

PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE ON ANTISEMITISM REPORT

2024 - 2025

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Letter from the President

In 1948, Brandeis opened its doors to those closed out elsewhere — not only Jewish students and scholars but people of all identities who were marginalized or excluded from America's elite institutions. That foundational act of justice was not merely symbolic; it shaped who we are and what we continue to stand for.

As President of Brandeis University, I am both humbled and resolute in affirming our institution's historic and present-day role in confronting antisemitism with purpose, courage and integrity.

We were born of a moral imperative.

Today, that imperative calls us to lead once again. The resurgence of antisemitism, especially on college campuses, is not an abstract threat — it is a reality for many. Brandeis stands equipped with the values, the scholarship and the vision to lead. Our approach is deeply academic and unflinchingly practical.

We convene higher education leaders and trustees, empower educators, support Jewish communal organizations and drive research that yields real-world impact. **This is not performative. It is purposeful. We do not simply react — we prepare, educate and transform.**

In this pivotal moment, Brandeis is not only upholding its founding vision, but also expanding upon it. The work is urgent, and our commitment is unwavering.

Arthur LevinePresident
Brandeis University

Arthur Levine

Letter from Dr. Rachel Fish

Fighting bigotry and hate has always been synonymous with Brandeis University. From the beginning, our institution has welcomed students and faculty of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Fast-forward to Oct. 7, 2023, when Jews were confronted with this acute hatred, and university and college administrators were called upon to show clear and impactful leadership. Even before the atrocities in Israel, global antisemitism was on the rise, and U.S. college campuses were witnessing an alarming surge in antisemitic incidents. The events since Oct. 7 have only compounded the situation.

Our nation's leading academic institutions must act to confront this millennia-old scourge, now resurgent on college campuses. While a commitment to this cause is strong, many administrators lack the necessary skills and tools to bring about meaningful change. They require a peer institution — deeply knowledgeable about antisemitism and proficient in effective strategies to counter it — to guide them in this crucial work.

As a research university, Brandeis is uniquely situated to examine antisemitism on campuses and to develop data-driven responses. We are committed to deepening understanding of antisemitism in all its forms and to empowering leaders to confront it within their institutions.

We at the Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism have been traveling across the country to speak with educators and administrators from all different backgrounds, all of whom hold a range of professional roles. We are providing a robust education, cultivating practical approaches, and offering continuing resources. We invite you to learn more about our programs and activities during the past year and would welcome your feedback and support.

The spirit of our namesake, Justice Louis D. Brandeis, though rooted in another era of Jewish and American history, continues to resonate in the 21st century. Like Brandeis, the university that bears his name values engaging with ideas deeply and substantively. The practice and art of teaching within an institution that prioritizes academic rigor, embraces enlightenment ideals and pursues truth "even unto its innermost parts" makes Brandeis the ideal institution to lead efforts in educating about antisemitism with nuance and conviction.

Rachel Fish, PhD Special Advisor to the President

About Us

The Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism (BUPIA) launched in April 2023 — before the October 7 Hamas attack — in response to surging antisemitism on American college campuses.

We focus on engaging three primary audiences: higher education leaders and trustees, middle and high school leaders and educators, and Jewish communal executives. Through intensive summer institutes, webinars, regional Days of Learning and individual consultations, we seek to change hearts, minds and institutional practices.

We convene and support university leaders and school educators in a common cause, which includes raising awareness and sensitivity to antisemitism in education by partnering with expert researchers and practitioners to expand knowledge; providing tools and resources for data-driven, action-oriented practices; and building networks of professionals to share best practices and learn from one another.

Our educational programs benefit from a deep collaboration with Boundless Israel, a think-action tank focused on educating about Israel and contemporary antisemitism.

BUPIA recognizes there is a serious need within education, at multiple levels, to educate about Jew-hatred and its modern manifestations. This is not just a matter of support for Jewish students and faculty, but rather a necessity for our American institutions and our liberal values. When antisemitism rears its ugly head, it jeopardizes the core of American democratic practices and our national civic spirit. Our educational institutions are of paramount significance in stemming this tsunami of hate.



Equipping University Professionals to Confront Antisemitism on Campus

During the second **Frieze Family Foundation Summer Institute on Antisemitism in Higher Education** from June 9–13, 2025, provosts, deans and a wide range of other university leaders charged with promoting inclusion on their campuses gathered at Brandeis for a five-day residential program. Now in its second year, the Frieze Summer Institute continues to grow as higher education leaders seek constructive ways to address the persistent challenges of antisemitism on campuses.

Twenty-six universities sent teams of two to four staff members to develop and implement concrete initiatives that address Jew-hatred on their campuses. The **82 participants** engaged with academic, legal and Jewish communal experts to study the history of antisemitism and its impact on higher education. They also learned about the latest research to inform effective policies and interventions.

