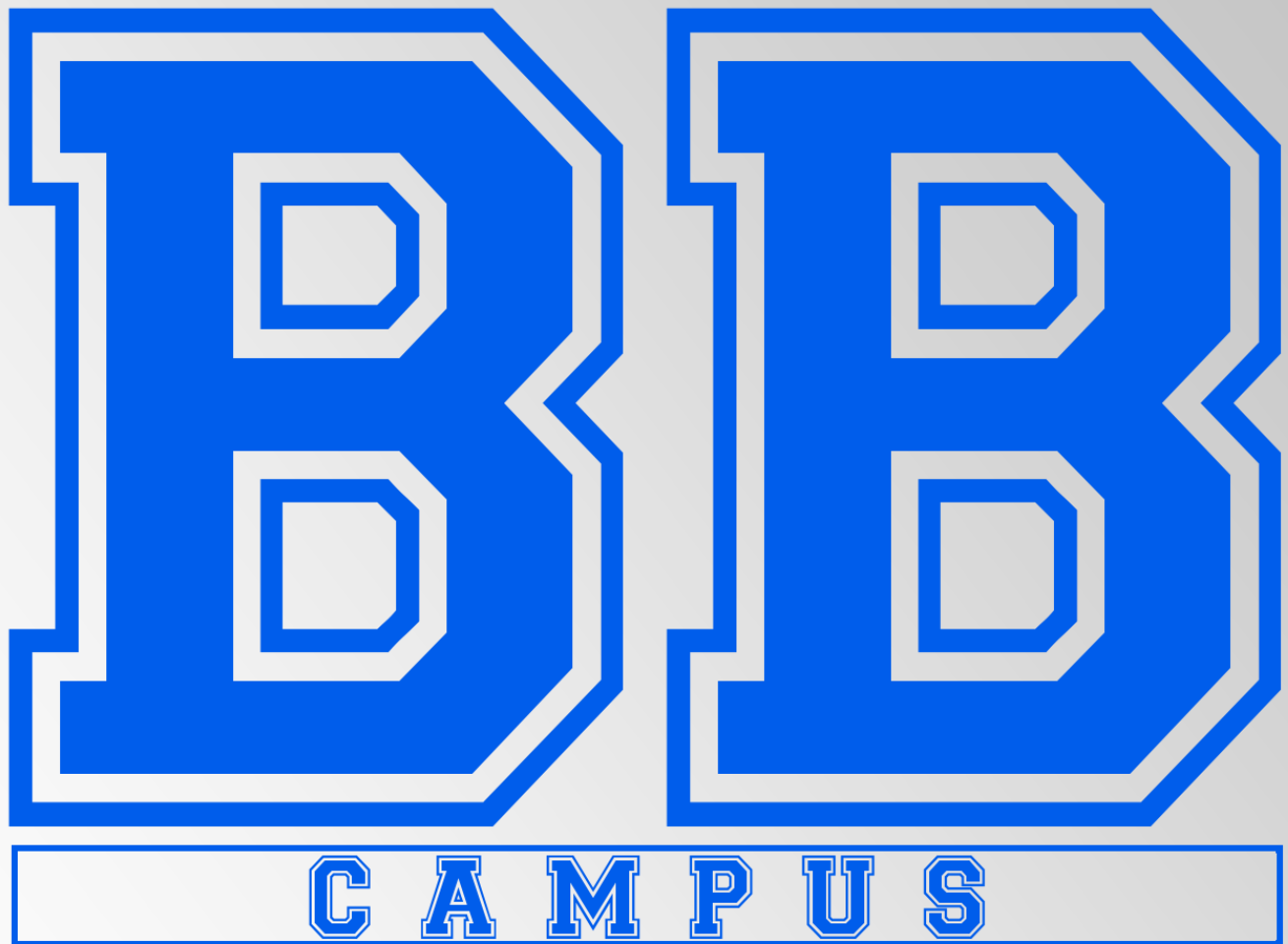


B'NAI BRITH ON CAMPUS



INTRODUCTORY PACKAGE

ABOUT

As the leader of a Jewish or pro-Israel organization on a university campus, you may be keenly aware of the dangers of antisemitism. According to the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitic incidents on campus nearly doubled between 2014 and 2015, and we have reason to believe that Canada has witnessed a similar pattern.

