

## Opposition comment to Resolution of Solidarity with the Jewish Community

Wendy Greenfield

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To:Cheryl Balm <balmcheryl@fhda.edu>

Dear Cheryl Balm,

The following is my comment about the agenda item concerning the Resolution of Solidarity with the Jewish Community that is scheduled to be heard at the Academic Senate meeting this afternoon. While I am totally in favor of and appreciative of solidarity to the Jewish community, my understanding is that the underlying motive of this resolution has more to do with an attack on anti-Zionism.

Thanks for your thoughtful attention to this matter!

Sincerely,  
Wendy Greenfield

### My comment:

I am a lifelong Jewish social justice activist. I was brought up to believe that an important part of being Jewish WAS being a social justice activist, and I've tried to live up to this, by fighting for racial and economic justice both here in the U.S. and abroad. In the early 1980's, I traveled to Argentina representing a Jewish organization to investigate the human rights situation under the military dictatorship, where antisemitism caused a much higher percentage of Jews to be kidnapped and disappeared than their percentage of the population. I care deeply about the issue of antisemitism.

Nevertheless, this Resolution of Solidarity with the Jewish Community worries me. It speaks of standing against the "acute hurt and violence being experienced by our colleagues". It condemns "discriminatory remarks or actions". We need examples of this. How has antisemitism shown itself at De Anza College?

I am very worried that antisemitism, the hatred and stereotyping of Jews, is being used as a code name for anti-Zionism - a political set of ideas about a foreign government. Many people, including Jews, consider themselves anti-Zionist, in the sense that they feel outraged against the continuing dislocation of Palestinians from their land by an ever expanding Israel. Indeed, a 2021 Jewish Electorate Institute poll said one quarter of U.S. Jews surveyed agreed that "Israel is an apartheid state."

I am deeply pained and outraged when I see Palestinian homes, schools, farm structures and olive trees demolished to make room for more Jewish settlements. It's the right and responsibility of every person, Jewish or non-Jewish, to look at that situation and call it out. That is not antisemitism, it's standing up for justice and human rights.

If some Jews on campus feel uncomfortable with that because they have an idealized view of what Israel means to them, then so be it. Sometimes discomfort is a necessary prerequisite to looking at something differently and growing.