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EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
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May 10, 2024

Mr. Michael Schill
President
Northwestern University
633 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60208

Mr. Peter J. Barris
Chair, Board of Trustees
Northwestern University
633 Clark Street
Evanston, IL 60208

Dear Mr. Schill and Mr. Barris:

The Committee on Education and the Workforce (the Committee) is investigating Northwestern University's response to antisemitism and its failure to protect Jewish students. I have grave concerns regarding Northwestern's persistent failure in addressing antisemitism. Most recently, Northwestern's decision to capitulate to antisemitic, pro-terror encampment organizers prompted seven members of Northwestern's antisemitism advisory committee to resign in protest and for three national Jewish organizations, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Louis D. Brandeis Center, and StandWithUs, jointly to call for President Schill's resignation or removal.¹

The unlawful pro-terror encampment, dubbed the "Northwestern Liberated Zone," disrupted campus life and became a hotspot for pervasive antisemitic harassment and hostility. Rather than enforcing University rules and disciplining those who violated them, Northwestern's leaders surrendered to the violators in a shameful agreement. Northwestern's Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) called the deal "a landmark victory made in our struggle for Palestinian liberation" and "an important step toward our ultimate goal: **divestment from Israel** (emphasis in original)."²

¹ Jacob Wendler, *Seven members of Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate step down*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (May 1, 2024), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2024/05/01/campus/breaking-seven-members-of-advisory-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate-step-down/>; Press Release, Anti-Defamation League, ADL, StandWithUs and Brandeis Center Call for the Resignation of Northwestern University President Michael Schill (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://chicago.adl.org/adl-standwithus-and-brandeis-center-call-for-the-resignation-of-northwestern-university-president-michael-schill/> [hereinafter *ADL Press Release*].

² Northwestern SJP (@nu.sjp), INSTAGRAM (Apr. 30, 2024), <https://www.instagram.com/p/C6ZsZ5uPuEt/?igsh=Y2QwajBtYXMycjdl>.

The agreement's terms include: allowing activists to maintain the "Northwestern Liberated Zone" while removing tents; reestablishing an advisory committee on investments that could be used to advance boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) efforts; committing to funding two visiting Palestinian faculty per year for two years and funding the full cost of attendance for five Palestinian undergraduates in apparent violation of federal antidiscrimination laws; and promising to examine campus dining services, seemingly in response to SJP's efforts to ban Sabra hummus.³

President Schill failed to consult his own President's Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate on his decision to enter the agreement. Seven of the committee's Jewish members subsequently resigned in protest, including one of its co-chairs; a university trustee; and the Executive Director of Northwestern Hillel, the school's center for Jewish life.⁴ The resignations prompted the Advisory Committee to disband altogether.⁵ Lily Cohen, a student Advisory Committee member who resigned, commented, "It appears as though breaking the rules gets you somewhere, and trying to do things respectfully and by the books does not."⁶

The ADL, Brandeis Center, and StandWithUs stated, "President Schill capitulated to hatred and bigotry and empowered and emboldened those who have used intimidation, harassment, and violence to achieve their ends" and called on Schill to "resign immediately" and for Northwestern's Board of Trustees to "step in as the leaders the University needs and remove him" if he does not.⁷

The "Northwestern Liberated Zone," which continues to operate, has disrupted Northwestern's learning environment and has been the site of numerous crimes and antisemitic incidents, including assault, obstruction of justice, harassment, and theft:

- On April 25, 2024, a mob of encampment members, including Northwestern faculty and students, physically resisted Northwestern University Police Department (NUPD) officers who attempted to clear the encampment. The encampment members formed a line to push the police back, shoved NUPD officers, and repeatedly screamed "fuck you, pig!"⁸ NUPD's Interim Commander of Investigative Services was observed preventing

³ Northwestern University, Agreement on Deering Meadow (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2024/agreement-on-deering-meadow.pdf>; Isabel Funk & Joanna Hou, *SJP organizers petition for schoolwide boycott of Sabra hummus, hang banner on Norris entrance*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (Feb. 14, 2022), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/02/14/campus/sjp-organizers-petition-for-schoolwide-boycott-of-sabra-hummus-hang-banner-on-norris-entrance/>.

⁴ Gabby Deutch, *Northwestern's antisemitism committee in disarray after Jewish members step down*, JEWISH INSIDER (May 2, 2024), <https://jewishinsider.com/2024/05/northwestern-antisemitism-committee-jewish-members-michael-schill/>.

