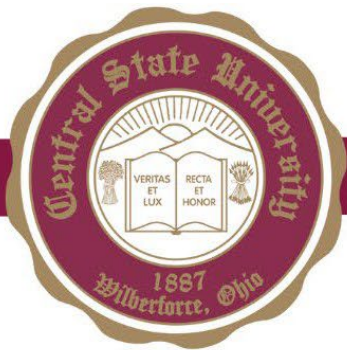




OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DR. MORAKINYO A.O. KUTI

September 25, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno
Ohio Senate
Sr-B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moreno,

Thank you for bringing this critical issue to our attention. Central State University recognizes the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents across the nation and shares your commitment to protecting Jewish students, faculty, and staff from discrimination and hate. As an institution founded on principles of inclusion and educational opportunity for all, we take seriously our responsibility to address antisemitism in all its forms and ensure our campus remains a place where every member of our community can learn, work, and thrive without fear.

Central State University Response to Antisemitism

Central State University remains steadfast in its founding mission to provide educational opportunity and create a welcoming environment for all students, regardless of their background, faith, or identity. In response to your inquiry regarding our institution's approach to combating antisemitism, our Board of Trustees will formally review the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism for potential adoption as part of our comprehensive framework for addressing hate and discrimination on campus. This review process reflects our commitment to thoughtful governance and our dedication to fostering an inclusive academic community where Jewish students, faculty, and staff feel safe, supported, and valued.

Current Measures Addressing Antisemitism

Central State University's existing Student Code of Conduct provides the foundation for addressing antisemitic behavior and hate incidents through several key provisions:

Harassment and Discrimination Policies

Our current Code explicitly prohibits harassment and intimidation based on religion, including under Section 1.14b, which addresses "intimidation or harassment on the basis of race, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, or veteran status." This provision directly covers antisemitic harassment targeting Jewish community members.

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Hate Speech and Threatening Behavior

Section 1.14c prohibits "verbal harassment, abusive and/or threatening language directed towards another student, faculty, staff or guests," providing clear grounds for addressing antisemitic verbal attacks or threatening communications.

Digital and Social Media Protections

Our Internet, Website and Social Network Usage Policy (Section 2.6) allows the university to investigate and take disciplinary action against students who post antisemitic content online, recognizing that "pictures and information posted on the internet are considered public information" and violations can result in "appropriate disciplinary action by the University."

Protection of Religious Expression and Assembly

The Code affirms students' rights to "freedom of speech and assembly" while maintaining that these "rights and freedoms must be exercised in a manner that neither disrupts nor interferes with the academic programs and administrative processes of the University." This protects legitimate religious expression while preventing antisemitic disruption of Jewish events or activities.

Physical Safety Protections

Sections addressing "Physical Altercation/Violent/Threatening Behavior" (1.18) and "Dangerous, Threatening and/or Unsafe Behavior" (1.07) provide strong tools for addressing antisemitic violence or threats of violence against Jewish community members.

Educational Response Mechanisms

The Code's emphasis on educational sanctions and counseling assignments allows the university to address antisemitic behavior through educational interventions, helping students understand the impact of their actions while fostering long-term behavioral change.

Campus Demonstration Guidelines

Clear protocols for demonstrations requiring approval from university leadership help ensure that any campus events or protests maintain appropriate boundaries and do not cross into antisemitic harassment or intimidation.

Department of Public Safety Partnership

Central State University's Department of Public Safety serves as a critical frontline defense against antisemitic incidents and religiously motivated crimes. Our campus police officers are trained to recognize and respond to bias-motivated incidents, working closely with the Office of Student Judicial Affairs to ensure comprehensive investigation and appropriate referrals. The Department maintains protocols for immediate response to hate crimes, including preservation of evidence, victim support services, and coordination with local law enforcement when incidents rise to the level of criminal activity. Officers conduct regular safety assessments of campus areas where students gather, including for religious and cultural events, and provide enhanced security presence when threat levels warrant additional protection. The Department also

collaborates with student organizations to develop emergency response plans and maintains open communication channels for reporting suspicious activity or threats targeting religious communities on campus.

Recommended Enhancements

While our current Code provides substantial coverage, we recommend considering additional specific measures as we review the IHRA definition, including enhanced bias incident reporting systems, specialized training for conduct officers on antisemitism recognition, and strengthened partnerships with campus Jewish organizations to ensure comprehensive support for affected community members.

In conclusion, Central State University's commitment to combating antisemitism extends beyond policy statements to actionable measures that protect our Jewish community members and uphold our founding values of inclusion and educational opportunity. Through our comprehensive Student Code of Conduct, proactive Department of Public Safety protocols, and pending review of the IHRA definition, we demonstrate our dedication to creating a campus environment free from religious discrimination and hate. We remain vigilant in monitoring emerging threats and stand ready to adapt our approaches as needed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our university community. We welcome continued dialogue with your office and other stakeholders as we work together to address this critical challenge facing higher education institutions nationwide.

Sincerely,



Morakinyo A.O. Kuti, Ph.D.
President