



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) Joins the Stand Up to Jewish Hate Campaign to Raise Awareness of and Mobilize Against Antisemitism

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 28, 2023— The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) has joined the [Stand Up To Jewish Hate](#) campaign, a new initiative to educate Americans about the rise of antisemitism and to mobilize people outside the Jewish community to address growing hate and intolerance. This innovative new campaign, launched by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism (FCAS), encourages all people to share #■, the blue square emoji already on mobile devices, and the hashtag, #StandUpToJewishHate, on all social media platforms to signal a commitment to countering antisemitism.

This campaign occurs amidst a rise in antisemitism facing Jewish communities throughout North America. Jews make up 2.4% of the U.S. population, and yet are the victims of 55% of all religious hate crimes. A report released Thursday by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) cataloged 3,697 antisemitic incidents in 2022, the highest number tallied by the organization since they began tracking this data in 1979.¹ But antisemitism is a largely undertold story in this country: new polling finds that more than half of Americans do not believe “antisemitism is a big problem” and nearly half believe that “Jews are more than capable of handling issues of antisemitism on their own.”

As an educational organization committed to countering antisemitism and anti-Israel narratives on college campuses, AEN understands that college campuses are not immune from this deeply unsettling trend. Research published by AEN in 2021 found that Jews are more likely than members of other minority groups to be victims of hate crimes at colleges and universities, and that Jews are more likely to be targets of hate crimes on campuses than in other locations.²

To further education and dialogue on contemporary antisemitism, AEN is undertaking the following activities:

- Sharing information about the Stand Up to Antisemitism campaign with all 900+ AEN faculty members and others in AEN’s network and encouraging them to use #■ and #StandUpToJewishHate on social media.
- Organizing a multi-campus tour by former Israeli parliamentarian Michal Cotler-Wunsh, who will speak on the topic of “Combating Antisemitism through Human Rights and International Law” the

¹ “Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022,” ADL, March 22, 2023.
<https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2022>

² Ayal Feinberg, “From Scholarship to Swastikas: Explaining Campus Antisemitic Events,” September 2021.
<https://academicengagement.org/from-scholarship-to-swastikas-explaining-campus-antisemitic-events/>

week of April 17. Adv. Cotler-Wunsh will visit Columbia Law School, NYU School of Law, Yale Law School, CUNY, and Rutgers University.

- Hosting a webinar, [“The Importance of Being Inclusive: Invisible and Intersectional Identities,”](#) with AEN members Dr. Bruce Haynes and Dr. Saba Soomekh. This webinar, which is co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC), is geared toward campus administrators and will focus on ways to create inclusive campus environments for Jewish and all students. The webinar will take place on April 19.
- Publicizing [“Antisemitism in our Midst: Past and Present,”](#) an 11-minute video charting the history of antisemitism which has been used as an educational tool on multiple campuses, starting with UC-Berkeley. This video was funded by AEN’s Antisemitism Education Initiative, a project of AEN’s [Improving the Campus Climate Initiative](#).
- Highlighting AEN’s [Antisemitism Syllabi Bank](#), a collection of academic syllabi from courses on antisemitism taught by AEN faculty members.

AEN has developed extensive educational resources on antisemitism in the past, including [“Antisemitism, Jewish Identity, and Freedom of Expression on Campus: A Guide and Resource Book for Faculty & University Leaders,”](#) and a number of webinars on antisemitism, which can be found on AEN’s [website](#).

“AEN is deeply concerned about rising antisemitism in multiple sectors of society, including, unfortunately, college and university campuses,” said AEN’s Executive Director, Miriam F. Elman. “Thus, we are proud to join this important campaign to shed light on the historical manifestations and current mutations of antisemitism by providing a wide variety of academic resources. Only through sustained education and engagement can we counter these toxic forces.”

For more information about the Stand Up to Jewish Hate Campaign, please visit its [website](#). For more information about AEN and the organization’s participation in the campaign, please contact Raeefa Shams, AEN’s Director of Communications and Programming, at raeefa@academicengagement.org.