Marina Rosenberg
Senior VP
International Affairs

February 18, 2025

Ms. Farida Shaheed
UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education

Dear Ms. Shaheed,

I am writing on behalf of the ADL (Anti-Defamation League), the world's oldest anti-hate organization founded in 1913, and a global leader in the fight against antisemitism, hate and extremism.

In recent days we took note of press accounts of a meeting you held, when you reportedly claimed that there is a lack of hard data reflecting increases of antisemitic activity in the education space, in particular since October 7th, 2023. In this context, we wanted to share with you ADL's research and data on antisemitism in the education setting, particularly since the Hamas attack on Israel.

ADL has been collecting incident data on antisemitism in the United States since 1979, and has fostered expertise in research and analysis, including real-world incident data collection, but also opinion and attitudinal research studies.

In the United States alone, our research has shown that 1,200 incidents of antisemitism were recorded on college and university campuses from October 7, 2023 to September 24, 2024. This represents a troubling 500% increase from the same period a year before, when ADL recorded around 200 incidents.

To further examine this issue, the ADL Ronald Birnbaum Center to Combat Antisemitism in Education (CCAE), the ADL Center for Antisemitism Research (CAR), Hillel International and College Pulse collaboratively conducted a campus climate study in the fall of 2024, surveying 1,030 Jewish and 1,140 non-Jewish students in U.S. universities. The study found that 83.2% of Jewish college students surveyed have experienced or witnessed some form of antisemitism since the October 2023 Hamas attacks on Israel. A slight majority of 51.4% of non-Jewish students also reported experiencing or witnessing antisemitism during that same period. 27% of Jewish students surveyed said they had observed antisemitic activity by faculty, compared to only 6% of non-Jewish students.

Our recently released Global 100 study of antisemitic attitudes conducted in 103 countries and territories found troubling antisemitic sentiments among adults aged 35 and under, with younger adults more likely than older adults to say it is true that "Jews have a lot of irritating faults," "Jews don't care what happens to anyone but their own kind," "Jews have too much control over the government," "Jews are responsible for most of the world's wars," and "People hate Jews because of the way Jews behave."

Younger adults are also less likely than older adults to recognize the historical accuracy of the Holocaust, with only 39% of respondents 35 and under believing that "The Holocaust happened, and the number of Jews who died in it has been fairly described by history," as compared to 60% of those aged 50 and over. This signals a demographic time bomb in regards to antisemitic attitudes of the younger global population. Previous ADL research has found that in the U.S., accurate Holocaust education can be an effective intervention against antisemitic beliefs.

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According to ADL's 2023 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the US, there were 1,162 antisemitic incidents in K-12 schools, compared to 495 incidents in 2022, a 135% increase from the prior year signaling an alarming surge.

School-related antisemitic incidents have unfortunately not been limited to the US, with many of the other countries with the largest Jewish diaspora communities also seeing a spike. In the UK, there was a 117% increase in antisemitic incidents at universities in 2022-2024, compared to the previous two-year period, as reported by CST.

In both Jewish and non-Jewish UK K-12 schools, CST recorded a total of 260 school-related cases of anti-Jewish hate in 2024, second only to 2023's figure of 335. In 2022, the figure stood at a total of 78 school-related antisemitic incidents in the UK.

In 2023, the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism (RIAS) in Germany, recorded 471 antisemitic incidents in schools, universities, museums and theatres compared to 184 of such incidents in 2022.

France saw 163 cases of antisemitic incidents in school environments during the October 2023 to December 2023 period alone, 40% of which were accompanied by statements in defense of Nazism, as reported by SPCJ.

These are just a few points of data that signal a dramatic rise in antisemitism manifest in for primary, secondary and higher educational spaces, many of them collected by our partner institutions around the world. We hope that should a report on the status of safety in education today be published, available data, including those included here, and diverse voices, especially those of Jewish students are included.

We stand ready to help inform your work and would be happy to connect you with ADL experts to discuss this and other matters with you and your team as you prepare to issue the report.

Sincerely,

Marina Rosenberg

Ambassador Marina Rosenberg
SVP, International Affairs

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