⁵ President's Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate, Office of the President, Northwestern University, <https://www.northwestern.edu/president/about-the-office/special-projects/committee-preventing-antisemitism-hate/>.

⁶ Deutch, *supra* note 4.

⁷ ADL Press Release, *supra* note 1.

⁸ PSL Chicago (@pslchicago), INSTAGRAM (Apr. 25, 2024), https://www.instagram.com/reel/C6L84OJLFaK/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link.

officers from arresting those resisting them.

- Steven Thrasher, the Medill School's Daniel H. Renberg Chair of Social Justice in Reporting, was a leader and participant in physically resisting police. Thrasher tweeted that he was forming a "faculty defense line" to "try to stop arrests" and that "[n]o one will touch our students without going through us at [Northwestern University Educators for Justice in Palestine]." ⁹ After police dispersed without clearing the encampment, Thrasher tweeted, "People cheer as the LAST police car and all police officers have retreated!" and "Northwestern University Gaza Solidarity Encampment has survived its first attack." ¹⁰
- In addition to breaking the law by resisting and assaulting police officers, Thrasher and other faculty present violated the Northwestern Faculty Handbook's provisions on "Demonstration," which provides that "no community member may use or occupy campus facilities so as to impede [on-campus activities such as classes]" and that community members bear the "responsibility to maintain an atmosphere conducive to scholarly, creative, and educational pursuits and to respect the safety and rights of all individuals." ¹¹
- On April 25, 2024, a Jewish Northwestern student recording the encampment was assaulted by an encampment member. ¹²
- On April 25, 2024, a Jewish Northwestern student who works as a photojournalist for the University was peacefully taking photographs in a personal capacity at the encampment when he was approached by a masked student, who subsequently held up a megaphone and identified him by name and physical description to the hundreds of encampment members present. The masked student then announced that the Jewish student was recording encampment members' faces, worked for the University, and would be sending the video to President Schill. The crowd then turned toward the student and began chanting, "Shame! Shame! Shame!" and "The People, United, Will Never be Defeated." The Jewish student was followed to Northwestern Hillel by an adult encampment member. ¹³

⁹ Prof. Thrasher is with our students (@thrasherxy), TWITTER (Apr. 25, 2024, 9:35 AM), <https://twitter.com/thrasherxy/status/178349005559880715?s=46>; Prof. Thrasher is with our students (@thrasherxy), TWITTER (Apr. 25, 2024, 10:33 AM), <https://twitter.com/thrasherxy/status/1783504714350412006?s=46>.

¹⁰ Prof. Thrasher is with our students (@thrasherxy), TWITTER (Apr. 25, 2024, 1:27 PM), <https://twitter.com/thrasherxy/status/1783548447968084196?s=46>.

¹¹ Northwestern University Faculty Handbook, Office of the Provost, Northwestern University (Aug. 5, 2021), https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/docs/faculty_handbook_aug2021.pdf, at 19.

¹² Logan Schiciano (@loganschiciano), TWITTER (Apr. 25, 2024, 2:50 PM), <https://twitter.com/LoganSchiciano/status/1783569410248020251>.

¹³ Northwestern University Respect NU: Hate & Bias Report Form, Submitted on April 27, 2024 at 4:01:21 pm CDT

- A Jewish Northwestern student reported, “At the encampment, I was told to go back to Germany and get gassed.”¹⁴ She also recounted, “I overheard in my dorm people talking about the white Jewish power on campus, and what we have to do to address this Jewish power.”¹⁵
- A Jewish Northwestern student wearing a yarmulke (religious head covering) reported being spat at as he walked past the encampment.¹⁶
- A Jewish Northwestern student reported, “The first days of encampment were outrageous. There was a couple dozen tough young men in masks with explicitly Hamas symbolics [*sic*] who were provoking and intimidating Jewish students. They told us they are there ‘for everyone’s safety,’ and it seems that they were hired by someone.”
- Encampment members openly displayed virulently antisemitic signs. One sign displayed an image of a Star of David with a slash through it.¹⁷ Another displayed a cartoon of President Schill, who is Jewish, with devil horns and blood dripping from his mouth, both prominent antisemitic tropes.¹⁸
- On April 27, 2024, messages reading “Death 2 Israel” and “Free Palestine” were spray painted on the Jacobs Center, an academic building just north of the encampment.¹⁹
- On April 29, 2024, a Jewish student was harassed while standing in front of the encampment explaining his concerns to Northwestern Dean of Students Mona Dugo. The Jewish student recounted that “a student who was sitting near us got up and began verbally harassing me, saying things like ‘You make me fucking sick to my stomach. Do you think I care that you’re a little uncomfortable with the protest? That’s the fucking goal of this—you’re supposed to be uncomfortable. There are tens of thousands of people dying in Gaza, and all you care about is a little blow-horn in the morning?’”²⁰ When the Jewish student and Dean Dugo turned around to relocate, their harasser yelled, “GO FUCK YOURSELF.”²¹

