

TIME FOR CHANGE

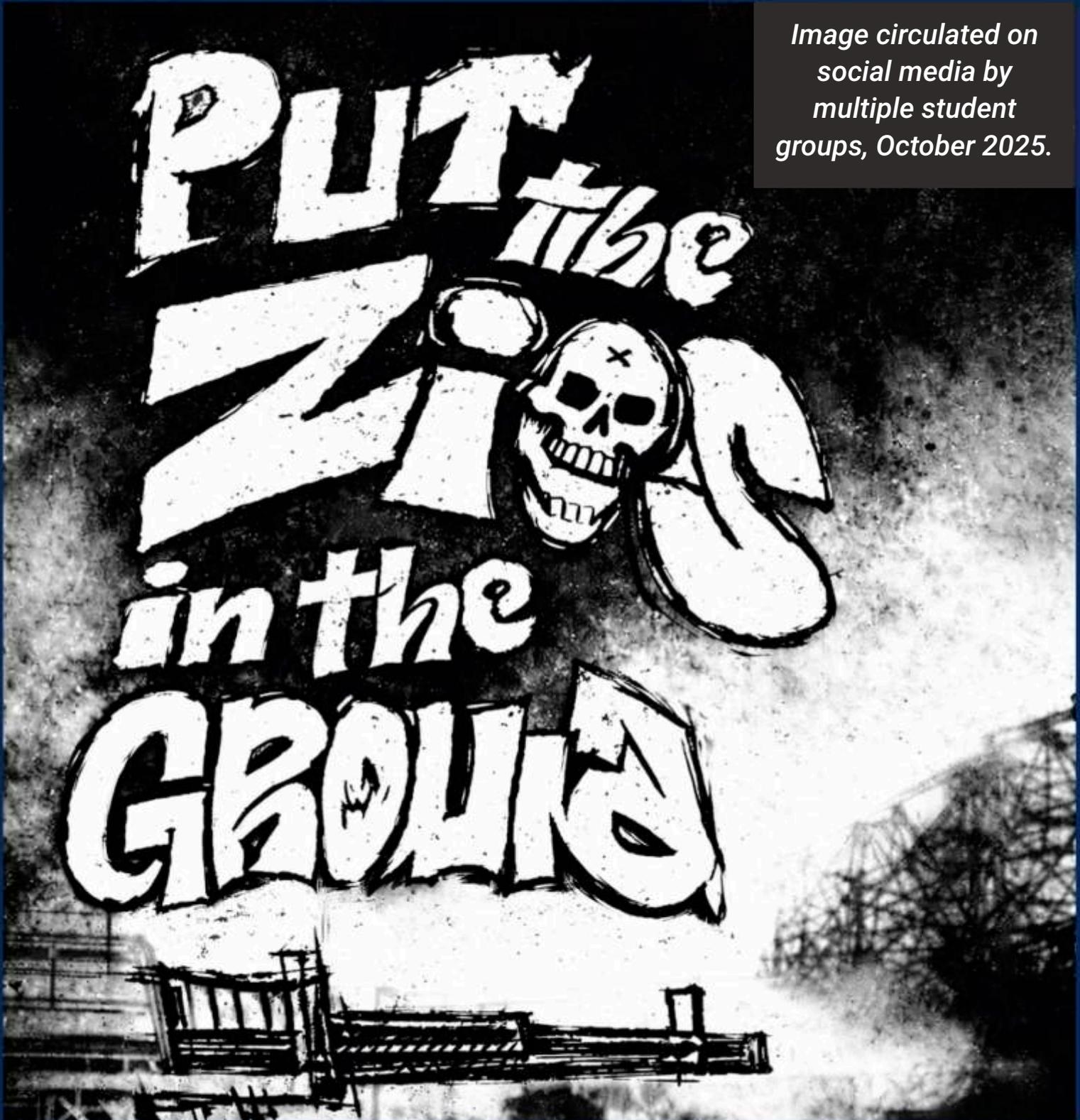


UNION OF
JEWISH
STUDENTS

Leading. Defending. Enriching Jewish life on campus.

A Landmark Report on UK Campus Antisemitism

March 2026



*Image circulated on
social media by
multiple student
groups, October 2025.*

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Foreword by Baroness Berger

A cult of antisemitism spread across our campuses



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It is with a certain sense of déjà vu I write this foreword. The content, context and experiences of Jewish students on campus echo the circumstances under which I resigned from my role on the national executive committee of the National Union of Students (NUS) more than 20 years ago.

During five years in higher education I was spat at at NUS national conference, saw blatant examples of anti-Jewish racism on campus being ignored and not acted upon and witnessed attacks on UJS conference stalls. I also saw bystanders in positions of responsibility turn the other way and ignore antisemitism. It is alarming that every one of those types of incidents is being repeated on campuses today.

Reflecting on my time on campus more than two decades ago, and on the experiences of students today, captured in this polling, leaves me wondering why and how the lessons of antisemitism have not been learnt. The continued tropes, continued harassment, continued “othering” of Jewish students that we have seen explode on campus over the past two and half years mirror precisely why it was necessary for me to step down from NUS all those years ago.

