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## **OVER 550 JEWISH PHYSICIANS IN THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE PROCLAIM THEIR ZIONISM**

Jewish physician members in the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine watch with dismay the selective opprobrium targeting Israel by some of their colleagues, the double standard applied to Israel, the silence of colleagues on the massacre of Jews on October 7 – all because Israel is a Jewish state. Jewish physicians are distressed by the gross insensitivity of some of their colleagues to the deep trauma they have suffered by the largest killing of Jews since the Holocaust.

Some pronouncements attacking Israel elide into antisemitic tropes. Israel is accused of genocide when it is Hamas that declares its goal of genocide for the Jews and acts on it. For millennia Jews have been accused of doing the very thing that the antisemites do to the Jews - classic antisemitism. Now is no different. One colleague was videotaped at the front of a rally screaming for another intifada, a call for the murder of Jews. Another posted that he would rather stand with the devil than with Israel.

Today, 555 Jewish physician faculty issued a public statement declaring their right to work openly as Zionists free of censure. They define for themselves what is antisemitic and will not let antizionists define it for them.

The 555 are pushing back hard against colleagues who are promoting antizionism and other forms of antisemitism. They will not run away, and they stand firm with Jewish faculty and learners who live in fear in the TFOM.

The 555 decry leaders in academic medicine with power over learners and faculty, who in some cases are the sole leader responsible for thousands of learners and faculty, for issuing statements which collide with equity, diversity and inclusion for Jews, or which make Jews feel unsafe and unwelcome in the TFOM and which are unrelated or unessential to their core academic role. Academic freedom is not absolute.

The 555 ask and expect that Jews receive the same consideration and protection that the TFOM provides to other minority groups.

### **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. 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.

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