



The Federal Response to Antisemitism on American College and University Campuses

FACT SHEET

This report is the culmination of a bipartisan investigation, led by Commissioners [Peter Kirsanow](#) (R) and [Mondaire Jones](#) (D). It includes testimony from current and former federal officials, university students, legal scholars, researchers, civil rights organizations and higher education experts; a public comment session; 37 public comments; and responses to Commission inquiries from nine universities.

The Federal Response to Antisemitism on American College and University Campuses examines how institutions of higher education and the federal government have responded to allegations of antisemitism following the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack against Israel. The report also considers how universities and federal agencies met their legal obligations under Title VI in order to protect Jewish students from discrimination and harassment while respecting free expression, freedom of assembly and academic freedom.

As part of this investigation, the Commission held a [public briefing](#) on February 19, 2026, during which the Commission heard testimony from subject matter experts. The briefing was followed by a [Public Comment Session](#) on the next day where students, educators, university officials, and community members shared their personal experiences with antisemitism on college campuses. The Commission solicited engagement from the public and received 37 public comments that informed our report.

This report is organized into 4 chapters:

Chapter 1 overviews the problem of contemporary campus antisemitism against the backdrop of the social and historical context that informs it.

Chapter 2 considers Title VI, the primary legal mechanism available to the federal government to address educational discrimination claims and that imposes obligations on institutions in receipt of federal funding.

Chapter 3 provides one of the first detailed federal examinations of university processes and procedures for addressing campus antisemitism following October 7, 2023.

Chapter 4 examines the three federal agencies principally responsible for enforcing Title VI at educational institutions—ED, DOJ, and HHS—and the authority and obligations each carries to address discrimination at educational institutions, including antisemitism.

Key takeaways from the report:

- **Campus antisemitism is a serious and growing civil rights concern.** Jewish students reported harassment, vandalism, threats, exclusion, and rhetoric that affected their safety, sense of belonging, and educational experiences, particularly after October 7, 2023.
- **Universities face a difficult legal and operational balance.** Institutions must address discrimination and harassment based on Jewish shared ancestry while protecting political speech, peaceful protest activity, academic freedom, and other forms of expression covered by the First Amendment and central to effective higher education.
- **Universities' responses remain inconsistent.** The nine universities examined had complaint procedures and resources for Jewish students, but they varied significantly in how they classified, investigated and resolved complaints.
- **Limited and inconsistent data collection and analysis of antisemitism in the U.S makes it difficult to accurately assess the true scope of unlawful campus antisemitism.** Universities, advocacy organizations, scholars, and the federal government produce inconsistent or unreliable data on antisemitic incidents and frequently fail to distinguish between claims of unlawful antisemitism and claims about controversial expression.
- **Not every offensive or antisemitic incident constitutes a Title VI violation.** Title VI protects Jewish students when discrimination is based on race, national origin or shared ancestry—not religion. Universities rarely determined that reported conduct met the legal threshold for a violation, although they frequently provided supportive or corrective measures. Current Title law distinguishes discrimination based on Jewish ancestry or national origin from opposition to Israel or Zionism. The report's review of First Amendment law also notes substantial protections for peaceful campus protests and other expression.

- **There is a need for increased federal enforcement capacity and transparency.** Federal civil rights agency must be adequately staffed and trained to ensure that they can enforce Title VI's anti-discrimination mandate on campuses.
- **Recent federal enforcement has sometimes represented a departure from established practice.** Historically, agencies have emphasized investigation, voluntary resolution, and ongoing compliance monitoring before considering program-specific funding termination. Current federal efforts have shifted toward funding suspensions, settlements sometimes judicially determined to be overbroad and illegal, and monetary payments.
- **Federal actions intended to protect Jewish students may produce unintended harm.** Students and experts testified that sweeping funding cuts and institutional penalties did not necessarily make them feel safer and could disrupt research, harm uninvolved students and programs, chill lawful speech, and generate resentment toward Jewish students.
- **Effective responses must center affected students and campus-specific conditions.** The report underscores the importance of consulting Jewish students, improving institutional policies and developing approaches suited to each campus rather than relying solely on broad punitive action from the federal government.

For more information about this report, visit:

<https://www.usccr.gov/reports/2026/federal-response-antisemitism-american-college-and-university-campuses>