Jewish students continue to be attacked at the hands of the same people, year after year after year. What will British campuses feel like

for Jewish students when my own children, now aged just six and eight, reach university age?

The persistent lack of awareness, understanding and refusal to learn the lessons of the past are what makes this report so vital.

It is the hard work and dedication that generations of Jewish Society (JSoc) committee members and sabbatical officers have shown towards their fellow students that continually inspires me. These teams of committed young leaders are irreplaceable, and I am grateful to know so many of them, past and present.

For all the challenges Jewish students face, UJS has consistently reminded me of the power of community, dignity, and strength. When I started at the University of Birmingham, as a wide-eyed 19-year-old, joining JSoc seemed like the most natural option for me. I am lucky enough now to have been connected to UJS for nearly 25 years and today serve as vice-chair of their advisory board.

I will end this foreword as I concluded an article in the national press two decades ago. The context may have evolved, but the message has not. As the former Chief Rabbi, Lord Dr Jonathan Sacks, said: “An assault upon Jews is an assault upon difference, and a world that has no room for difference has no room for humanity itself.” Now, more than ever, it really is time for change.

Foreword by Lord Finkelstein

Universities that fail to confront antisemitism are failing students



It's not really just about the Jews. That was the point my grandfather tried so hard to get across in the late 1920s and early 1930s as he travelled around Germany. He would visit groups of civic leaders and business people, put his little suitcase on the floor by his side, and fish in it to find a copy of *Mein Kampf* or *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Then he would read extracts from the document and explain that it's not really just about the Jews.

What he was trying to get across is that the conspiracy thinking and violent hatred of the extremists represented an assault on civilisation, on freedom and on the ability of all citizens to live a decent, stable, safe life. And that everyone would suffer because of this. It wasn't really just about Jews.

And in the end he was right. Because the violence that engulfed the Jewish people, the violence that murdered his wife and starved his children to the point of death, that violence also ended up destroying Germany too.

By the time Hitler shot himself in his bunker, cities all over Germany were in ruins and the country was divided for almost half a century. And the collapse was not merely physical, of course, it was moral.

In the same way the evidence in this important report is not really just about the

Jews. It is about civilisation, about the culture of liberal democracy and the country itself.

We aren't asking universities to act just in order to protect Jews.

Though we are asking that. We are asking them to act to protect themselves, to ensure that they are all they can be and all they should be. We are asking them to act in order to prevent them from suffering physical and moral collapse.

An environment in which Jews cannot be full members of the community, one in which we are "othered" and excluded and insulted is a failing environment. It is one in which ultimately no one will be able to learn and participate in safety.

Universities are places where people can exchange ideas and learn facts in an atmosphere of civility, equality and respect. Bullying people because of their ethnicity or history or political views is completely unacceptable and a university administration that ignores such bullying is failing in its duties. It is failing to be a proper institution of learning.

And it is obvious from the content of this report that such failure is widespread. It is not universal. It is not inevitable. But it is widespread.

Pointing this out is a service to democracy and a free society.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For this report, the Union of Jewish Students has collated dozens of testimonies from students who have experienced antisemitism on campus.

The UJS also commissioned polling of 1,000 students, across all faiths and none, to assess the impact of campus protests and the rise of antisemitism. The findings reveal alarming levels of campus antisemitism, significant disruption caused by protests, and perceptions of Jewish students marred by hostility and intolerance.

Key Findings:

1. Antisemitism has become normalised on our campuses.

- One in four students (23%) have seen behaviour that targets Jewish students for their religion/ethnicity.
- One in five (20%) students would be reluctant to, or would never, houseshare with a Jewish student.
- Jewish students have told us they have faced physical and verbal abuse, social ostracisation and widespread antisemitic attitudes.

2. Glorification of terrorism is prevalent and unpunished.

- Our research has found that student groups have explicitly called for violence against Jews, even justifying the terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in December 2025.
- 49% of students have heard slogans or chants glorifying Hamas, Hezbollah or other proscribed groups on campus.
- 47% have witnessed justification of the October 7th attacks, rising to 77% among those who encounter Israel-Palestine protests regularly.

3. Protests disrupt all students, and universities have a clear mandate from students to take firmer action.

- Protests have disrupted learning for 65% of students, and 40% have altered their journey on campus to avoid disruption.
- Universities where protests are more frequent have seen higher levels of antisemitism, and four in ten (39%) of students who witness regular Israel-Palestine protests have seen Jewish students harassed often.
- 69% of students disapprove of protests blocking access to learning, and 82% deem calls to 'globalise the intifada' to be antisemitic.

Recommendations:

- 1. New enforceable standards for how universities investigate and punish hate crime, with mandatory reporting to the Office for Students and sanctions for non-compliance.**
- 2. Stronger regulation of students' unions, requiring universities and the Charity Commission to enforce proper conduct and combat extremism.**
- 3. Deliver a national counter-extremism strategy with a dedicated focus on campus radicalisation, coordinated across government.**
- 4. Clear public order guidance for universities and police, strengthening enforcement of new and existing powers.**
- 5. Step up police, university and government coordination, with formalised taskforces to tackle criminality and extremist activity on campus.**
- 6. University adoption of sector-wide best practice on Jewish inclusion, including antisemitism awareness training and initiatives to celebrate Jewish life.**

Introduction by
Louis Danker, UJS President

A new wave of student activism has interrupted the rhythm of campus life



Since the Hamas-led attack on Southern Israel on 7th October 2023, Jewish communities around the world have borne the brunt of rising polarisation, protest activity and an upward trend in antisemitic intimidation and harassment.