From swastikas on display at the University of Waterloo to harassment of Jewish student leaders at McGill and a simmering atmosphere of antisemitism at York University, 2015-2016 was a tough school year for many Canadian Jewish university students.

B'nai Brith Canada and its League for Human Rights are here to help. This year, we're launching *B'nai Brith on Campus*, a nationwide program designed to give students the tools to fight back against antisemitism and bigotry at Canadian universities.

This brief package contains three sections. The first will outline B'nai Brith's definition of antisemitism, and how to recognize an antisemitic incident when it happens. The second details the resources available to you as a university student through B'nai Brith, which will help you to deal with student unions, university administrations, the police and all other relevant parties. Finally, we have enclosed a copy of B'nai Brith's 2015 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents as a point of reference.

In order to raise awareness of our services among the campus population, B'nai Brith will be distributing pens, pamphlets, notebooks and other items. You can find these items at your local Hillel office, or better yet, contact us directly in order to make yourself an on-campus distributor.

B'nai Brith on Campus is not designed as yet another initiative for pro-Israel advocacy, or "hasbara" – numerous campus organizations already exist for that purpose, including Hillel, StandWithUs Canada, Hasbara Fellowships, the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA) and various local student clubs. However, B'nai Brith is committed to ensuring that students engaging in pro-Israel advocacy do not face antisemitic harassment.

Feel free to contact us for further updates, and be sure to like B'nai Brith on Campus on Facebook in order to follow the latest developments.

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

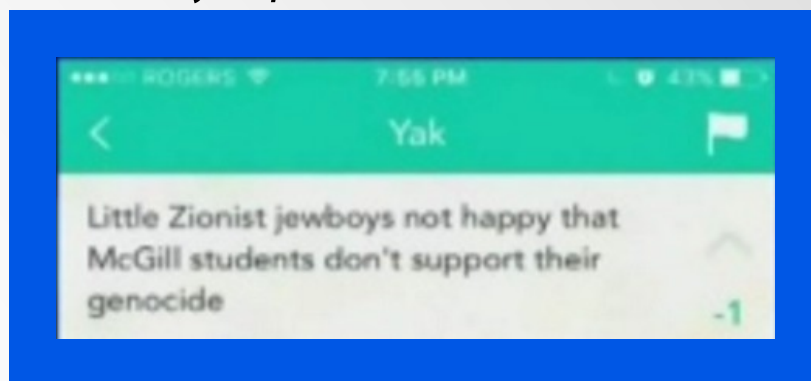
Defining Antisemitism

It is important to define exactly what is meant by 'antisemitism'. B'nai Brith chooses to use the spelling 'antisemitism' rather than 'anti-Semitism' for a number of reasons. Most importantly, the hyphenated spelling would indicate that there is something called 'semitism', to which someone can be opposed. While this is the case with anti-Zionism (hence the hyphenation), this is not quite true with antisemitism. One cannot be a 'semitist'.

It is becoming increasingly common, especially on campus, to see blatant antisemitism labelled as anti-Zionism or 'legitimate' criticism of the state of Israel, thus making the identification and condemnation of antisemitism increasingly problematic. When discussing this topic, B'nai Brith uses a very precise definition, choosing to use the working definition of antisemitism from the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, as outlined below.

