

Dear University of Oregon Community and Administration,

Ducks for Israel is joined by the greater Jewish community in Oregon in our feelings of pain and concern surrounding the encampment that has been assembled on Knight Library Lawn, Memorial Quad, and Chapman-Condon Green at the University of Oregon. Seeing that the university has failed to disperse the encampment for a week as of today, we are writing this letter to demand the University of Oregon to enforce its own policies immediately and protect Jewish and Israeli students.

Over the past six months, Jewish college students have experienced a drastic rise in antisemitism connected to the war in Israel and Gaza, and Jewish Ducks have been no exception. The Anti-Defamation League documented 922 antisemitic incidents on college campuses in 2023 — a staggering 321% increase over 2022. More than 700 of these incidents occurred after October 7th, when Jewish people were reeling with shock and grief. Ever since that horrific day, we have witnessed the complete and utter failure of college and university leaders across the country to provide a safe and secure learning environment for people of the Jewish faith and ethnicity. As proud Ducks who have invested our time, efforts, and money in the University of Oregon, we desperately hope that our institution will rise above the rest.

As strong proponents of free speech and peaceful assembly, we believe deeply in the right of all people — even those with whom we strongly disagree — to make their voices heard. But threats of violence cross the free speech line. Amplified calls for intifada, from the river to the sea, and advocating for violent uprisings are not acceptable. Calls of this nature have been documented dozens of times over the past week in materials, posters, graffiti, and chants utilized by people in the encampment, leaving Jewish Ducks feeling unsafe and unwelcome. Although members of this protest have been made aware of the problematic and violent nature of these statements, they have continued to use them — despite the pain and extreme discomfort they cause many Jewish students. We call on faculty, administrators, and students to strongly condemn this hateful language, just as you call out language that is hurtful and offensive to other marginalized communities on campus.

The impact of the encampment on student resources and academics is completely unacceptable. In addition to the decision of several professors to cancel or end classes early, in violation of university policy, important student buildings such as the Knight Library and Erb Memorial Union building have closed early during midterms. The failure of the university to enforce its policies in order to uphold an uninterrupted academic environment has raised concerns for students, parents, and faculty. Students pay tens of thousands of dollars to receive an education in a safe and accessible learning environment. The University has a duty and responsibility to provide them with the education they have paid to receive.

Just as it is deemed unacceptable to tokenize any marginalized community, we urge our campus community to be cautious of the tokenization of Jewish students during this time. We are aware that some students participating in the encampment identify as Jewish, and may feel that the language used by the encampment is not antisemitic. However, many in our community have made clear they feel differently. The prioritization of Jewish voices participating in the encampment over other Jewish voices is disrespectful and offensive. Jewish people are not a monolith and possess a wide range of thoughts, ideas,

and emotions. It is imperative at this time that the safety concerns and fears of all Jewish students are taken seriously, and not pushed to the side.

Members of the campus community must understand that while speech may be protected on campus, violations of time, place, and manner restrictions – restrictions that are often necessary to ensure campus safety – are not. And while speech critical of Israel and supportive of the Palestinian cause is protected, threats, intimidation, and harassment are not. As a club, we've diligently followed all the university's guidelines at our events. Yet, it's disheartening to see that despite repeated rule-breaking by some students, the university has failed to take adequate action. The current encampment is in clear violation of several university policies, and there must be clear and immediate consequences for these violations.

We share the hopes of many of our peers for a speedy resolution of the ongoing war, the return of the hostages, and lasting peace.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Sincerely,

Ducks for Israel  
Oregon Hillel  
Chabad of Eugene  
Jewish Federation of Lane County  
Jewish Federation of Greater Portland



**OREGONHillel**



**The Jewish Federation**  
OF LANE COUNTY



**Jewish Federation**  
of Greater Portland