In the two and a half years since then, the Community Security Trust (CST) has received reports of antisemitic incidents at a new, sustained height. In 2025, **308 antisemitic incidents were recorded per month** on average, exactly double the monthly average of 154 incidents in the year preceding the 7th October attack (CST, 2026).

Rising polarisation has been acutely felt on university campuses in the UK. A new wave of student activism has interrupted the rhythm of campus life, with frequent protests, semi-permanent encampments, blockades of buildings and disruption of lectures and graduations. Decades-old boycott movements have adopted new, nefarious trends, targeting the removal of all “Zionists” from campus and the “globalisation” of “intifada”. The terrorist

activity of Hamas and Hezbollah has been glorified and championed by radical student groups, many of whom are painstaking in their efforts to evade identification and discipline by universities and law enforcement.

For two and a half years, many of the UK’s 10,000 Jewish students have faced ostracisation in their friendship groups, intimidation in their lecture halls, harassment in their accommodation blocks and violent threats on their social media feeds. Government, law enforcement, universities and students’ unions have sought to act, with varying pace and decisiveness. The result is a pattern of dotted successes amid general paralysis. When everyone is somewhat responsible, no one takes the lead. Most institutions demonstrably care, deeply, about these issues, but have lacked the speed and conviction of action required to stem the normalisation of antisemitism.

The Union of Jewish Students (UJS) is not content with another two and a half years of concerned sentiment and piecemeal progress.

“Far too often Jewish students in Britain have been villainised by opponents of Israeli government action, regardless of their citizenship or views”

“Our report and recommendations exist only to empower our buzzing Jewish student communities to persist undeterred”

It is Time for Change.

This report is intended to gauge the impact of rising polarisation on the student population, detailing the scale and nature of experiences of antisemitism. Its function is not to comment on the conflict in Gaza, nor to police legitimate opinion on Israel's actions. Much of the campus protest movement expresses strongly held views in a manner entirely compatible with free debate and well-intentioned activism.

However, the report demonstrates that far too often Jewish students in Britain have been villainised by opponents of Israeli government action, regardless of their citizenship or views. The language used is often violent and threatening, and terrorist attacks in Manchester and Sydney have demonstrated that violent language can breed violent acts.

The report also evidences the disruption faced by students of all faiths and none: daily routines are impeded, friendships are tested, and free debate - once the beating heart of university life - has been replaced by a toxic hostility.

This is a challenge that is well-documented.

But in producing constructive recommendations, we hope that this report generates more than negative headlines. It can build a better-informed public discourse, stronger institutional responses, enhanced reporting mechanisms, and a more inclusive environment on campus.

Jewish students will continue to create proud, vibrant Jewish life on campus, powered by the work of UJS.

The focus must remain on Jewish student agency - that we are responding to adversity with defiance, resilience, and pride. Our report and recommendations exist only to empower our buzzing Jewish student communities to persist undeterred.

This report must mark a point of inflection in the response to rising antisemitism on campus and across society. One in five students in this country would be reluctant to houseshare with a Jew. That is no position for a proud liberal democracy to find itself in.

It's high time that institutions stare down the scourge of antisemitism, and heed our call for change.

“The Union of Jewish Students is not content with another two and a half years of concerned sentiment and piecemeal progress. It is Time for Change”

1. Antisemitism is normalised on campus

Two and a half years of relative inaction has bred a culture of normalised antisemitism. Antisemitic attitudes are surprisingly commonplace on campus. **Almost one in four (23%) students reported hearing speech or seeing behaviour that targets students specifically for their Jewish religion or ethnicity.** Students have been chased home, told they are “fucking Jews” through shouts and graffiti, and told that satanic Jews run the world, the media and the banks.

Jewish students' feeling of safety and sense of belonging has been directly undermined. In February 2024, the Leeds Hillel House, a Jewish student centre, was vandalised with pro-Palestinian graffiti after its address was maliciously leaked on a protest group chat. One student described that “our once safe haven had been compromised, and Jewish students felt like they had nowhere to go”.

Equally as pernicious is the social ostracisation facing Jewish students. **One in five (20%) students would be reluctant to, or would never, houseshare with a Jewish student.** Moreover, one in four (26%) students say they know of, or have personally experienced, friendships with Jewish students become more distanced or strained. This rises to over a third (36%) at Russell Group universities. In one case, a flat of non-Jewish students shared on social media that they had “only one rule - no Zios in the flat”. Zio is an antisemitic slur and a code word for Jew coined by the former Grand Wizard of the KKK, David Duke.