Participants developed a range of initiatives, including:

- Revamping faculty handbooks and providing Title VI training
- Requiring education for all leaders of student organizations on antisemitism, Islamophobia and racism
- Creating internal professional development for mid-level higher education professionals on contemporary expressions of antisemitism
- Conducting audits of campus processes for reporting antisemitism by faculty, staff and students
- Cultivating opportunities for students to engage with difference and engage in constructive dialogue where antisemitism serves as a primary focus of conversation

As antisemitism continues to challenge higher education, the Institute stands as a timely and essential response, mobilizing campus leaders to act with purpose, courage and impact.



"The dedicated opportunity to learn from experts in the fields of Jewish studies, Zionist thought, history, etc. was invaluable. The first three days in particular really did feel like a mini grad school boot camp and it was incredibly intellectually engaging and challenging. Often as administrators, we're tasked with solving problems of which we don't have the academic background to fully understand, contextualize, and inform our solutions. Of course I wouldn't pretend to say that I now have that when it comes to these fields or this topic, but I do feel more equipped to talk about these issues in a coherent way and to direct others to resources.

- Michelle Manno, Associate Provost for Community Enrichment, Northwestern University

Nationwide reach: 40 institutions representing 17 states.

Amherst College



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Columbia University MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



































































UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

First Middle & High School Educators' Institute on Israel and Antisemitism Meets High Demand for Training and Resources

This year, we hosted the inaugural Middle & High School Educators' Institute on Israel and Antisemitism, an intensive, five-day residential professional development seminar at Brandeis University. This one-of-a-kind program equipped educators with the knowledge, skills and networks to offer nuanced teaching about Israel, Zionism and antisemitism in classrooms and districts nationwide.

In its first year, demand for the Institute was immediate and overwhelming. We doubled our enrollment benchmarks, welcoming 40 educators and educational leaders from 28 institutions across seven regional teams: Massachusetts, New York City, Long Island, Kentucky, North Carolina, Texas and Pennsylvania. Participants represented classroom teachers, principals, district coordinators, superintendents and administrators from both public and private schools.

Applications revealed a common theme: educators feel a deep responsibility to prepare their students for complex conversations, yet lack the training and resources to teach about contemporary antisemitism, its intersections with Zionism and Israel and the discourse around Israeli-Palestinian relations.

In July 2026, participants will reconvene for a six-day study tour in Israel, with continuing learning and alumni engagement opportunities offered throughout the 2025-2026 academic year.



Educators' Institute on Israel and Antisemitism in July 2025.

Educators in Their Own Words

"The program you created was superior to anything I've been a part of. It was an honor for Great Neck Public Schools to be part of the inaugural cohort of educators, and personally, the experience was as challenging as it was energizing. The structure of the week—the range of speakers, the intellectual rigor, and the space for genuine wrestling with ideas—was nothing short of remarkable. From exploring the historical endurance and evolution of antisemitism, to confronting the dangerous adaptability of conspiracy theories, to unmasking the Soviet legacy that still echoes through modern discourse, every session pushed us to think harder and teach braver. And I'll never forget the line that's now etched in my mind: antisemitism is not a flare-up, but a structural condition."

- Frank Bua, Social Studies Department Chair, Great Neck South High School, Teacher's Union Vice President

"The incredible work that you guys did in the past week gave me the chance to meet with dedicated educators, share perspectives and brainstorm effective ways to tackle this (to borrow Rachel's term) Sisyphean challenge. Aside from that, I learned a great deal about Israeli culture, Zionism, and antisemitism. I had the chance to hear from some of the foremost experts in their respective fields on the challenges faced by Jewish people, Israel's storied and remarkable history, and the complex and nuanced nature of Arab-Israeli relations. [...] As someone who spent the bulk of his life in the Middle East and still has a large circle of Arab friends, I feel I have a unique moral obligation to promote better understanding and encourage people to look beyond the ignorance, propaganda, and vile hatred directed at honest, hard-working Jewish people who just want to live their lives. Your example has shown me the importance of being that voice. Thank you again for this unique opportunity."

- Middle School English Teacher, Independent School, Boston

Educating JCC Leaders Transforms Culture in Local Communities

Since 2024, the Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism (BUPIA) has **educated 98 senior executives from 48 Jewish Community Centers**, representing more than a quarter of all JCCs across North America. Together, these leaders shape communities that welcome **1.5 million people** every week, including 500,000 non-Jews, making JCCs a vital arena for fostering understanding of Jews, Judaism and Israel.

In partnership with Boundless Israel and the Jewish Community Center Association of North America (JCCA), BUPIA welcomed a second cohort of JCC senior executives from American and Canadian JCCs to Brandeis for an intensive seminar from March 3–6, 2025.

Change is already underway. JCC executives are stepping into the public square with greater clarity and confidence, speaking with elected officials and media, naming antisemitism more precisely and engaging their communities in difficult but essential conversations. Many now lead educational initiatives for teens, professional staff and Jewish educators on contemporary expressions of antisemitism, amplifying the Institute's reach far beyond the participants themselves.

At a time when Jewish voices are needed in the public square, these leaders are more prepared to guide institutions, shape discourse and stand at the forefront of the fight against antisemitism.



