

StandWithUs

Supporting Israel & Fighting Antisemitism

November 7, 2023

Dear President Starr,

We write on behalf of the StandWithUs Saidoff Legal Department and the StandWithUs Center for Combating Antisemitism, divisions of StandWithUs, an international, nonprofit education organization educating about Israel and combating antisemitism. We write to address an upcoming event on Pomona's campus that requires your immediate attention, as it appears to have the express intention of disrupting the campus environment.

Your administration should have received a [letter](#) from us this week addressing the hostile climate that exists for Jewish and Israeli students. Our letter identifies a variety of specific issues presented by antisemitic and anti-Israel activity, as well as recommended action items for administrations to take to best protect their campuses, including their student population.

It has since come to our attention that several Pomona student organizations are planning an anti-Israel event on campus this Thursday, November 9th. Both the event itself and the [advertisement](#) for the event appear to present some of the very problems identified in our letter, requiring your immediate attention.

The chosen title for this event, "Shut Pom Down For Palestine," indicates a clear intention to cause a material and substantial disruption to the campus environment, conduct that falls outside the protection of the First Amendment.

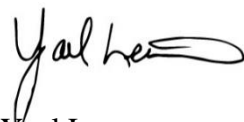
In addition, as our [letter](#) lays out, in anticipation of this event, you have the right to prohibit masks worn for the purpose of concealing identity. You can require valid student and faculty ID in order to participate in the protests. And you can send a message that teaching faculty and staff attending, endorsing, and encouraging planned walkouts, including taking their classes to these walkouts rather than using scheduled class time for its intended purposes, likely violates school policies on use of class instruction time. While students may have limited rights to participate in walkouts, educators should not be permitted to abuse their positions of authority in this manner.

We urge your administration to remedy these issues immediately to avoid irreparable harm to your campus and to prevent discriminatory treatment of Jewish and Israeli students, as well as the violation of students' academic freedom rights.


Sincerely,



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CEO and Co-Founder
StandWithUs



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