Underpinning the normalisation of antisemitism is a reluctance to act against it, and



Testimonies and Case Studies

“They threatened to punch me because I am a Zionist”

“I was at a party and confronted a girl who was telling people not to be friends with me because I'm a Zionist. She knew nothing about me, but told me to “fuck off” with a whole audience of students watching. I tried to explain that I wanted to have a respectful conversation with her, but she refused, saying she doesn't talk to Zionists.

“She then became enraged, saying I support the genocide of children. I tried to explain that is wrong and not true, but by this point she was swearing and raising her voice and everyone was watching. I went home and cried.

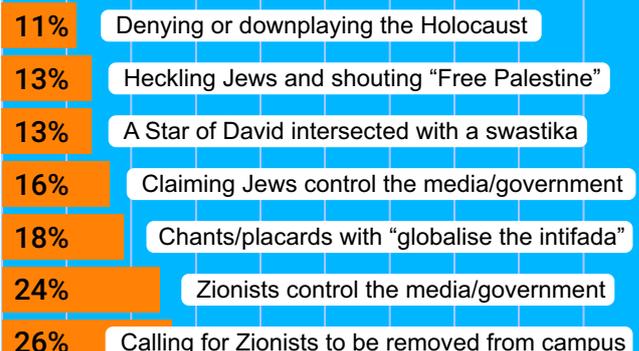
Somebody said they wanted to punch me in the face because I am a Zionist at a club night.”

- **Third year student at the University of Exeter**

Jewish student beaten up in nightclub

In summer 2024, a Jewish Society committee member in Bristol approached the pro-Palestinian encampment to have a civil conversation. That night, he was physically attacked and assaulted in a nightclub by individuals who recognised him from the conversation. His shirt was ripped, his back was covered in scratches and cuts, and a drink was thrown in his face.

% of student who believe the following are not antisemitic:



One in four (25%) don't care "very much" or "at all" if students are able to be open about their Jewish identity on campus.



Graffiti found at University of Essex Student Union.

an apathy towards it. **One in four (25%) students don't care "very much" or "at all" if students are able to be open about their Jewish identity** on campus. Moreover, of the students who report witnessing antisemitism, only 20% challenged it directly, just 22% reported it to the students' union, and 23% reported it to the university.

Jewish students are facing direct threats, verbal and physical abuse and being isolated by their peers for their presumed views on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Student groups have described universities as "Jewish supremacist". Ignorance about Jewish people is embedded in campus culture, and too little is being done in response. Widespread education is necessary, but it must be coupled with firmer disciplinary action from universities to break the culture of impunity that has developed.



Graffiti defacing Leeds Hillel House, the Jewish student centre.

Testimonies and Case Studies

Jewish students followed and threatened

On several occasions in October 2025, Jewish students wearing kippot (skullcaps) were chased home. In Leeds, two students were heckled with "Free Palestine" chants and verbal abuse. The pursuer was brandishing a glass bottle, and crossed the road to follow the students closely. When he reached into his waistband and produced what the students believed to be a blade, they fled and managed to lose the perpetrator.

In Birmingham, a car drove past two Jewish students shouting "Free Palestine!" They were then followed home. The pursuers climbed the lamp post outside the students' house, rang the doorbell multiple times and lingered outside for several nights. They then told passers-by to "remember this address as Jews live here".

The Telegraph

UCL academic suggests Jews murdered monk and used his blood to bake bread

Former researcher reported to police after repeating anti-Semitic tropes including medieval blood libel



Blood libel lecture

In November 2025, University College London banned an academic for life and reported her to the police over remarks made during a lecture to the UCL Students for Justice in Palestine Society. The academic, Samar Maqusi, referenced the "Damascus Blood Libel", which suggests Jews murdered a monk and used his blood to bake holy bread. She also shared conspiracy theories relating to "Zionist-controlled media".

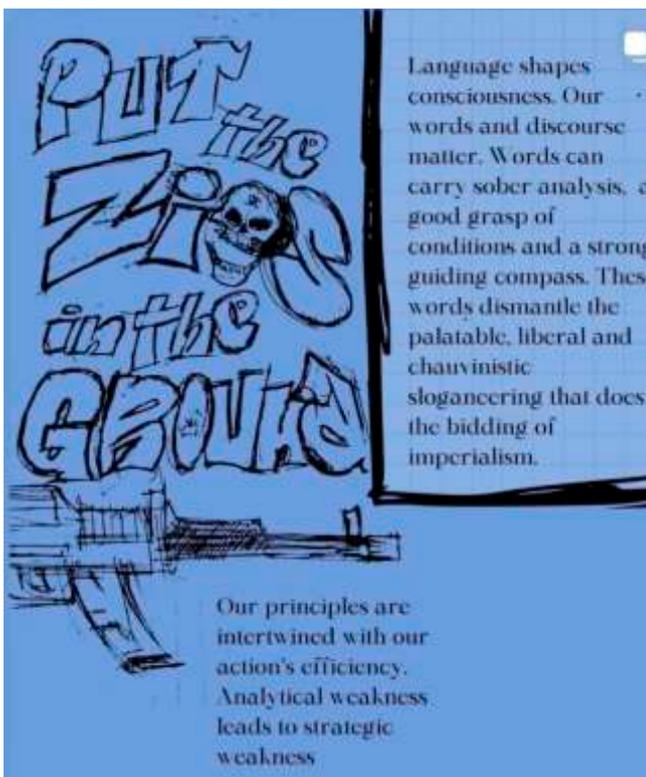
One in five (20%) of students are reluctant to houseshare with a Jew.

