



For Immediate Release

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Academic Engagement Network Rallies Global Academia to Condemn University Boycotts of Israel

July 22, 2024 — The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) has collaborated with partners to receive signatures from nearly 3,000 faculty, who span many disciplines and ranks, and over a dozen academic organizations, which represent tens of thousands of scholars, on an [open letter](#) denouncing academic boycotts of Israel.

The letter calls for a commitment to academic freedom amid rising pressure to shun Israeli scholars and students, as well as renewed efforts to boycott Israeli higher education, an issue exacerbated by the Israel-Hamas war.

Some of the more specific points in the letter include: condemning the global uptick in blacklisting Israeli academics and their institutions; providing counterarguments to calls for the academic boycott of Israel; and urging leading faculty organizations (such as the American Association of University Professors) to denounce these trends undermining the bedrock principles of the academy.

“We believe that the academic boycott of Israel, and the ostracizing of the country’s scientists and students from international educational spaces, is detrimental to the core values of academic freedom and the open exchange of ideas,” said Miriam Elman, who serves as executive director of AEN. “Our open letter seeks to address these harmful trends and galvanize support from the scholarly community to uphold

the principles that are foundational to scholarly pursuits.”

The letter signees represent thousands of campuses, fields of study, and scholarly organizations across the globe, from North America to England to Germany to Australia. Notable signatories include: Michael Walzer (Princeton), Jerry Coyne (University of Chicago), Ruud Koopmans (Humboldt University), Lawrence Summers, Steven Pinker, Jeffrey Flier (Harvard), Richard Dawkins (University of Oxford), Jonathan Haidt (New York University), and Russell Blackford (University of Newcastle).

Endorsements come from Heterodox Academy, Network of Engaged Canadian Academics, Scholars for Peace in the Middle East, and other faculty-facing groups and organizations. The open letter was also published and circulated for signature by [Quillette](#).

AEN is continuing to invite faculty to sign and share the open letter with their colleagues, which is available at [United Against Academic Boycott](#).

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About Academic Engagement Network

The Academic Engagement Network (AEN) is a national educational nonprofit that mobilizes networks of university faculty and administrators to counter antisemitism, oppose the denigration of Jewish and Zionist identities, promote academic freedom, and advance education about Israel. AEN envisions a world where American higher education welcomes, respects, and supports the expression of Jewish identity and robust discourse about Israel.