



## **Academic Engagement Network (AEN) Announces Release of New Guidebook for Combating Antisemitism and Promoting Free Speech on Campus**

WASHINGTON, DC, JANUARY 27, 2022 — The [Academic Engagement Network](#) (AEN) has officially released [Antisemitism, Jewish Identity, and Freedom of Expression on Campus: A Guide and Resource Book for Faculty and University Leaders](#). This nearly 300-page publication contains thirteen chapters which introduce, contextualize, and analyze the most pressing issues facing Jewish and Zionist students, faculty, and staff on U.S. campuses today, including Israel delegitimization, antisemitism, and threats to academic freedom and free expression. In addition, extensive appendices provide real-life examples of how these issues have manifested on a wide range of campuses, and model ways in which faculty and university leaders can effectively respond to improve the campus climate for Jewish and all students.

AEN's new *Guide and Resource Book* was conceptualized and written with the understanding that the campus climate for Jewish and pro-Israel students, faculty and staff has shifted profoundly in recent years. Anti-Israel rhetoric has become more extreme, sometimes crossing over into antisemitic intimidation and harassment; Jewish and Zionist students feel increasingly ostracized, isolated, and demoralized, thus hindering their campus experience; and activist-scholars from within the faculty contribute to this atmosphere through weaponizing their own academic scholarship and even their disciplines in the service of a one-sided narrative.

AEN Executive Director Miriam F. Elman shared her perspective on these disturbing trends and pointed to how the 2022 *Guide and Resource Book* helps university leaders and faculty to address them:

“Anti-Israel activism on campus has become much more pernicious in recent years. It’s no longer simply a matter of Israel being singled out, vilified, or delegitimized. These days an increasing number of Jewish students are reporting that they feel the need to hide huge chunks of their ethnic, religious, and ancestral identities in order to participate in campus life. The faculty dimension of the anti-Israel movement on campus is also growing. There are now dozens of university and college departments across the country that have basically baked anti-Zionism and virulently anti-Israel perspectives into their pedagogy, making it difficult for Jewish students to feel respected or welcomed in these campus spaces. AEN’s *Guide and Resource Book* identifies and exposes these current harsh realities for Jews, Zionists, and Israelis on campus and offers an array of recommendations, solutions, and best practices for rectifying this troubling situation.”

AEN’s 2022 *Guide and Resource Book* provides clarity and context by combining historical background and contemporary analyses of the anti-Israel movement on campus, explorations of scholarly and legal arguments surrounding academic freedom and campus freedom of expression, and practical case studies demonstrating constructive responses to current campus challenges. AEN’s goal is for this new publication to serve as a resource for assisting faculty and university leaders to better understand these pressing issues.

Elman is optimistic that the *Guide and Resource Book* will make an impact in advancing the often-polarized campus discourse surrounding Jewish identity and the Jewish experience:



“University officials must ensure that open inquiry, dialogue and debate on difficult and contentious issues can occur on campus without undermining the shared mission to foster an inclusive learning environment where diverse viewpoints and lived experiences can be heard and become part of the educational process. Faculty, of course, also have an important role to play in creating a thriving and intellectually rigorous discourse on campus. AEN’s new *Guide and Resource Book* offers both faculty members and administrators with a roadmap for advancing open inquiry and inclusivity. We hope that the practical advice and recommendations it offers will prove both timely and useful.”

*Antisemitism, Jewish Identity, and Freedom of Expression on Campus: A Guide and Resource Book for Faculty and University Leaders* may be accessed upon request at the following link: <https://academicengagement.org/2022-guide/>. Please contact Raeefa Shams, Director of Communications and Programming at AEN, with any questions at [raeefa@academicengagement.org](mailto:raeefa@academicengagement.org).

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