Working Definition of Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. In addition, such manifestations could also target the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for "why things go wrong." It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits. *Defining antisemitism is fairly simple, but its actual manifestations can vary considerably.*



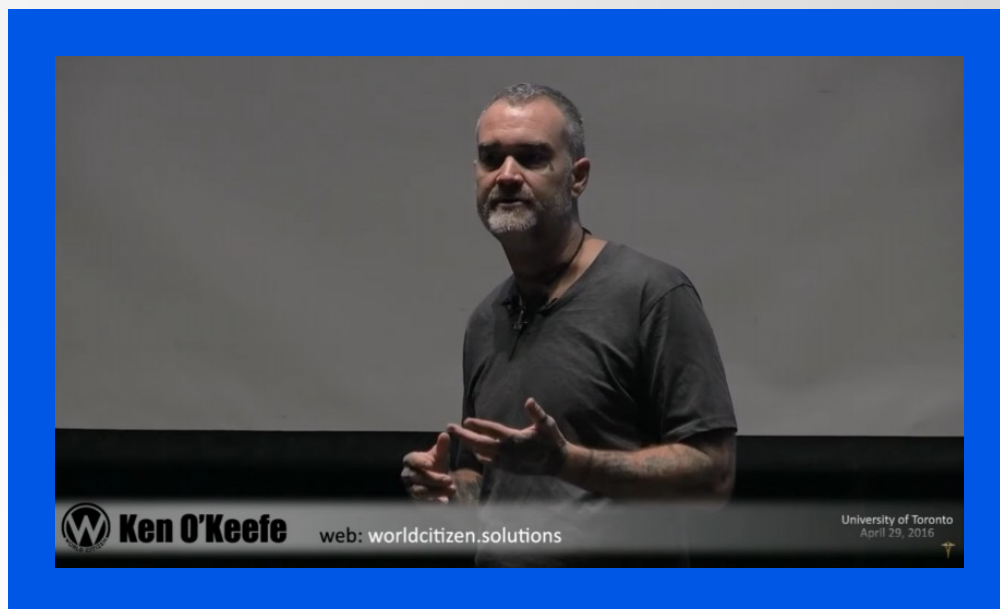
An antisemitic message posted on the Yik Yak social messaging app at McGill (CTV News Montreal)

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Working Definition of Antisemitism Cont.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective - such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.



Neo-Nazi Ken O'Keefe speaks at the University of Toronto on April 29, 2016 (YouTube)

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Israel and Antisemitism: The “Three D’s” Test

Over the past few decades, Canadian campuses have become the country’s ground zero for anger aimed at Israel, the world’s only Jewish State. To be clear, not all criticism of Israel, even harsh criticism, should be considered antisemitic. However, anti-Israel animosity can and often does cross the line into antisemitism. In making this determination, B’nai Brith Canada has adopted the “Three D’s” test for antisemitism developed by famed Jewish leader Natan Sharansky. Anti-Israel behaviour is antisemitic if it includes any/all of the following:

Delegitimization: Claiming that the very concept of a Jewish State in the Middle East is somehow wrong or immoral, and that Israel should be punished simply for existing, regardless of what it does.

Demonization: Labelling Israel, Israelis or Zionists (those who support the existence of Israel) as evil, racist or satanic, including obviously false accusations of committing crimes such as genocide or apartheid.

Double-Standards: Applying different rules and benchmarks to Israeli actions than to those of other countries, and arguing that Israel should be punished for its perceived mistakes in a manner disproportionate to how other states are treated.



Antisemitic graffiti found in a bathroom stall at Ryerson University (Students Supporting Israel at Ryerson University)

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Israel and Antisemitism: The “Three D’s” Test Cont.

Examples of the ways in which antisemitism manifests itself with regard to the state of Israel, taking into account the overall context would include:

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.



