



**The Lid Is Lifted on Antisemitism in  
UofT's Temerty Faculty of Medicine**  
*The University of Toronto's highest leadership needs  
to act now to protect Jewish faculty and learners*

Toronto, December 9 2022 - The worst fears of Jewish faculty and learners in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine have been confirmed following the release of a [peer reviewed article](#) from the TFOM's first Antisemitism lead, Dr. Ayelet Kuper. On December 5 the Canadian Medical Education Journal published Dr. Kuper's article entitled "Reflections on addressing antisemitism in a Canadian faculty of medicine".

Dr. Kuper catalogues case after case of antisemitism in the TFOM where she says that hateful attitudes about Jews have been on the rise for at least three years. She speaks of her own personal experiences where activism against Israel turns into anti-Jewish hatred. Dr. Kuper notes that these advocates have appropriated the Jewish term "Zionism" and redefined it as being racist and hateful as they seek to take down the only Jewish state.

"Being a Zionist in 2022 means that we accept as primordial the right and the necessity of survival of the Jewish people, and the right and the necessity of a Jewish state capable of ensuring that survival. Hence, as Jews, we believe anything which undermines or threatens Israel's survival undermines or threatens the existence of the Jewish people and is, ipso facto, antisemitic." says Dr. Philip Berger.

Earlier this year following an International Holocaust Memorial Day event hosted by the TFOM, the keynote speaker Professor Irwin Cotler, Canada's special envoy on Holocaust remembrance and combatting anti-Semitism, was assailed by faculty of the University of Toronto. In a widely publicized letter to the TFOM Dean, 45 faculty including 17 from the TFOM accused Professor Cotler of contributing to "anti-Palestinian racism", merely for defining antisemitism. Their communication relied on textbook antisemitic accusations and stereotypes. In response over 300 TFOM Jewish faculty members signed an open letter calling

out the 45-faculty letter as “an example of the very antisemitism that Mr. Cotler dismantled in his presentation”.

DARA has asked three times for the TFOM to condemn the 45-faculty missive. “We have asked the TFOM to publicly repudiate the 45-faculty letter. The leadership has refused. No other ethnic group would be left to fend for themselves except the Jews” says Dr. Leon Kadish. “The TFOM has abandoned its Jewish students and faculty members and has left antisemitism stand unanswered”.

Dr. Kuper left her position as the inaugural Antisemitism lead after just one year. The TFOM has not replaced Dr. Kuper nor posted her position for applicants. “With Dr. Kuper standing down, the last line of faculty defence against antisemitism in the TFOM is gone” says Dr. Steve Samuel.

Dr. Kuper’s departure is a big blow to Jewish faculty and learners. They have been left unprotected and on their own by the TFOM. “Jewish learners in particular are vulnerable to any supervisor who signed the 45-faculty letter” says Dr. Samuel. “Intervention and action are needed now from the highest echelons of the University of Toronto.”

## **About Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism**

Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism (DARA) is a grass roots organization of health care professionals whose activities are directed at upholding human rights in the medical realm and academic environments. We seek to educate health care professionals regarding human rights abuses, and address examples of racism and/or antisemitism in our professional associations and in academia. DARA’s goals are to support global knowledge-sharing by medical and scientific communities by opposing boycotts of academics based on nationality, race or religion. We are committed to monitoring and responding to articles promoting racial or geopolitical bias in scientific journals, at medical conferences, and on university campuses.