2. Glorification of terrorism is going unpunished

One of the most worrying trends amid the rise in campus antisemitism has been the justification and glorification of terrorism. The language used by student groups has grown increasingly violent, both on campus and online.

Almost half of students (49%) said they had heard slogans or chants on campus in support of proscribed terrorist organisations Hamas, Hezbollah or other armed resistance groups. Almost one in four (23%) said they heard these chants “very” or “fairly” often while walking to their lectures.

There is a direct correlation between protest-heavy environments and the glorification of terrorism. Some 47% of all students said they had



Testimonies and Case Studies

Leeds Students Against Apartheid Coalition (LSAAC)

LSAAC is an anonymous online social media page, purportedly run by students in Leeds. On 7th October 2025, they shared posts stating that the anniversary “honours the Palestinian resistance” and that the October 7th attacks were a “bold armed offensive”. They quoted Abu Obeida, spokesperson for Hamas’s Al-Qassam Brigades, describing Gaza as “the greatest military school in contemporary history”.

They later shared a post lauding how skillfully the “Qassam Shadow Unit” hid Israeli hostages from the world, describing it as “legend”. Reposted content described how Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar “heroically fell in battle”. They shared material rejecting distinctions between Israeli civilians and soldiers, and asserted those labelled “Israelis” are all “tools and mercenaries of imperialism”.

In May 2025, when two Israeli embassy staff were shot dead outside a Jewish community event in Washington DC, LSAAC shared a post suggesting there had been a “logical” and necessary escalation against “occupation representatives”.

LSAAC was one of 18 student societies who, in April 2025, declared support for a legal application to the UK Government to de-proscribe Hamas.

47% of all students have seen slogans or chants directly justifying the October 7th attacks. This rises to 77% for those who see Israel-Palestine protests regularly.

Left: Image circulated on social media by multiple student groups, October 2025.

“A dead fascist is still a fascist”

Post shared by student magazine in Glasgow, *The Gaza Guardian*, referring to victims of the Bondi Beach massacre in Dec 2025.

heard slogans or chants directly justifying the October 7th attacks. Of those who said they see Israel-Palestine-related protests regularly, this figure rises to 77%. **Shockingly, one in six (16%) students believe that glorifying the October 7th attacks, including the murder of civilians and children, should be protected as free speech.**

The most extreme rhetoric is amplified online by a network of student groups, unaffiliated to their students' unions and anonymised to prevent detection and disciplinary action. When Samuel Williams, an Oxford student, was arrested for chanting “Gaza, Gaza, make us proud, put the Zios in the ground”, these groups rallied round him. Multiple accounts, such as City Action For Palestine, shared graphics glorifying this violent slogan, including imagery of skulls and assault rifles.

Police, universities and government need to coordinate to identify the perpetrators of terror glorification, and ensure appropriate action is taken. Otherwise, we will continue to see a shift in the campus Overton Window that permits support for Hamas's atrocities.



LSAAC repost quoting Abu Obeida, senior Hamas official.

Testimonies and Case Studies

Glasgow University Justice for Palestine Society (GUJPS)

The Glasgow University Justice for Palestine Society is an unaffiliated group, with an anonymous online page and on-campus activism organised by students in Glasgow. In September 2025, GUJPS launched an anonymous student magazine called *The Gaza Guardian*, distributing hundreds of copies in freshers' week. It called on students to “join the student intifada”, describing the “necessity of armed resistance”, and expressing explicit solidarity with the “Axis of Resistance” including Hamas and Hezbollah.

On 7th October 2025, GUJPS advertised a protest to “honour our resistance” and “honour our martyrs”, declaring a celebration of “the glorious Al-Aqsa Flood” - Hamas's codename for the October 7th attacks. Shortly after, in an updated list of 'demands' of the university, they called for the “banning of all Zionists from campus” and explicitly called for the removal of Israeli students and academics.

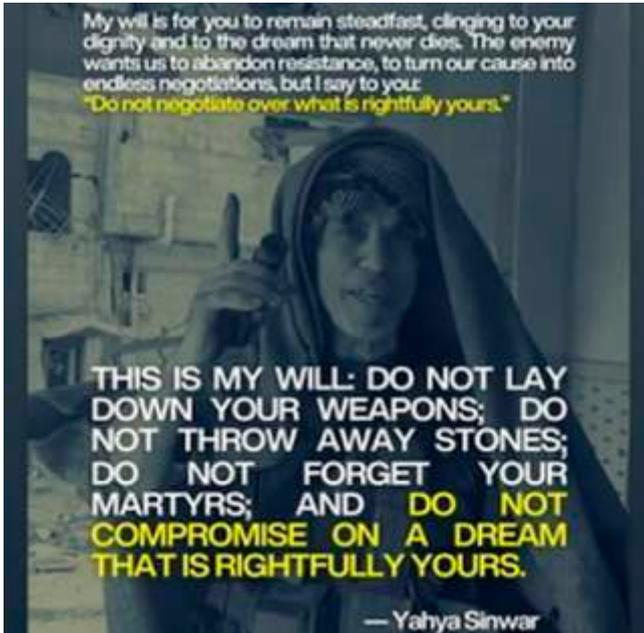
In December 2025, *The Gaza Guardian* shared a post seeking to justify and qualify the Bondi Beach massacre. The post alleged that “conversations about 'Jewish safety' obscures an active genocide by framing Jewish people, even fascists, as eternal 'victims' of Palestinian existence”, before asserting that “a dead fascist is still a fascist”.