¹⁴ Alana Goodman, *Northwestern Jewish Students Recount ‘Scary and Shocking’ Campus Anti-Semitism in Meetings with Lawmakers*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (May 2, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/northwestern-jewish-students-recount-scary-and-shocking-campus-anti-semitism-in-meetings-with-lawmakers/>.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Email from The Coalition Against Antisemitism at Northwestern to National Jewish Organization and Jewish student (victim) on May 2, 2024 at 7:17:20 PM ET

¹⁷ Jewish on Campus (@JewishonCampus_), TWITTER (Apr. 27, 2024, 6:31 PM), https://x.com/jewishoncampus_/status/1784349742492733528?s=46.

¹⁸ Miriam Likes Pie (@XBrnfam4), TWITTER (Apr. 26, 2024, 11:07 AM), <https://x.com/xbrnfam4/status/1783875561036886021?s=46>.

¹⁹ May 4, 2024 12:23pm ET email from Jewish Northwestern student to Committee staff.

²⁰ Pavan Acharya & Samantha Powers, *While some Jewish students support pro-Palestine encampment, others express discomfort and safety concerns with ongoing demonstration*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (Apr. 29, 2024), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2024/04/29/campus/while-some-jewish-students-support-pro-palestine-encampment-others-express-discomfort-and-safety-concerns-with-ongoing-demonstration/>.

²¹ *Id.*

- A masked encampment member wearing a sweatshirt with a drawing of Hamas spokesman Abu Obaida questioned a Jewish Northwestern student who asked about the image, “do you speak Hebrew?” indicating that he wanted to know whether the student was Jewish.²²
- Numerous Northwestern professors and teaching assistants moved their classes to the encampment or cancelled class to encourage their students to join the encampment. These included: African American Studies professor Marquis Bey,²³ Art History professor Hannah Feldman,²⁴ English professor Rachel Jamison Webster,²⁵ Legal Studies professor Jesse Yeh,²⁶ Classics professor Nick Winters,²⁷ and multiple teaching assistants,²⁸ among others.
- In numerous instances NUPD leaders and officers refused to respond to antisemitic incidents or even accept police reports from victims and witnesses:
 - On April 24, 2024, an encampment member stole American and Israeli flags from a Jewish man standing on City of Evanston property and took them into the encampment. NUPD’s Deputy Chief of Police refused to retrieve the stolen flags despite their location being identified to him or even to allow the victim to file a police report. The victim eventually filed a police report with Evanston Police and the flag was returned that evening by Northwestern Chief of Police Bruce Lewis.²⁹
 - On the evening of April 25, a witness to faculty and student encampment members’ physical altercation with police earlier that day attempted to file a police report with NUPD. The witness informed the Committee that the dispatcher refused to accept one, citing that she was under orders from “above”

²² Richard Goldberg (@rich_goldberg), TWITTER (Apr. 25, 2024, 2:40 PM), https://twitter.com/rich_goldberg/status/1783566767098384884?s=46.

²³ Email from Marquis Bey, Professor of African American Studies, Northwestern University, to Northwestern students (Apr. 28, 2024, 6:07 PM).

²⁴ Email from Hannah Feldman, Associate Professor of Art History, Northwestern University, to Christina Kiaer, Chair, Department of Art History, Northwestern University (Apr. 26, 2024, 9:42 AM).

²⁵ Email from Rachel Webster, Professor of Creative Writing, Northwestern University, to Northwestern students (Apr. 29, 2024, 11:57 AM).

²⁶ Alana Goodman, *Northwestern Professors Encourage Students To Skip Class To Join Anti-Israel Encampment*, The Washington Free Beacon (Apr. 26, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/northwestern-professors-encourage-students-to-skip-class-to-join-anti-israel-encampment/>.

²⁷ Canvas message from Nick Winters, Assistant Professor of Classics, Northwestern University, to Northwestern students (May 1, 2024) (on file with Committee).

²⁸ Alana Goodman, *Northwestern Professors Encourage Students To Skip Class To Join Anti-Israel Encampment*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (Apr. 26, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/northwestern-professors-encourage-students-to-skip-class-to-join-anti-israel-encampment/>.