A swastika is displayed in a student residence in Waterloo during the 2015 anti-Israel referendum (StandWithUs Canada)

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Definitions of Antisemitic Incidents Used by the League for Human Rights

Harassment: refers to verbal or written actions that do not include the use of physical force against a person or property. This includes (but is not limited to):

- Verbal slurs, statements of hate and bias, or harassment.
- Stereotyping of Jews, such as the airing on radio talk shows of comments on 'Jewish Characteristics'.
- Systematic discrimination in the workplace, schools or campuses.
- Hate propaganda and hate mail via the internet, telephone or printed material.
- Verbal threats of violence, where application of force does not appear imminent or no weapon or bomb is involved.
- *On campus, antisemitic harassment often stems from stereotypes used by professors in lectures, hateful rhetoric employed by extremist anti-Israel groups, or day-to-day encounters with students raised in an antisemitic atmosphere.*

Vandalism: refers to physical damage to property. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Posting of graffiti, swastikas and similar racist emblems and slogans, at times accompanied by other criminal acts including thefts and break-ins.
- Damage to religious objects such as mezuzahs on the door posts of private homes, hospitals and other facilities.
- Desecration of cemeteries and synagogues.
- Fire-bombing, arson.
- *On campus, antisemitic vandalism is most often found in the form of graffiti on school buildings, or its digital counterpart, the Yik Yak social media application.*

Violence: refers to physical use of force against a person or group of persons. It includes, but is not limited to:

- Bodily assault.
- Assault with a weapon or accompanied by threat of imminent use of weapon.
- Threats of violence directed against a particular person or group where there is reasonable cause to believe that bodily harm is imminent.
- *On campus, antisemitic violence is most likely to occur at rallies or events hosted by extremist anti-Israel groups.*

WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Hate Crimes vs. Hate Incidents

What makes B'nai Brith's Audit of Antisemitic Incidents different from other measures of antisemitism in Canada is the variety of incident types it captures and explores. The only report of its kind in Canada, the Audit is based on not just hate crimes reports from police and law enforcement agencies, but also captures incidents reported directly to B'nai Brith via the Anti-Hate Hotline.

Not all antisemitic incidents will reach the level required by the *Criminal Code of Canada* in order to constitute a "crime". Nevertheless, it is critical that all such incidents be reported to B'nai Brith Canada. Without accurate reports and data for our Audit, we cannot hope to convince university administrations that antisemitism is a serious campus problem that demands their attention. *Even if you are not sure that what you have experienced is an antisemitic incident, please report it to us regardless – we can make that determination and act accordingly.*



University of Windsor Student Alliance Vice-President Jake de Jong discovers antisemitic graffiti in his office (Tyler Brownbridge/The Windsor Star)

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Anti-Hate Hotline

If you have or someone you know has been the victim of an antisemitic incident, your very first step should be to contact B'nai Brith's Anti-Hate Hotline. We can be reached from anywhere in Canada at 1-800-892-2624, or via an online form at bnaibrith.ca. Alternatively, you can send a private message to the B'nai Brith on Campus Facebook page. Whatever the case, we will handle your complaint anonymously unless you instruct us to do otherwise. No one outside of B'nai Brith will know that you made a report, and our Audit will omit any details that could be used to identify you personally.

Once you contact the Hotline, we will guide you through the appropriate next steps based on the particulars of your antisemitic incident, as well as the university which you attend. Nevertheless, we will outline some of the most common tactics for responding to antisemitic incidents on campus.

B'nai Brith on Campus Facebook Page

B'nai Brith has opened a public Facebook page to accompany our revitalized campus initiatives, which can be found here: facebook.com/BBOnCampus. This page will share news from across Canada on Jewish campus issues, and provide a forum for connecting Jewish students from coast to coast. As noted above, you can also file Hotline reports via our Facebook page.

Local Jewish Organizations

Depending on your campus, you may enjoy the services of a local Hillel chapter, Chabad house, Jewish fraternity/sorority or other Jewish organization. In order to guarantee the safety of other Jewish students and raise community awareness regarding campus antisemitism, you may wish to inform these groups of any antisemitic incidents that you witness or experience. If you are not familiar with the Jewish organizations on your campus, we can help to make those connections.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

Campus Police

Most Canadian university campuses have a designated campus police detachment which handles all crimes occurring on university property. If the antisemitic incident is severe enough to warrant legal consequences, you should meet with campus police to initiate a formal report. We can help you to contact the correct branch of law enforcement and file your report.

