.
6. Get engaged with Jewish students on campus by coming to their events and publicly showing your allyship. I am happy to put you in touch with AEPi

volunteers and/or chapter leaders in your community to facilitate this.

7. Ensure that your faculty and fellow administrators do not discriminate against their students based on their Jewish or Zionist identities.
8. Ensure that the policies of Greek Councils and student unions support Jewish community building and Jewish spaces commensurate with those of other minority groups.

I also want to bring to your attention that the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot are coming up in early October (Rosh Hashanah begins on the evening of Wednesday, October 2 and continues until the evening of Friday, October 4. Yom Kippur begins on the evening of Friday, October 11 and continues until Saturday evening, October 12. Most observant Jews commemorate the first two full days of the Sukkot holiday as full no-work – or school – days, from the evening of Wednesday, October 16 until the evening of Friday, October 18).

We are concerned that Jewish students may be intimidated by recent events and will be reluctant to engage with faculty to explain their absence or, worse, may be reluctant to commemorate the holidays in the manner in which they feel comfortable. **I urge you to ensure that you have a policy of excused absences for those celebrating religious holidays, that professors are aware of these days and don't schedule exams or programs on those days which cannot be made up and, finally, that campus organizations do not schedule mandatory events (such as IFC rush, etc.) which conflict with these holidays.**

The coming one-year anniversary of the horrific October 7 terror attacks in Israel also will likely be a flashpoint for conflict this year and we cannot urge you strongly enough to be prepared for campus incidents on and around that day. We know, for example, that anti-Israel groups have attempted to reserve public spaces on campuses to both prevent Jewish students from marking that terrible incident and to *celebrate* the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Please make sure that your campus and community police are prepared on that day and that extra caution is taken to protect Jewish institutions, buildings, students, and faculty.

We share your values of celebrating religious expression and freedoms and are very concerned that one outcome of the outburst of antisemitism throughout the world may be that Jewish students feel intimidated to celebrate their religious beliefs and/or heritage.

As always, I am happy to discuss these ideas and any other matters with you and your team. I look forward to our ongoing partnership in these and any other matters.

Sincerely,

Rob Derdiger

Chief Executive Officer

Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity



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