²⁹ Video (Apr. 24, 2024) (on file with Committee); iMessage between victim and eyewitness (Apr. 25, 2024, 1:11 PM).

not to take police reports.³⁰

- Video from April 28, 2024, shows NUPD Chief Bruce Lewis ignoring a Jewish student who questioned him on NUPD's failure to enforce University rules. The student asked an NUPD officer if he was going to do anything about the rule violations and the officer was recorded saying it was "above my pay grade" and that "we follow the chain of command."³¹
- On April 26, 2024, NUPD informed the *Daily Northwestern* that University engineers were instructed to turn off Deering Meadow's sprinkler system, in an apparent effort not to disturb the encampment.³²
- Despite the University's agreement with encampment organizers purportedly prohibiting individuals unaffiliated with Northwestern from the encampment, "professional agitators" have been seen on campus. In one such instance, on May 1, 2024, a gray-haired local woman displayed a poster with the message "Resistance is justified when people are occupied. #AlAqsaFlood."³³ Al-Aqsa Flood was Hamas' codename for the October 7 attack.

While the recent advent of the "Northwestern Liberated Zone" has been a flashpoint for antisemitic incidents, pervasive antisemitism has long been an issue at the University. A 2016 study by Brandeis University researchers found Northwestern was a "hotspot" for antisemitism, "where the majority of Jewish students perceive a hostile environment toward Israel, and over one quarter perceive a general environment of hostility toward Jews on their campus."³⁴ On February 25, 2024, two Jewish students at Northwestern sent the Committee a thirty-three page complaint documenting numerous antisemitic incidents at the University, many of which took place following the October 7, 2023, attack.³⁵

The pattern of deeply troubling incidents and developments at Northwestern prior to the establishment of the encampment includes the following:

- In November 2022, a Jewish Northwestern student who wrote an opinion-editorial op-ed on antisemitism at the University was harassed, including being targeted with a large antisemitic sign in the middle of campus. Lily Cohen wrote a November 8, 2022, *Daily Northwestern* op-ed on antisemitism, in which she discussed the pervasive use of the

³⁰ Email from witness to Northwestern University Police Department Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, and Interim Commander of Investigative Services (May 6, 2024, 12:21 PM).

³¹ Video (Apr. 28, 2024) (on file with Committee).

³² The *Daily Northwestern* (@thedailynu), TWITTER (Apr. 26, 2024, 3:05 AM), <https://twitter.com/thedailynu/status/1783754247319781656?s=46>.

³³ Email from Jewish Northwestern student to Committee staff (May 6, 7:38 PM).

³⁴ HOTSPOTS OF ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-ISRAEL SENTIMENT ON US CAMPUSES, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY (Oct. 2016), <https://scholarworks.brandeis.edu/esploro/outputs/9924088244301921/filesAndLinks?index=0>, at 1.

³⁵ Letter from Jewish Northwestern students to Committee (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NU-Complaint-HouseCommittee2024.pdf>.

slogan, “From the River to the Sea,” which calls for Israel’s elimination.³⁶ On November 14, 2022, a large poster assembled of printed copies of Cohen’s op-ed was hung on a fence outside the school’s Deering Library with words “From the River to the Sea, Palestine Will Be Free” written in blood red.³⁷ Northwestern SJP appeared to take credit for the incident in a social media post.³⁸ Cohen also was “called a terrorist and a colonizer” in response to the op-ed.³⁹

- In a November 18, 2022, statement, President Schill failed to condemn the incident as a clear case of antisemitic harassment, instead meekly lamenting that the poster, “did not advance anything other than making people angry, polarizing our community and making students feel targeted for being Jewish.”⁴⁰ Schill also wrote, “I am not making a judgment about whether the statement ‘From the River to the Sea’ is antisemitic,” asserting that some “view it as a call to respect the human rights and freedoms of Palestinians.”⁴¹ The ADL identifies the phrase as “an antisemitic slogan” which “would mean the dismantling of the Jewish state” and “removal of Jews from their ancestral homeland.”⁴² Amidst scrutiny of his response to antisemitism following the October 7 attack, President Schill eventually called on the Northwestern community to reject the slogan in a November 13, 2023, statement.⁴³
- The day after the October 7 attack, Northwestern’s SJP issued a “Statement on Palestinian Resistance in Gaza,” which endorsed Palestinian terrorism and blamed Israel. SJP stated, “the occupied and oppressed have the **undeniable right to resist and seek their freedom** without stigmatization as instigators and terrorists” (emphasis in original) and that Israel is not “the aggrieved party” and “cannot, by any logical construct, claim victimhood.”⁴⁴ Northwestern’s Middle Eastern and North African Student Association

³⁶ Lily Cohen, *I am more proud of my Jewish identity than anyone can ever hate me for it*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (Nov. 9, 2022), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/11/09/opinion/cohen-i-am-more-proud-of-my-jewish-identity-than-anyone-can-ever-hate-me-for-it/>.

