



January 23, 2025

Time-Sensitive:

U of T Questionnaire on Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Discrimination

The University of Toronto is inviting community feedback on the draft [*Guide to Law and Policy on Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Discrimination*](#).

DARA strongly encourages all members of the U of T community — students, staff, and faculty — to share their feedback and insights through the consultation portal at www.consultations.utoronto.ca. (No. 3 consultation on the list).

The consultation will remain **open until January 31, 2025**.

For convenience, you may also refer to the suggested DARA responses below for the [two open-ended questions](#):

3. Are there ways that the Guide to Law and Policy regarding Antisemitism and Anti-Israel Discrimination at the University of Toronto could be improved?

The Guide specifies many but not all major threats to Jewish and Israeli students at the University of Toronto. In Section 2 on page 4 of the document, it does not mention discrimination on the basis of religion. The Canadian Human Rights Act of 1985 specifically proscribes discrimination based on religion (Part I, §3(1). Therefore, the Guide should also prohibit unacceptable conduct based on religion.

The Guide should also specifically prohibit hate speech that advocates the denial of rights to any group based on race, religion, ancestry, nationality, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, gender, religion, or any other identifiable characteristics. This includes the national rights of the Jewish people. The United Nations International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (effective 1976) specifies in Article 1 that “All peoples have the right of self-determination.” This includes the Jewish people. The University should recognize that calls for the destruction of Israel constitute advocacy for the violation of Jewish national rights. The University should prohibit actions that would violate Jewish national rights.

The University should prohibit incitement to violence. Advocating “globalization of

the intifada” constitutes incitement to violence and advocacy for the murder of Jews, as more than 1000 defenseless Jewish civilians were murdered during the second intifada from 2000 until 2004.

Similarly, advocating “Palestine from the river to the sea” calls for the annihilation of Israel with the concomitant murder of Israeli Jews. Praising the horrific massacres of 7 October 2023, including the mass rapes, beheadings, burnings, and mutilation of babies, children, women, and others, creates a direct threat to Jews on the University campus. Denying such mass atrocities is analogous to Holocaust denial. Indeed, the massacres of 7 October constitute the worst act of mass murder of Jews since the Holocaust. Therefore, the University should specifically ban such hate speech.

4. Please share any additional comments and/or suggestions.

We recommend that, when consulting with Jewish organizations, the University of Toronto engage with mainstream groups that represent the views of over 90% of the Jewish community, rather than with fringe organizations currently engaging with the University. Prominent examples of such mainstream organizations include the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and B'nai Brith Canada.

With regard to healthcare and academic matters, we further recommend that the University consult with established bodies such as Doctors Against Racism and Antisemitism (DARA) and the Jewish Medical Association of Ontario (JMAO). These organizations reflect the views of the Jewish majority and provide well-rounded perspectives and expertise on these critical issues.

DARA Board of Directors

