THE LIMITS OF HOSTILITY
STUDENTS REPORT ON ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT AT FOUR US UNIVERSITIES

THE SCHOOLS WE STUDIED

Two rated among Algemeiner’s “worst for Jewish students” and one rated among “best for Jewish students.”
Relatively large Jewish student bodies (more than 10% of undergraduates).
Characteristic of the prestigious schools many Jewish students choose to attend.
Brandeis University, University of Pennsylvania, Harvard University, University of Michigan.

WHAT WE WANTED TO KNOW

What are the Jewish students’ experiences of antisemitism and anti-Israel hostility on these four campuses?
Do Jewish and non-Jewish students differ in their perceptions of hostility toward Jews and Israel on these four campuses?
How much support is there for anti-Israel activity—specifically, for BDS—among non-Jewish students on each campus?
How do issues related to Jews and Israel compare to other concerns on campus?
Do Jewish and non-Jewish students differ in their perceptions of what constitutes a pressing issue on campus?

WHAT WE FOUND

Jewish students are rarely exposed to antisemitism on campus.
More than 90% of Jewish students reported that they had not experienced any form of discrimination due to their religion.

Jewish students do not think their campus is hostile to Jews.
A vast majority of Jewish students at all four schools disagreed that their campus constituted a “hostile environment toward Jews.”

Jewish students are exposed to hostile remarks toward Israel on campus.
Hearing hostile remarks toward Israel was far more prevalent among Jewish students than among non-Jewish students.

Support for BDS is rare.
At each of these schools support for an academic boycott of Israel was virtually non-existent among Jewish students and non-rare among non-Jewish students.

Israel and Jews are not a top concern for students.
Of the generic concern questions, relatively few students ranked Israel as a “pressing issue on campus.”

Jewish students feel safe and that they belong on campus.
Overwhelmingly, Jewish students reported feeling safe on their campus.

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