³⁷ Dion Pierre, *Northwestern University Students for Justice in Palestine Target Jewish Student Writer*, THE ALGEMEINER (Nov. 16, 2022), <https://www.algemeiner.com/2022/11/16/northwestern-university-students-for-justice-in-palestine-target-jewish-op-ed-writer/>.

³⁸ SJP Northwestern (@SJPNU), TWITTER (Nov. 14, 2022, 8:56 PM), <https://twitter.com/SJPNU/status/1592335710392320000>.

³⁹ Deena Yellin, *‘Fighting with love:’ Jewish students stand up, push back against campus antisemitism* NORTHJERSEY.COM (June 8, 2023), <https://www.northjersey.com/story/news/2023/06/08/fighting-college-antisemitism-programs-in-nj-nationwide-fight-back/9320461002/>.

⁴⁰ Letter from President Michael Schill to Northwestern community (Nov. 18, 2022), <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2022/recent-incidents-involving-the-palestinian-israeli-conflict-on-campus.html>.

⁴¹ *Id.*

⁴² Backgrounder, Slogan: “From the River to the Sea Palestine Will be Free”, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE (May 18, 2022), <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounder/slogan-river-sea-palestine-will-be-free>.

⁴³ Letter from President Michael Schill to Northwestern community (Nov. 13, 2023), <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2023/announcing-new-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html>.

⁴⁴ Northwestern SJP (@nu.sjp), INSTAGRAM (Oct. 8, 2023), <https://www.instagram.com/p/CyKRdh7r-R4/?igsh=MWE4YnZvYzYlajB0MQ==>.

similarly issued an October 8 statement saying, “We resoundingly support Palestinian resistance to over 75 years of Israeli state-sanctioned violence.”

- On October 25, 2023, just weeks after the October 7 attack, two Northwestern students blanketed campus in fake copies of the *Daily Northwestern* student newspaper with grotesquely antisemitic content. The fake paper bore the headline, “Northwestern complicit in genocide of Palestinians,” compared Israeli hostages kidnapped by Hamas to reusable food containers used on campus called Ozzis, and featured a fake ad for free Birthright Israel trips for Jewish young adults with the slogan, “One man’s home is another man’s former home!”⁴⁵
 - The two students responsible initially were criminally charged by the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, but the charges were dropped after consultation with the University and the newspaper.⁴⁶ It is unclear what penalty, if any, they have faced from the University.
- On November 4, 2023, Northwestern students posed with a Hamas flag at an anti-Israel rally by Northwestern’s SJP and Jewish Voice for Peace chapters.⁴⁷
- On January 23, 2024, President Schill announced the membership of his President’s Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate. Three of its members, Jessica Winegar, Reema Habiby, and Robert Launay, signed a public letter diminishing concerns of antisemitism and objecting to the Advisory Committee’s creation.⁴⁸ Winegar, who holds the Qatar-endowed Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Chair, played a key role in the American Anthropological Association’s adoption of BDS.⁴⁹
- On January 28, 2024, President Schill stood by as the guest speaker at an official University candlelight vigil honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used his platform to deliver an anti-American tirade and accuse Israel of committing “genocide” against Palestinians. The Rev. Dr. Reginald W. Williams, Jr. inaccurately claimed that the “World Court has sided with South Africa to show that there’s a probability of genocide and [*sic*] Israel against the Palestinians,” the U.S.’s “Jim Crow regime set the blueprint for

⁴⁵ Jacob Wendler, *Imitated front pages of The Daily Northwestern circulated across NU’s campus*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (Oct. 26, 2023), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/10/26/campus/imitated-front-pages-of-the-daily-northwestern-circulated-across-nus-campus/>.

⁴⁶ Alex Harrison, *Prosecutors to dismiss charges against NU students over fake newspaper front page*, EVANSTON ROUNDTABLE (Feb. 7, 2024), <https://evanstonroundtable.com/2024/02/07/northwestern-fake-front-page-charges-dropped/>.