Human Rights Centres

Some Canadian universities have established campus human rights organizations which are intended as the first point of contact for complaints surrounding antisemitism, racism, homophobia and all other forms of discrimination. B'nai Brith can aid you in filing complaints through these mechanisms. Moreover, should university human rights centres prove inadequate, each Canadian province also maintains a human rights commission or equivalent body which handles complaints stemming from all walks of life.

University Administrators

All Canadian universities operate under some sort of "Code of Conduct" or similar document that forbids professors, staff and students from engaging in discriminatory behaviour, including antisemitism. Therefore, university administrators should be informed of any and all antisemitic incidents occurring on campus, enabling them to both take action against the perpetrators and consider the prevalence of bigotry on campus when drafting new policies. B'nai Brith can advocate on your behalf with the relevant campus authorities.

Student Unions

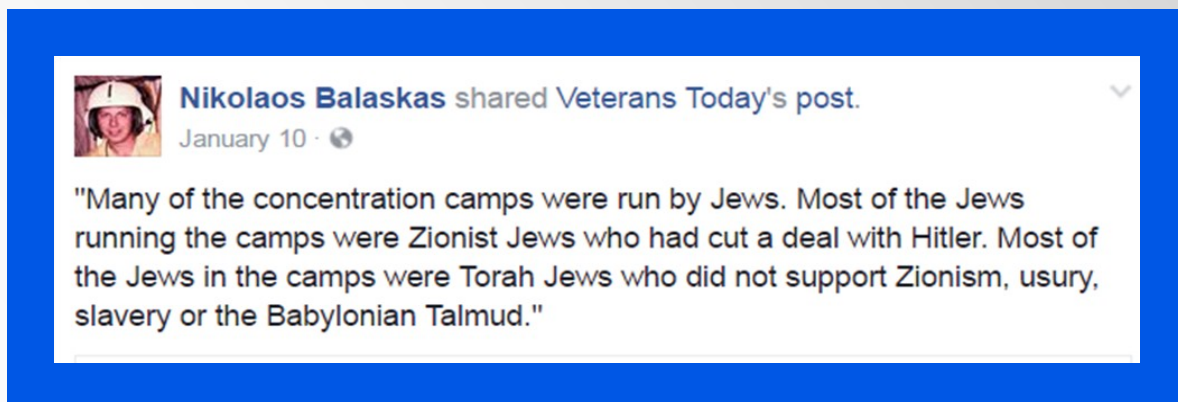
As a Canadian university student, you are probably the member of a mandatory student union of some sort, to which you pay a fee each semester. Canadian student unions often possess anti-discrimination clauses in their bylaws or governing documents, and depending on the local campus climate, may be willing to work with you to tackle antisemitism.

