

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

S.R. 6

Supporting Wake Forest’s Jewish Community by Recognizing and Fighting Anti-Semitism and Acts of Bigotry

Fall 2018

November 26, 2018	Introduced by Co-Chair Gabe Mansour of the Academic Committee, Co-Chair Ciara Ciez of the Physical Planning Committee, Co-Chair Matthew McIlwain of the Public Relations Committee, Co-Chair Miles Middleton of the Campus Life Committee, and President Danny Reeves
December 2, 2018	Submitted to the Speaker of the House
December 3, 2018	Messaged to the Senate
December 4, 2018	Resolution passed by the Senate

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: Wake Forest Student Government previously passed the resolution “Supporting Wake Forest’s Jewish Community by recognizing Anti-Semitism” but insist that we can do more to support our students, and

WHEREAS: The Department of State outlines the following as “contemporary examples of anti-Semitism”:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective—especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations.¹

¹ <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- Blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic²

WHEREAS: Wake Forest University Student Government as well as other campus institutions have the responsibility to promote and sustain campus inclusion and sense of belonging, and in recognition of a diverse student population, acts of hatred against any nation, state, or people are to be condemned and processed through the Conduct Office, and

WHEREAS: Wake Forest University's Non-Discrimination Statement states, "In adherence with applicable laws and as provided by University policies, the University prohibits discrimination in its employment practices and its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, genetic information, disability and veteran status", and

WHEREAS: Anti-Semitic actions are to adhere to the guidelines of hate speech within Wake Forest's Code of Conduct as well the definitions and examples outlined by the Department of State, and

WHEREAS: In light of recent anti-Semitic acts on Wake Forest's campus and nationally such as The Tree of Life Synagogue tragedy and the purposeful removal of the Star of David from posters in Scales Fine Arts Center, and

WHEREAS: Wake Forest University Hillel, amongst other students on our campus, seek to legitimately protect their community and foster discussions around controversial topics, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

² <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/fs/2010/122352.htm>

- 1.) Wake Forest University Student Government recognizes that anti-Semitism and acts of bigotry are present nationally and on our campus, therefore we unequivocally condemns all forms of anti-Semitism and bigotry on our campus;
- 2.) While the Student Government respects the right of all students to freedom of speech, it pledges that it will not deliberately facilitate, promote, fund, or participate in any activities that directly promote anti-Semitism or undermine the rights of Jewish people;
- 3.) The Student Government recognizes that some, but not all, criticisms of and attacks on the State of Israel can be anti-Semitic dog-whistles and condemns such criticisms and attacks;
- 4.) As the representatives of the student body, Wake Forest University Student Government will be allies of the Jewish community and all diverse communities within the Wake Forest University community, by pledging to actively seek open lines of communication with the leaders of the organized diverse communities on issues pertaining to their constituency, as well as distribute this Resolution to the Offices of the Provost, Vice President of Campus Life, Dean of Students, Diversity and Inclusion, and the Chaplain's Office;
- 5.) Student Government pledges to plan with Hillel and other religious groups on campus joint programming and events during the 2019 spring semester focused on condemning acts of bigotry and fostering a sense of community for all students on Wake Forest's campus.

Respectfully Submitted,

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