⁴⁷ Joseph Gelman (@ifofgot), TWITTER (Nov. 5, 2023), <https://x.com/ifofgot/status/1721220980498976944?s=46>.

⁴⁸ Letter from President Michael Schill to Northwestern community (Jan. 23, 2024), <https://www.northwestern.edu/leadership-notes/2024/update-on-presidents-advisory-committee-on-preventing-antisemitism-and-hate.html>.

⁴⁹ Andrew Lapin, *Northwestern U is facing a new federal antisemitism investigation – and criticism of its new antisemitism task force*, JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY (Jan. 24, 2024), <https://www.jta.org/2024/01/24/united-states/northwestern-u-is-facing-a-new-federal-antisemitism-investigation-and-criticism-of-its-new-antisemitism-task-force>.

apartheid in South Africa, and legalized Nuremberg laws in Nazi Germany" and "has stood on the wrong side of every liberation struggle on Earth."⁵⁰ Multiple students walked out of the event in disgust.⁵¹

- On April 15, 2024, Northwestern Dean of Students Mona Dugo attended an explicitly antisemitic student rally targeting Northwestern Hillel during Admitted Students Day to support the protestors' "right to protest."⁵² In a speech at the rally, a student organizer called Hillel the "Zionist home of Jewish life on campus" and said Hillel "is one of the many ways in which this university is complicit in infusing Jewishness with Zionism."⁵³ The protestors shouted at admitted students and passed out flyers accusing the University of "funneling Jewish students into Hillel, the Zionist 'foundation for Jewish life.'"⁵⁴
- On November 29, 2021, a Northwestern faculty member reported to Northwestern's then-Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion Robin R. Means Coleman that Northwestern's Advisory Committee on Investment Responsibility (ACIR) had directed "verbal abuse" to a Jewish student who applied to be a student representative, and that other Jewish students had "stories of discrimination and fear."⁵⁵ Dr. Coleman failed to respond to the complaint.⁵⁶ Reports of antisemitic discrimination at ACIR are notable particularly in light of Northwestern's decision to reestablish the Committee in response to encampment organizers' demands aimed at advancing BDS.
- On May 14, 2021, as Israel defended itself from over 4,300 rockets fired by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Northwestern's Middle East and North African Studies Program issued an official statement supporting terrorism and delegitimizing Israel. The statement said, "We express our solidarity with the Palestinian people who are fighting against dispossession of their homes and are enduring bombings and raids," called Israel an "apartheid" state, called "upon American decision-makers to break from decades of one-sided policy-making," and stated "colonialism is a form of racism to be combated elsewhere just as in the United States."⁵⁷

⁵⁰ Alana Goodman, *Speaker Accuses Israel of 'Genocide' at Northwestern MLK Jr. Memorial as University President Stands by Silently*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (Feb. 5, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/speaker-accuses-israel-of-genocide-at-northwestern-mlk-jr-memorial/>.

⁵¹ *Id.*

⁵² Beatrice Villaflor & Jerry Wu, *Activist groups seek to show admitted students 'real' NU with protests across campus for divestment, support for Palestinians*, THE DAILY NORTHWESTERN (Apr. 15, 2024), <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2024/04/15/campus/activist-groups-seek-to-show-admitted-students-real-nu-with-protests-across-campus-for-divestment-support-for-palestinians/>.

⁵³ *Id.*

⁵⁴ Kassy Akiva (@KassyDillon), TWITTER (Apr. 15, 2024, 6:12 PM), <https://twitter.com/KassyDillon/status/1779996333367058663>.

⁵⁵ Letter, *supra* note 35 at 10.

⁵⁶ *Id.*

⁵⁷ MENA Program Statement on Palestinian Rights, Middle East and North African Studies, Northwestern University (May, 14, 2021), <https://mena.northwestern.edu/about/mena-program-statement-on-palestinian-rights.html>.