EXAMPLES

Examples of Antisemitic Incidents on Campus

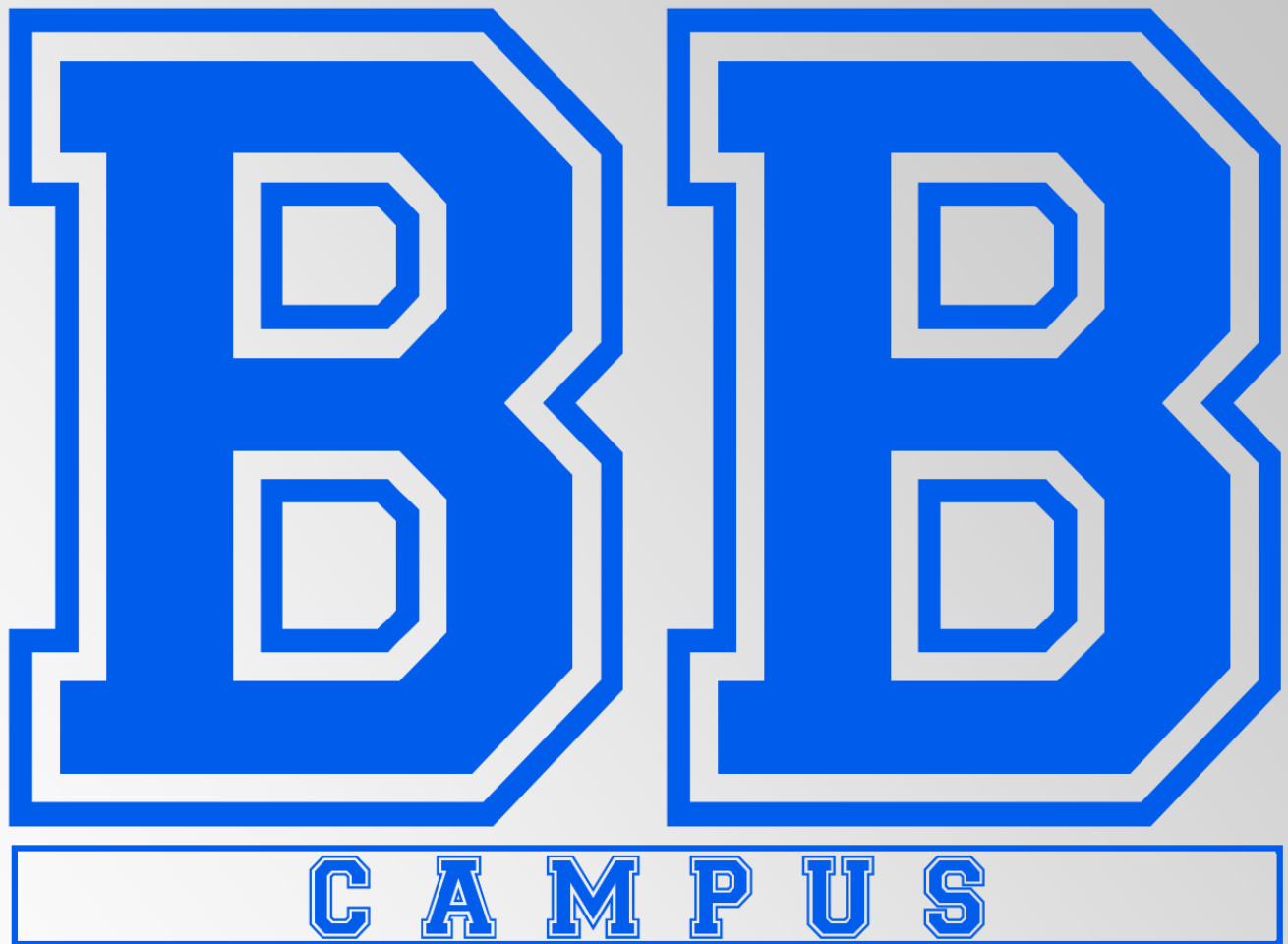
Antisemitism concerns all of us. Regardless of whether you are Jewish or not, and regardless of how much or how little you are affected by any particular incident, we cannot hope to defeat racism and bigotry in Canada unless such examples are reported to the Anti-Hate Hotline.

1. Your professor claims that there are too many Jews in positions of authority on campus, or that all Jews are wealthy
2. A student shouts "F@ck Zionism!" at an anti-Israel rally on campus
3. Your student union moves to boycott Israel, while ignoring human rights violations around the world
4. Your university refuses to accommodate you when you have an exam scheduled for a Jewish holiday
5. You notice a swastika scratched onto a bathroom stall on your campus
6. Social media pages for your campus contain messages about "whiny Jews" or "Israeli genocide supporters"
7. Your professor claims that Israel harvests the organs of Palestinians, or poisons Palestinian wells



An antisemitic Facebook post made by York University staff member Nikolaos Balaskas in January 2016 (Facebook)

B'NAI BRITH ON CAMPUS



To report an antisemitic incident,
please call 1-800-892-2624, visit
bnaibrith.ca/report, or find “B’nai
Brith on Campus” on Facebook