

THE THELOMATHESIAN SOCIETY

ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING, DEFINING, AND CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM

INTRODUCED BY:

SENATOR ACHIAD KALMAN

SENATOR NATHAN TURTLEDOVE

CO-SIGNED BY:

JEWISH STUDENTS UNION

STUDENTS SUPPORTING ISRAEL

SENATOR SPENCER WALKER

SENATOR MADISON ROBB

WHEREAS, the Thelomathesian Society at St. Lawrence University was created as a forum for students to voice their opinions on issues presented by the Administration, Faculty, and Student Body.¹

WHEREAS, ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY aims to create and sustain a living-learning community that embraces diversity in all its forms, challenges habits and assumptions underlying the structures of power, privilege, and injustice, and works to ensure that we are inclusive, welcoming, and empowering to all our members.²

WHEREAS, Jewish students constitute an important part of the broader SLU community, yet remain distinguishable from the majority by common ethnic, religious, and cultural characteristics.

NOTING THAT the SLU Jewish community is thus a distinct and significant cultural community within the university, which SLU is charter-bound to support, protect, and defend.³

¹ <https://www.stlawu.edu/thelomathesian-society/who-we-are>

² <https://www.stlawu.edu/diversity-and-inclusion>

³ <https://www.stlawu.edu/title-ix>

NOTING THAT the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) defines antisemitism as “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”⁴

FURTHER NOTING THAT the above IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism was recognized by the United States under Title VI ⁵, as well as by Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada, Israel, France, Austria, Scotland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Moldova, Albania, Greece, Cyprus, North Macedonia, Serbia, Argentina, Bahrain, the European Parliament, and countless other governmental institutions and universities across the world.

RECOGNIZING THAT in recent years, there has been a record spike in antisemitic attacks across the nation⁶, such as:

- Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting (2018)
- Charlottesville, NC Demonstration of White Supremacists, where they were chanting “Jews Will Not Replace Us” (2017)
- Kansas City Jewish Community Center (JCC) Shooting (2014)
- Poway (LA) Chabad Synagogue Shooting (2018)
- Jersey City Shooting at a Kosher Supermarket (2019)

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<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism>

⁵ <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-combating-anti-semitism/>

⁶ <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/anti-semitism/antisemitism-in-the-us>

RECOGNIZING THAT in the month of August 2020 alone, there was an extreme spike in attacks against Jewish collegiate institutions, such as:

- University of Southern California (USC) Student Government VP resigned after antisemitic bullying
- University of Delaware Chabad set on fire
- Brandeis University bomb threat
- University of Oregon Chabad set on fire *twice*,

NOTING THAT according to the FBI Jews and Jewish institutions were a target of nearly 60% of religious-based hate crimes in the United States⁷, despite Jews constituting less than 1.7% of the nation's population⁸.

NOTING THAT due to the aforementioned incidents, an aspiration for safety is not yet a reality for Jewish students along with other minorities and underrepresented groups.

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<https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-urges-action-after-fbi-reports-jews-were-target-of-most-religious-based-hate>

⁸ 2012 U.S. Census Bureau estimate

WHEREAS the 2020 Strategic Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at St. Lawrence University sets goals to “Expand the presence within the student body, faculty and staff of individuals from underrepresented social identity groups through intentional, innovative, and bold recruitment efforts,”⁹ and, “Foster the development of a campus culture and climate in which every member can thrive and flourish.”¹⁰

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thelomathesian Society at St. Lawrence University unreservedly condemns all acts of racism, discrimination, bigotry, and violence against the Jewish community, both on and off the St. Lawrence University campus. The Thelomathesian Society at St. Lawrence University stands by the Jewish community and condemns all acts of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination against all members of the SLU student body and community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Thelomathesian Society calls upon St. Lawrence University to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism listed above as SLU’s official definition of antisemitism.

BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to implement the above clauses, THELMO President Molly Thompson shall send a copy of this resolution to Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion Kimberly Flint-Hamilton, Associate Dean of Student Life Rance Davis, Vice President and Dean of Student Life Hagi Bradley, and SLU President William Fox.

⁹ <https://www.stlawu.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/2020-strategic-diversity-and-inclusion-action-plan>

¹⁰ <https://www.stlawu.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/2020-strategic-diversity-and-inclusion-action-plan>