“The UK proscribes Hamas, so I can't say what I want...”

“Outside the main students' union building there was a group of protesters who had a poster saying “Back the Resistance”. [One of the students there was asked] “do you condemn Hamas?”. She responded by saying “95% of the world doesn't proscribe Hamas as a terrorist organisation but the UK does so I can't say what I want. But, just know I come from a long line of resistance fighters”.

- **Second year student at the University of Bristol**

“There is a direct correlation between protest-heavy environments and the glorification of terrorism”



“Do not lay down your weapons, do not throw away stones”

City Action for Palestine reposted eulogy to Yahya Sinwar.



“Gaza, Gaza, make us proud, put the Zios in the ground!”

An Oxford student chanting at a London protest.



“One Year of Resistance”

‘Edinburgh protest poster from Oct 7th 2024 depicting an image from the October 7th attacks.



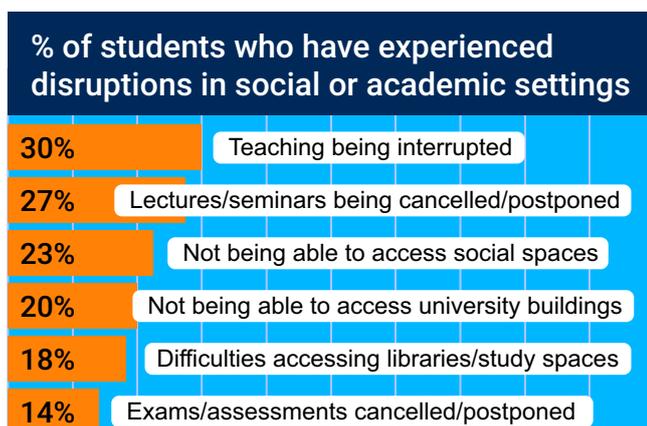
“Victory To The Resistance”

Seminar room on a UK campus.

3. Students are tired of protests disrupting their education

Protests have become a regular feature of campus life, with 65% reporting a disruption to learning. This interruption to the rhythm of university life is unpopular with the majority of students - more than 69% of students say they disapprove of blocking access to lectures, libraries or other teaching and social spaces. With four in ten (40%) having changed their journey through campus to avoid protests, it is clear that there is appetite among students for universities to take more decisive action. Indeed, one Jewish student described an impression of “informal restrictions” on where Jews could go on campus.

The campus climate has bred social pressure and toxicity. **Half of students (50%) feel socially-pressured to hold certain views on Israel-Palestine, and a third (33%) say they feel unsafe engaging in political debates.** Some 61% of students describe the campus conversation around Israel-Palestine as intimidating or toxic. Free debate, a supposed pillar of university education, has been eroded.



Testimonies and Case Studies

October 7th 2025 anniversary protests



Widespread protests took place in the middle of campuses on the second anniversary of the October 7th attacks. Aside from the insensitivity of the chosen time and place, the manner of many events explicitly celebrated October 7th and coincided with antisemitic incidents. An event at the University of Glasgow saw demonstrators unfurl a six-foot banner reading “Glory to the Martyrs”. In Bristol, Jewish students were shouted at, and one was told that “antisemitism no longer needs disguising”. One student at Kings College London was asked by an LBC reporter if she understood why Jewish students on campus may feel uncomfortable. She replied, on camera, “I understand why they might feel like that, but I don’t think that their feelings are valid”.

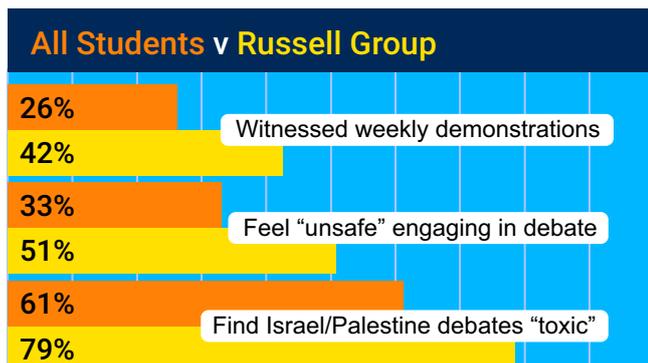
The Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, condemned the protests and warned students not to demonstrate on the anniversary of the Hamas attacks. The Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson, wrote to university leaders, describing the “increase in antisemitic behaviour” as “intolerable”.

65% of students experience a disruption to learning from protests. 69% also say they disapprove of blocking access to lectures, libraries or other teaching social spaces.

