



December 16, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

President Eric W. Kaler
Case Western Reserve University
president@case.edu

Dear President Kaler:

We write to thank and commend you for your strong statement condemning the “profoundly anti-Israel and anti-Semitic” resolution passed by the undergraduate student government earlier this semester, which called on your University to divest assets from “Israeli apartheid.” Your forceful opposition to the anti-Semitic Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) agenda demonstrates exemplary leadership and moral clarity. Such leadership has been sorely needed at this time when anti-Semitism has risen to historic levels, including on college campuses around the country.

As you have recognized, the resolution aimed to demonize not only the Jewish collective, Israel, but also the Jewish students on your campus for whom Zionism and identification with the Jewish state of Israel is an integral part of their ethnic and shared ancestral identity. As you correctly articulated, “Passing this resolution...undermines the safety and comfort on our campus of members of our Jewish community.” Indeed, BDS often correlates with an increase in anti-Semitic incidents on campus.¹ Speaking out clearly and promptly against this manifestation of anti-Semitism, as you have done, is a critical part of supporting Jewish students and ensuring a safe and welcoming atmosphere for everyone on your campus.

We applaud your resolve in standing firm against unmerited criticism of your rightful decision to use the University’s voice to denounce the resolution that, “undoubtedly...promotes anti-Semitism.” As a non-profit legal advocacy organization dedicated to combatting anti-Semitism in higher education, the Brandeis Center is pleased to serve as a resource as you confront anti-Semitism on campus. You may find our fact sheets on “Best Practices” for combating campus anti-Semitism and anti-

¹ AMCHA Initiative, “The Harassment of Jewish Students on U.S. Campuses,” (Sept. 2019), <https://amchainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Eliminationist-Anti-Zionism-and-Academic-BDS-on-Campus-Report.pdf>.

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Israelism, “FAQs about Defining Anti-Semitism,” and “the Elements of anti-Semitic Discourse,” to be helpful (<https://brandeiscenter.com/fact-sheets-and-guides/>).

Thank you again for assuming leadership by recognizing and rejecting a pernicious form of contemporary anti-Semitism. Your courageous statement should serve as an example to other university leaders confronting this scourge.

If we can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Kenneth L. Marcus
Founder and Chairman



Alyza D. Lewin
President



Denise Katz-Prober
Director of Legal Initiatives