



Hillel Ottawa, Israel on Campus, StandWithUs Canada and Chabad Student Network Condemn a Discriminatory Divestment Resolution Adopted at the University of Ottawa.

(Ottawa, Ontario, November 16, 2021) – Yesterday, the University of Ottawa Student Union (SÉUO-UOSO) passed an omnibus resolution including a vilification of Israel and another call for divestment in Israel, after three such votes in 2018. Campus Jewish organizations Hillel Ottawa, Israel on Campus, StandWithUs Canada and Chabad Student Network unequivocally condemn the Student Union for their obsessive targeting of the world's only Jewish state.

Supporting Palestinians shouldn't mean tearing down Israelis. The SÉUO-UOSU vote to divest from Israel and condemn any ideology connected to the state of Israel is discriminatory against Jewish students, for whom connection to Israel is part of their identity and a core essential aspect of the Jewish religion. This is essentially a condemnation of 'being Jewish on campus.' Jewish people are the most targeted minority for hate crimes in Canada.

When a Jewish student attempted to clarify the resolution and asked why the Jewish community was excluded from the discussion, she was ignored. The student president of SÉUO-UOSU, immediately seconded a motion to vote on an omnibus resolution that included multiple moral issues such as Women's Issues, Multiculturalism, Pro-Choice, and Religious and Cultural freedom. This caused a moral dilemma for students who support these issues while simultaneously silencing Jewish voices in the assembly.

It is also worth noting that the motion itself claimed to condemn antisemitism, yet the members of SÉUO-UOSU proceeded to vote in support of divestment against Israel which is a part of the antisemitic Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

"On November 15th, Jewish students in Ottawa faced multiple antisemitic events. In the morning a large swastika was painted across City Hall, only to

be followed by the SÉUO-UOSU voting to divest from Israel - It can only be described as a slap in the face when justifiable criticism on the dismissal of antisemitism is dismissed itself, the very day hate is shown in our city. The student union's dedication to antiracism policy is not extended to Jewish students on our campus," said Miriam Heitin, Hillel Ottawa student leader and StandWithUs Canada Emerson Fellow at the University of Ottawa.

Hillel Ottawa, Israel on Campus, Chabad Student Network, and StandWithUs Canada are so proud of Jewish and pro-Israel students at the University of Ottawa who are working tirelessly to correct misinformation about the world's only Jewish state, combat antisemitism and stand up for their right to live all aspects of their identity, a right accorded to all others. We will continue to work together to support Jewish and pro-Israel students at the University of Ottawa as they educate their peers about Israel and fight antisemitism.