

From: Andy Gitelson <andy@oregonhillel.org>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Marc N. Blattner <marc@jewishportland.org>
Subject: Response to ASOSU's Statement



To our Beaver community, we are here for you, we see you and we will do all we can to support you! Please know that our entire team, [Lev](#), [Rachel](#), [Rabbi Meir](#), [Kaya](#), [Talia](#), [Maddie](#) & I are all here for you.

We are deeply disappointed and surprised to see the leadership of Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU) issue a [one-sided statement](#) on the complicated Israeli-Palestinian conflict, furthering divisiveness among students. Many students are extremely hurt by this statement and its inflammatory language that puts the blame entirely on Israel.

ASOSU is a representative body for all students, not a propaganda machine. Within the Jewish community on campus, there are many Israeli students who are living in great fear for their families right now. There are even more American Jewish students who are coming under attack online and in person in throughout the country, including from agitators waving Palestinian flags and driving around in Jewish neighborhoods asking "who's Jewish" and then assaulting them. Our friends and families have

faced direct attack, and the surge of Antisemitic content on social media platforms has left many isolated and scared.

We encourage the ASOSU to recognize the impact its words have on the Oregon State campus community. This statement ignores, neglects, and further victimizes Jewish and Israeli students who, throughout this conflict have found themselves under threat of direct harm. Jewish OSU students are your constituents too, and we urge you to stop dismissing them for political aims and pay equal attention to their current challenges.

We affirm that Palestinians deserve independence and uphold their human rights. However, this statement uplifts not the Palestinian people but Hamas terrorists (as recognized by the US and the European Union) and adopts the talking points of those who seek to destroy Israel, the historic homeland of the Jewish people.

This statement represents an attack on our community, our beliefs, and so much of what we have held dear as a people for thousands of years since we were forcefully evicted from our homeland. We are deeply offended by its contents and its lack of connection to facts and decades of history.

Andy Gitelson
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