INVOLVING JEWISH MEN IN JEWISH LIFE

Leadership Innovation Community

FEDERATION OF JEWISH MEN'S CLUBS, INC.

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9/19/23

Liz Magill
President
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear President Magill,

We are shocked and dismayed by the University of Pennsylvania's decisions to bring speakers who have publicly, and unapologetically, wished the Jewish community harm. It is shameful that a well-respected University would support such a program that will directly endanger Jewish students, Jewish faculty, and any pro-Israel communities at Penn.

By this point you know the names of some of these speakers: Roger Waters, Marc Lamont Hill, Wisam Rafeedie, Salman Abusita, Nadia Tannous, and others. These are people who have praised terrorists, perpetuated antisemitic conspiracy theories, maligned historical facts including the Holocaust, and whose words create unsafe environments for Jewish and Israeli students and faculty and our allies.

To add insult to extreme injury, this festival is being held during the holiest days of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, ensuring that Jewish students are silenced. There has always been a difference between free speech and hate speech. But why does UPENN celebrate the later?

With these inflammatory speakers still scheduled to participate, we urge you to condemn this festival; a hate-fest like this has no place on the campus of The University of Pennsylvania. This is not about academic freedom or the exchange of ideas. This is unabashed antisemitism.

For many, the University of Pennsylvania always feels like a safe place to be Jewish. Do what is right and good for all: Remove the antisemitic and hate-filled speakers from your lineup. Celebrate Palestinian literature by being welcoming to all.

Sincerely,

Alan Budman
International President

Rabbi Noam Raucher
Executive Director