

November 6th, 2018

VIA EMAIL: presoff@umich.edu

Dr. Mark S. Schlissel, M.D., Ph.D.
President
University of Michigan
2074 Fleming Administration Building
503 Thompson Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1340

Dear President Schlissel,

We write to you as organizations that believe deeply in the importance of free speech, academic freedom, and protecting students from discrimination. It has come to our attention that there is an affiliate of National Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) at your university. National SJP is an organization with [dozens of chapters and affiliates](#) across North America, a [support network of off-campus hate groups](#), and a [long record](#) of spreading anti-Semitism, supporting violence, and [infringing upon the free speech rights of Jewish and pro-Israel students](#). In its 2018 national conference "[themes & goals](#)," National SJP openly calls for the destruction of Zionism and supports efforts to silence speakers who believe in Israel's right to exist. We urge you to condemn this hate and make clear to your campus community that SJP will not be allowed to violate the rights of anyone at your university.

SJP has a deeply disturbing record. The group receives [funding](#) and [other forms of support](#) from NGOs that are [tied](#) to multiple designated terror organizations, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). National SJP conferences have featured lectures from terrorists like Khader Adnan, an Islamic Jihad leader who [called](#) for suicide bombings against Israeli civilians. SJP also [spearheaded](#) a campaign to glorify and [raise money](#) for Rasmea Odeh, who helped [carry out](#) a PFLP terrorist attack which killed two Israeli civilians. The group [frequently](#) expresses [support](#) for an "[Intifada](#)" (a campaign of violence against Israelis), creating a hostile climate for Jewish and Israeli students - particularly those who lost friends and family during the brutal suicide bombings of the 2nd Intifada. SJP-affiliated activists have even [threatened](#) violence [against Jewish students](#) and others who support Israel's existence. Moreover, SJP members [frequently](#) shout down speakers they disagree with, resulting in numerous [criminal](#) and [university](#) investigations into violations of campus policies and illegal activity. Most recently, UCLA sent National SJP a [cease-and-desist](#) letter for "unauthorized use" of the university logo, "in a manner that could imply endorsement of violence."

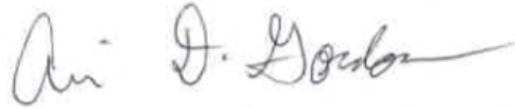
Lastly, SJP [spreads hate](#) against Jews and Israelis on campus on a far too [regular basis](#). Much of their rhetoric falls under the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, which has been adopted by numerous countries and government bodies across the world, including the EU, the Government of Canada, the U.S. Department of State, and most recently applied by the US Department of Education. This includes [denying Israel's right to exist](#), [demonizing](#) Israelis, and attacking Israel using [classic anti-Semitic tropes](#). SJP's [political agenda](#) – to [eliminate Israel](#) and strip away Jewish rights to self-determination – is a prime example of this new form of anti-Semitism.

In closing, we urge you to publicly condemn SJP's hate, support for violence, and efforts to undermine free speech and academic freedom. We also call on you to ensure that the SJP affiliate at your university is held accountable to your policies regarding free speech, academic freedom, discrimination, and maintaining a safe educational environment for all students.

Sincerely,



Roz Rothstein, CEO
StandWithUs



Avi Gordon
Executive Director
Alums for Campus Fairness