

Dear Campus Partner,

It is hard to believe but the new academic year is already bearing down on us and, once again your Jewish students are concerned about their acceptance and safety and what their college administrators are prepared to do to safeguard them.

With the recent aftermath of tragic violence against Jews in Boulder and Washington, D.C. still fresh in all of our minds, the need to be more vigilant in protecting your Jewish students and institutions has never been more apparent. We must all work proactively together to prevent the next tragedy.

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 convenor of expertise to help confront these difficult situations and to protect Jewish students and institutions on your campus.

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

1. Ensure 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 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 AEΠi 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 hateful speech which incites violence or involves criminal behavior. 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). There are appropriate and safe times, manners and places to protest any and all issues and your administration can enforce that.

5. Include Jewish narratives and voices in campus-wide 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. Be open to concerns from your Jewish students when they request additional security for publicly facing Jewish or Israeli events.
8. Ensure that your faculty and fellow administrators do not discriminate against their students based on their Jewish or Zionist identities.
9. Ensure that the policies of Greek Councils and student unions support Jewish community building and Jewish spaces commensurate with those of other minority groups.
10. The Alpha Epsilon Pi Antisemitism Response Center has a wealth of resources and support available to you and your colleagues to help continue to build safe and flourishing Jewish communities. Please [look at the website](#) and if you have any questions, contact arc@aeppi.org if you'd like additional information.

I also want to bring to your attention that the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot are coming up in September and October:

- Most observant Jews commemorate **Rosh Hashanah** as full no-work – or school – days, from the evening of Monday, September 22 until the evening of Wednesday, September 24.
- Most observant Jews commemorate **Yom Kippur** as full no-work or no-school day, beginning on the evening of Wednesday, October 1 and continuing until Thursday evening, October 2.
- Most observant Jews commemorate the first two full days of the **Sukkot** holiday as full no-work – or school – days, from the evening of Monday, October 6 until the evening of Wednesday, October 8).

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.**

For the purpose of scheduling in the future, [here is a link to a five year calendar of major Jewish holidays](#).

The anniversary of the horrific October 7 terror attacks in Israel also will likely again 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. Please make sure that your campus and community police are especially prepared on that day and that extra caution is taken to protect Jewish institutions, buildings, students and faculty.

Finally, in response to feedback from students and parents, AEPi is sponsoring a webinar on safety and security issues for Jewish students. I invite you to join this program which will feature [ADL](#), [Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#), [Community Security Initiative \(CSI\)](#), and [Community Security Service \(CSS\)](#) on **Wednesday, August 20 at 1:00 p.m. EDT**. The webinar participants will discuss safety and security concerns for Jewish students as well as provide some tools to reduce risk while maintaining one's Jewish pride. I am sure that you and your colleagues will find it valuable. You can [register for the webinar here](#).

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



Sent to: jon@albanypr.com

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