

TO: SDSU SEC/Senate
FROM: DEI on behalf of San Diego State University's Task Force
DATE: July 2021

RE: ACTION ITEM- San Diego State University Senate Resolution Condemning Anti-Semitism

San Diego State University Senate Resolution Condemning Anti-Semitism

Whereas, the United States, Canada, and Europe have seen a significant surge in antisemitism, including murderous attacks in San Diego County¹, Pittsburgh² and other locales³;

Whereas, San Diego State University has seen an attendant and significant surge in antisemitic incidents, including but not limited to antisemitic graffiti and zoom bombings, break ins, thefts and vandalizing at SDSU Chabad House⁴, and antisemitic social media posts⁵;

Whereas, many of SDSU's Jewish faculty, staff, and students have expressed that they no longer feel safe, valued, and included on this campus;

Whereas, President de la Torre charged a Presidential Taskforce on Antisemitism in March, 2021 to combat antisemitism and create a more Jewish inclusive campus.

Whereas, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964⁶ prohibits discrimination based on race, color and national origin in programs and activities receiving federal financial assistance, and in 2004 Title VI was extended to protect Jewish students on the basis that Judaism is both a religion and an ethnicity;

Whereas, antisemitism is a form of racism and bigotry;

¹ *What to Know About the Poway Synagogue Shooting*. (2019). **New York Times**:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/29/us/synagogue-shooting.html>

² *11 Killed in Synagogue Massacre; Suspect Charged with 29 Counts*. (2018). **New York Times**:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/27/us/active-shooter-pittsburgh-synagogue-shooting.html>.

³ *Report: Anti-Semitic incidents in US hit record high in 2019*. (2019). **San Diego Union Tribune**:
<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/california/story/2020-05-11/report-anti-semitic-incidents-in-us-hit-record-high-in-2019>.

⁴ *SDSU's Chabad House Vandalized*. (June 29, 2021 & May 10, 2021). **NBC News San Diego**:
<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/sdsus-chabad-house-vandalized/2643273/>;
<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/thieves-return-stolen-items-to-chabad-house-at-sdsu/2599426/>

⁵ *SDSU Investigates Anti-Semitic Social Media Post by Student*. (May 13, 2021). **California News Times**:
<https://californianewstimes.com/sdsu-investigates-anti-semitic-social-media-post-by-student/333892/>.

⁶ *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964* **U.S. Department of Justice**:
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/fcs/TitleVI>.

Whereas, antisemitism can be defined as discrimination, hostility, or violence against Jews based on their identity;

Whereas, antisemitism includes discrimination, hostility, or violence against Jewish institutions, such as houses of worship;

Whereas, antisemitism can be manifested in words, visual images, and/or deeds;

Whereas, antisemitism can be overt or implicit;

Whereas, antisemitism can take the form of unwitting conduct or expression that conveys animus toward the Jewish people;

Whereas, denying, questioning, or minimizing the Holocaust, meaning the Nazi genocide of the Jews, is antisemitic;

Whereas, this resolution is not intended to create restrictions on anyone's right to free speech, academic freedom, or participation in social activism;

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate explicitly condemns antisemitism both in itself and as contradictory to the University's Diversity Equity and Inclusion mission, which rejects all forms of discrimination and exclusion based on identity;

Be it resolved, that, consistent with SDSU's resolve to "embed diversity and inclusion in everything that we do,"⁷ the SDSU University Senate endeavors to welcome all Jewish perspectives;

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate condemns the break in, theft and vandalizing at the SDSU Chabad House⁸;

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate condemns antisemitic incidents and threats of violence perpetrated by people unaffiliated with SDSU against all SDSU faculty, students and staff;

⁷ *San Diego State University's Strategic Plan*. (2020). **San Diego State University**: <https://www.sdsu.edu/strategic-plan/pdfs/sdsu-strategic-plan-2020-2025-report-082620.pdf>

⁸ *Local Chabad House at San Diego State University Targeted Again* (June 28, 2021). **CBS8**: <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/chabad-house-at-san-diego-state-university-targeted-again/509-2a0bfa9a-b358-4b7b-8fd4-64f945a350c5>

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate condemns antisemitic incidents committed by SDSU students, faculty, staff and community members;

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate endorses training for SDSU faculty, students, and staff about the prevalence and history of antisemitism to help foster a better understanding of Judaism and American-Jewish identity;

Be it resolved, that the SDSU University Senate endorses the establishment of a Jewish Life Coordinator position to improve outcomes related to Jewish students' success and belonging from orientation to graduation. This position will also develop partnerships with local Jewish organizations to positively impact Jewish student life on campus.

Authored by:

San Diego State University's Presidential Taskforce

Consultation with:

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