The situation is worse at elite institutions. At Russell Group universities, 51% feel unsafe to engage in political debates, and 79% describe the campus conversation around Israel-Palestine as intimidating or toxic - an 18% increase in each case. This may be linked to an increased frequency of demonstration - while 26% of students encounter protests at least weekly, this rises to 42% at Russell Group universities.

Crucially, protest-heavy environments appear conducive to higher levels of antisemitism. One in four (26%) students who have witnessed antisemitism report that it occurred during a demonstration. Of those who have witnessed regular Israel-Palestine protests on campus, **39% report seeing intimidation and harassment of Jewish students during protests** "very" or "fairly" often.

University and police inaction is often explained away by reference to complexity, or suggestions that slogans mean different things to different people. One such slogan is "globalise the intifada", which the Metropolitan and Greater Manchester police forces have deemed an arrestable offence. Some 82% of students feel that slogan is "somewhat" or "very" antisemitic - a statistic which indicates universities have the support of their students to take bolder disciplinary action.



Testimonies and Case Studies

"Zionists off our campus"



Protest at University of Birmingham

A banner at a 2024 protest at the University of Birmingham called for "Zionists off our Campus" - rhetoric that has since been repeated by students across the country, from City St George's University to the University of Glasgow. One Birmingham student said that seeing the banner "felt like being told that people like me do not belong here, that our presence on campus is conditional and unwelcome".

The lack of disciplinary action taken against calls to remove Zionists from campus has generated a feeling of "abandonment" by students. One suggested there was an impression that harassment of Jewish students "can be excused" if it is "framed as activism".

Disruption of October 7th vigils

On the first anniversary of the October 7th attacks, some Jewish students were prevented from mourning and remembering lost loved ones. One student shared that "when holding an October 7th vigil, students surrounded us calling for intifada [...] until campus security shut down our vigil and created a safe room for Jewish students." This reflects a campus climate in which Jewish students' ability to peacefully commemorate an attack, let alone participate fully in university life, is being constrained.

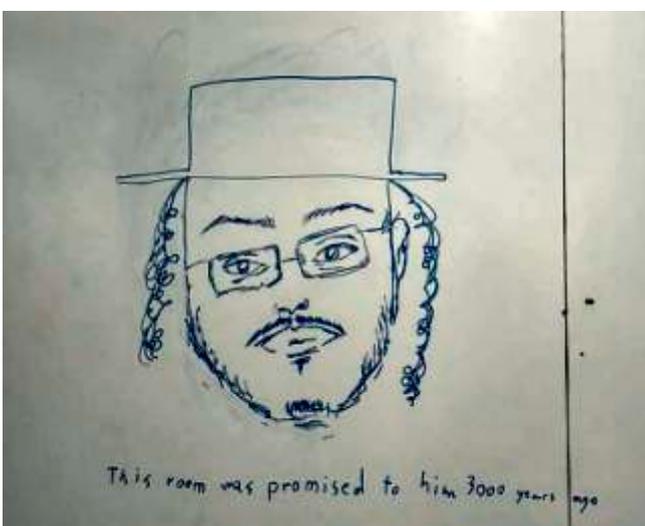
Leaflets being handed out at the University of Bristol



“Antisemitism no longer needs disguising”

A protestor to a Jewish student in Bristol, October 7, 2025.

Image on whiteboard at City St George’s University London: “This room was promised to him 3000 years ago.”



Testimonies and Case Studies

Harassment of Professor Michael Ben-Gad

City Action For Palestine relentlessly post about “Jewish supremacy” and related conspiratorial narratives online. In October 2025, they launched a campaign of harassment against Israeli Professor Michael Ben-Gad, calling for him to be sacked for being a “terrorist” complicit in “Zionist war crimes”. Ben-Gad, who has been employed by City University since 2007, saw his lecture theatre invaded by student protestors wearing masks. They subjected him to vile abuse, bringing the lecture to a halt. Further students wearing motorcycle helmets ran through corridors shouting in megaphones, disrupting learning and intimidating Jewish students and staff in the heart of campus.

“Protests during my biology exam”

“During my biology exam, chants calling for the fall of Israel, to globalise the intifada, and praising the terrorists of October 7th were screamed through a megaphone right under the window of my exam room. I had to try my best to ignore the chants and focus on doing my best on the exam I had worked so hard studying for, which was extremely difficult. Once I finished the exam, I walked out of the building to be faced with 50-100 students standing in a group, some with face coverings, continuing that same chanting.”

- **Second year student at Queen Mary, University of London**

82% of students think that chants and placards calling to 'globalise the intifada' are at least somewhat antisemitic.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the findings of this report, the Union of Jewish Students is making the following six recommendations to finally bring about real change.

1. Full accountability for universities on hate crime response

The Department for Education (DfE) and the Office for Students (OfS) should establish a statutory framework for the investigation and disciplinary handling of hate crime incidents in higher education, alongside strengthened implementation of OfS Condition E6, to hold providers accountable to their legal equalities obligations.