Northwestern's Qatar campus (NU-Q) has also been accused of being a platform to promote antisemitism. In May 2021, as Israel was under sustained terrorist attack by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, 75 percent of the NU-Q faculty signed a letter expressing "full support for the Palestinian people who are fighting against continued forced displacement" and calling Israel an "apartheid" state.⁵⁸ One of the signatories, Justin Martin, also tweeted on the anniversary of September 11 in 2019, "The US is complicit in far more terror than it has ever suffered."⁵⁹ A February 2022 report by Canary Mission identified numerous other instances of NU-Q faculty promoting terrorism.⁶⁰

In 2013, NU-Q signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming a partnership with the Qatari media outlet Al Jazeera to "further facilitate collaboration and knowledge transfer." As part of the MOU, NU-Q agreed to advise Al Jazeera on its expansion into the U.S. media market, saying it would "conduct consultations with Al Jazeera leadership based on its faculty research interests and expertise in the American media industry, as the news network moves forward with its planning for Al Jazeera America."⁶¹ Al Jazeera, which became prominent after the September 11 attack for broadcasting messages from Osama bin Laden and Taliban propaganda, also has been criticized for coverage supportive of Hamas.⁶² In October 2023, Secretary of State Antony Blinken reportedly asked the Government of Qatar to address Al Jazeera's coverage, "because it is full of anti-Israel incitement."⁶³ On May 5, 2024, the Government of Israel closed Al Jazeera's Israeli offices, calling the outlet a "Hamas mouthpiece" and stating that "Al Jazeera reporters harmed Israel's security and incited against soldiers."⁶⁴

Many Jewish Northwestern students have expressed that they feel abandoned by University leadership. At a November 7, 2023, town hall on antisemitism with 35 Jewish Northwestern students, comments from the students recorded by a stenographer included:

- "Since he arrived on campus, President Schill has normalized antisemitism."
- "The President [Schill] has been 'digging his heels in' on the topic of antisemitism. He feels that if he 'admits defeat' and acknowledges that there is a

⁵⁸ Overview of Justin Martin, CANARY MISSION, https://canarymission.org/professor/Justin_Martin#lg=1&slide=12; Matthew Foldi & Alex Nester, *Professors in Country Known For Using Slave Labor Criticize Israeli 'Persecution'*, THE WASH. FREE BEACON (May 17, 2021), <https://freebeacon.com/campus/professors-in-country-known-for-using-slave-labor-criticize-israeli-persecution/>

⁵⁹ Overview of Justin Martin, CANARY MISSION, https://canarymission.org/professor/Justin_Martin#lg=1&slide=2.

⁶⁰ NORTHWESTERN QATAR UNIVERSITY: QATAR'S MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR PLAN TO INFLUENCE AMERICAN MEDIA, CANARY MISSION (Feb. 2022), https://canarymission.org/campaign/Northwestern_Qatar_University.

⁶¹ Press Release, Northwestern University in Qatar, NU-Q and Al Jazeera Network sign MoU to facilitate knowledge transfer, increase student engagement, and strengthen collaboration (Mar. 19, 2013), <https://www.qatar.northwestern.edu/news/articles/2013/03-nu-q-al-jazeera-mou.html>.

⁶² Al Jazeera Timeline, Pew Research Center (Aug. 22, 2006), <https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2006/08/22/al-jazeera-timeline/>.

⁶³ Barak Ravid, *Blinken says he asked Qatari PM to rein in Al Jazeera war coverage, per sources*, Axios (Oct. 25, 2023), <https://www.axios.com/2023/10/25/tony-blinken-qatar-israel-hamas>.

⁶⁴ Tia Goldenberg & Jon Gambrell, *Israel orders Al Jazeera to close its local operation and seizes some of its equipment*, AP News (May 5, 2024), <https://apnews.com/article/israel-aljazeera-hamas-gaza-war-e8a9416aea82f505ab908ee60d1de5e4>.

- problem with antisemitism here, then he ‘lost.’”
- “We have had meetings with the administration (President Schill & Deans) - they know about all these issues. They don’t care.”
- “I don’t know of any issues with Islamophobia or anti-Islam hate on our campus, but that’s what the administration seems to be concerned about. Antisemitism is the problem here.”
- “I can’t practice Jewish life freely.”
- “I don’t feel safe being a Zionist.”
- “I have filed several formal complaints about hate language at Northwestern. No administrative changes were made.”⁶⁵

The record makes clear that President Schill and other Northwestern leaders have not only failed to address the pervasive antisemitic harassment and disruptions of a safe learning environment that have plagued the University in a serious manner, but have also surrendered to the malefactors responsible for this hatred and chaos. This is an unacceptable dereliction of duty.