BUPIA Makes an Impact

724 from 212 **EVENT ATTENDEES**

INSTITUTIONS

IN 2024-2025

CUMULATIVE IMPACT ACROSS 2023-2025

895

PROFESSIONALS

from

UNIVERSITIES

viewed

WEBINARS

125

PROFESSIONALS

from

UNIVERSITIES

attended

SUMMER INSTITUTES ON ANTISEMITISM

Regional Days of Learning Spark Change on Campuses and in Classrooms

The Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism (BUPIA) is meeting an urgent need: middle and high school and university leaders across the country are seeking trusted, expert guidance to address antisemitism in their communities.

Through regional Days of Learning for **higher education administrators**, BUPIA delivered highly customized, in-person programs ranging from half-day consultations to multiday trainings to equip administrators with the tools to respond effectively and foster inclusive environments.

In 2024-2025 alone, BUPIA reached more than 150 senior leaders at institutions including the University of Virginia, Harvard University and the State University of New York system.

These programs addressed critical issues such as Title VI compliance, the intersections of antisemitism and antizionism, and the experiences of Jewish students and faculty. By engaging DEI and student-life professionals who report directly to campus presidents, BUPIA's training ensures that change is embedded at the highest levels of institutional leadership.

Over the past year, BUPIA partnered with districts and **independent middle and high schools** across New York, Massachusetts, Michigan and beyond, reaching more than **300 educators** and educational leaders. These sessions fostered collaboration across entire school systems, from superintendents and principals to curriculum directors and classroom teachers, ensuring consistency in policies and practices.

The impact has been immediate. In Michigan, a regional Day of Learning inspired the state's Board of Education to pass a Michigan State Board of Education resolution calling for increased teaching and training about antisemitism in schools. From regional Days of Learning, educators gain not only deeper knowledge, but also actionable strategies to integrate learning into curricula and poicy.

What sets regional Days of Learning apart is their ability to spark real-world outcomes in the local community: policy shifts, stronger educator networks and a growing pipeline of leaders committed to confronting antisemitism in their backyards. Participants gain confidence to navigate complex conversations, apply legal frameworks and foster environments where Jewish students feel seen and supported.

By bringing training directly to communities, we're driving momentum for long-term, systemic impact.



2025–2026 Programs and a Look to the Future

Our programs this academic year are designed to provide higher education leaders, middle and high school educators and Jewish communal executives with practical knowledge, tailored tools and sustained support to shift both individual perspectives and institutional practices.

As antisemitic sentiment in the U.S. continues to increase and our work in educational settings grows, we are seeking ways to engage with trustees so that they are better prepared to support the presidents of colleges and universities. We know there is both the need and opportunity to enhance trustees' understanding of contemporary antisemitism utilizing a variety of modalities to meet their specific objectives.

2025

Sept. 9–11 | Briarcliff Manor, New York

JCC Executive Institute

Sept. 28–29 | Rochester, New York **Presentations on antisemitism at University of Rochester**

Oct. 23 | Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

K-12 Day of Learning: Understanding Jewish

Identity & Experience (partnership with Boundless Israel,

Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Jewish Community

Relations Council, Gratz College, and Weitzman National Museum

of American Jewish History)

Oct. 26 | Tucson, Arizona

Southwest Institute 2025: Identifying &

Addressing Antisemitism & Intolerance in Our

Schools (partnership with Boundless Israel, Southern Arizona
Center for Jewish Resilience, Jewish Philanthropies of Southern

Arizona and The University of Arizona Center for Judaic Studies)

Nov. 4 | Charlotte, North Carolina Regional Day of Learning for educators from North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia (partnership with Boundless Israel, Queens University of Charlotte,

The Stan Greenspon Holocaust and Social Justice Education Center,

Dec. 1 | Lakeville, Connecticut

Presentations on antisemitism for
The Hotchkiss School

and the Jewish Federation of Greater Charlotte)

2026

March | Portland, Oregon

Two-day program for Pacific Northwest higher
education leaders (partnership with Portland State University)

June 28-July 2 | Brandeis University

Frieze Family Foundation Summer Institute on

Antisemitism in Higher Education

July 9-17 | Israel

Middle & High School Educators' Institute, Cohort 1

July 27-31 | Brandeis University

Middle & High School Educators' Institute, Cohort 2

For a full list of our programs and webinars, please visit:





Make a Gift

Ready to join our work to effect positive change on U.S. campuses and in middle and high schools?

Give now to the Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism.

We gladly accept donations via your preferred method, including check, credit card, Donor Advised Fund, stock, corporate matches and more.

To learn more about estate gifts or life-income gifts, **email plannedgiving@brandeis.edu** for more information.

For general questions or to discuss a major gift, multiyear pledge, or gift through a donor-advised fund, **email giving@brandeis.edu**.

Make an Online Gift

To make a tribute, matching, or recurring gift directly, please visit:



By MailGifts can be mailed to:

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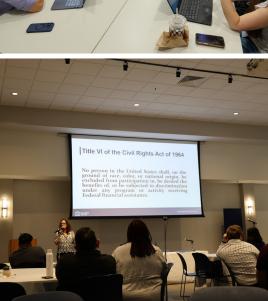




















Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism

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