The framework should set clear minimum requirements, including transparent reporting mechanisms, consistent codes of conduct, maximum investigation timeframes, and firm disciplinary action. The OfS should proactively engage with providers to understand how Jewish students are being supported as E6 is implemented.

Government should require annual reporting on aggregate incident data, with specific classification breakdowns (including antisemitism), alongside data on investigation length, outcomes and sanctions imposed.

These reforms should be supported by a rapid evidence review of current systems, and the delivery of a straightforward OfS whistleblowing mechanism for students as well as staff. Serious or repeated complaints about an institution, including its students' union, should automatically trigger regulatory investigation. Failure to meet minimum standards should result in formal sanctions against the provider.

2. Stronger oversight of students' union action on antisemitism

Universities and the Charity Commission should ensure proper conduct and strengthen students' union accountability, implementing sanctions where unions fail to address antisemitism, unlawful discrimination or extremist activity.

Updated Charity Commission guidance should make clear that students' union trustees must ensure all activities advance educational objectives and do not expose students to unlawful discrimination or extremist activity. Specific documented risk assessments are required whenever students' unions engage with external organisations and speakers, including affiliated societies who collaborate with unaffiliated groups. The Charity Commission should be prepared to use newly expanded powers to combat extremism when investigating students' unions.

Universities must take responsibility for investigative and disciplinary action on students whose activities breach codes of conduct, including student societies, rather than passing responsibility to students' unions. The Office for Students must mandate that universities use their Education Act powers to ensure students' unions are operating lawfully and appropriately, with regular review, reporting and a complaints system.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Deliver on a national counter-extremism strategy with dedicated focus on campus

As part of the comprehensive UK counter-extremism strategy and social cohesion agenda, the government must combat the specific threat of radicalisation and antisemitism on campus.

Delivery of the strategy must include an investigation of extremist student networks - far-left, far-right and Islamist - and their links to external organisations, including proscribed groups and state threats. Funding sources must be scrutinised, problematic speakers identified, and gaps in the current regulatory framework reviewed and improved. Closer attention must be paid to organisations evading accountability by negating to register as charities.

A cross-departmental taskforce on campus antisemitism must be established to coordinate action across government, with clear terms of reference and regular engagement with UJS and other key stakeholders ensuring campus antisemitism no longer falls through the cracks.

4. Implement public order reforms on university campuses

Urgent guidance must ensure Higher Education providers and police apply new and existing public order legislation effectively in campus settings, strengthening enforcement on both public and private land.

Guidance should address the implications of recent and forthcoming reforms, including the Macdonald Review, the Crime and Policing Bill, and powers relating to face coverings, cumulative impact, amplified noise and blockaded buildings. Particular focus should be placed on giving police powers to impose conditions on protests that block access to university buildings or disrupt educational activity. The government must also provide universities with clear new guidance about where free speech ends and Prevent obligations begin.

It should also clarify the relationship between public order legislation and the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act 2023, and reaffirm that universities have a duty to prevent harassment and intimidation of Jewish students and staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. Formalise joint action between police, government and universities

Police, government and higher education providers should establish formal joint working arrangements to ensure criminal activity on campus and online is addressed quickly and consistently.

The National Police Chiefs Council and Council of Policing should establish new campus liaison protocols requiring named contacts, regular coordination meetings with universities, and engagement with Jewish student representatives. Police should step up their efforts, working with universities to investigate unlawful activity, including anonymous online groups, and support identification of perpetrators.

Where protests risk breaching the law, taskforces should agree joint risk mitigation plans, with clear communication to affected Jewish student communities. A consistent national approach should also be developed on inflammatory slogans and chants, to ensure strong disciplinary and legal action.

6. Adopt sector-wide best practice for Jewish inclusion on campus

Higher Education providers should develop clear action plans, working with UJS and the Department for Education and incorporating forthcoming UJS recommendations on effective practice.

Universities and students' unions should expand their provision of UJS's Antisemitism Awareness Training for staff, and maintain regular engagement and consultation with UJS and the local Jewish Society. Current EDI training and policy should be reviewed to ensure it adequately addresses antisemitism.

Universities and students' unions should implement initiatives that promote understanding and celebration of Jewish life on campus, including participating in an annual Jewish Experience Week, in collaboration with UJS and their Jewish Society.

METHODOLOGY

Polling of a nationally representative sample of 1,000 UK university students, drawn from 170 higher education institutions, was conducted by JL Partners between 26 January and 4 February 2026. The sample was weighted to reflect the demographic profile of the UK student population.

In addition to the polling, the Union of Jewish Students conducted qualitative research to gather first-hand accounts from Jewish students. This included written submissions, interviews and the collection of anonymised case studies to supplement the quantitative findings.

UJS continues to power proud, defiant Jewish life on campus





The Voice of Jewish Students

Leading, defending and enriching Jewish life on campus

The Union of Jewish Students has represented Jewish students across the UK and Ireland for over a century. It supports more than 10,000 Jewish students across 80 Jewish Societies (JSocs), delivering national advocacy, educational programming, and welfare support.

UJS works year-round with students, universities, policymakers and community partners to promote inclusion, combat prejudice and ensure Jewish students can participate fully and confidently in campus life.

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