To assist the Committee in understanding antisemitism at Northwestern and the school’s response, please produce the following items no later than 12:00 PM ET on May 17, 2024:

1. All documents and communications⁶⁶ since April 24, 2024, referring and relating to the Northwestern Liberated Zone and/or the Agreement on Deering Meadow, including:
 - a. All documents and communications involving the following individuals: Michael Schill, Peter Barris, Virginia Rometty, Deborah L. DeHaas, Timothy P. Sullivan, Kathleen Hagerty, Susan Davis, Julie Allen, Mona Dugo, John Yates, Eliza Larson, Emily Babb, Bruce Lewis, Eric Chin, Latori Bartelle, and Steven Thrasher;
 - b. All communications between Northwestern officials and/or their representatives and individuals associated with the Northwestern Liberated Zone and/or their representatives.
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to alleged antisemitic incidents at Northwestern since October 7, 2023, including:
 - a. A list of all student disciplinary/conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents at Northwestern since October 7, 2023, showing the date, incident, case status, entity responsible for reviewing the case, status of the alleged perpetrator

⁶⁵ Letter from Jewish Northwestern students to Committee (Feb. 25, 2024), <https://freebeacon.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/NU-Complaint-HouseCommittee2024.pdf>, at 8.

⁶⁶ This includes e-mails, text and/or any other form of electronic messages, as well as any documents provided or exchanged through any medium. Custodians must produce all responsive documents, including those both on and off University systems.

- (normal status, suspended, expelled, etc.), and case outcome;
 - b. A list of all faculty and staff disciplinary/conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents at Northwestern since October 7, 2023, showing the date, incident, case status, entity responsible for reviewing the case, status of the alleged perpetrator (normal status, suspended, terminated, etc.), and case outcome;
 - c. All documents referring and relating to student disciplinary/conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents since October 7, 2023; and
 - d. All documents referring and relating to student, faculty, and staff disciplinary/conduct cases relating to alleged antisemitic incidents since October 7, 2023.
- 3. All Board of Trustees meeting minutes, notes, summaries, and recordings since April 24, 2024, whether formal or informal;
 - 4. All Board of Trustees meeting minutes, notes, summaries, and recordings since October 7, 2023, referring or relating to antisemitism, whether formal or informal;
 - 5. All documents referring and relating to the President's Advisory Committee on Preventing Antisemitism and Hate, including:
 - a. A list of all Committee meetings, including dates and attendees;
 - b. All meeting minutes, notes, summaries, and recordings, whether formal or informal; and
 - c. All documents and communications referring or relating to the selection of Committee members.
 - 6. All documents and communications referring or relating to NU-Q and/or Qatari donations/funding, including:
 - a. Documents sufficient to show the total annual amount of donations/funding Northwestern has received from Qatari sources since 2018;
 - b. All MOUs and/or documents governing the relationship between Northwestern/NU-Q and the Government of Qatar, Qatar Foundation, and/or Al-Jazeera;
 - c. All communications between Northwestern officials and the Government of Qatar since January 1, 2022;

- d. All communications between Northwestern officials and the Qatar Foundation since January 1, 2022; and
 - e. All communications between NU-Q officials and Al-Jazeera since January 1, 2022.
7. All video/audio recordings since April 24, 2024, including security/surveillance recordings and police body camera recordings, of the Northwestern Liberated Zone and related activities.

Congress' oversight powers are derived from the U.S. Constitution and have been repeatedly affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.⁶⁷ Under House Rule X, the Committee has legislative and oversight jurisdiction over "education or labor generally."⁶⁸

Please see the attached instructions for relevant definitions and other directions for the production of documents. This request encompasses responsive materials in the possession of not only Northwestern faculty, staff, students, and other affiliates, but also individual members of the Northwestern Board of Trustees. The request also extends to any informal communications such as text or other electronic messages. I expect that this request will be conveyed promptly to all parties who would be reasonably expected to have responsive materials.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Ari Wisch of the Committee staff at 202-225-4527 or ari.wisch@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman
Committee on Education and the Workforce

⁶⁷ See generally U.S. CONST. art. I, § 8, cl. 8; *McGrain v. Daugherty*, 273 U.S. 135, 174 (1927) (holding that "the power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function"); *Eastland v. U.S. Servicemen's Fund*, 421 U.S. 491, 504 (1975) (holding that "the power to investigate is inherent in the power to make laws"); *Barenblatt v. United States*, 360 U.S. 109, 111 (1959) (holding that "the scope of power of inquiry ... is as penetrating and far-reaching as the potential power to enact and appropriate under the Constitution.").

⁶⁸ *Rules of the House of Representatives: One Hundred Eighteenth Congress*, U.S. HOUSE OF REP. 7 (Jan. 10, 2023), <https://rules.house.gov/sites/republicans.rules118.house.gov/files/documents/Rules%20and%20Resources/118-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf>.