



GW Law Student Bar Association

Opposing Anti-Semitism Resolution
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Joint Resolution No. 7
Fall 2021

Opposing Anti-Semitism Resolution

PURPOSE: *To unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism and censure the person(s) responsible for the desecration of a Torah scroll in the fraternity house of the George Washington University chapter of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.*

WHEREAS: The United States in recent years has borne witness to a marked increase in the visibility of anti-Semitism¹;

WHEREAS: The George Washington University chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon reported that over the 2021 Halloween weekend, someone broke into their fraternity house and vandalized a Torah scroll²;

WHEREAS: A Torah is a “long scroll containing the entire text of the Five Books of Moses, hand-written by a pious scribe in the original Hebrew” and is a “core representation of Judaism itself”³;

WHEREAS: The desecration of a Torah scroll is an attack on Jewish people everywhere and those who make such attacks do so in contravention of basic standards of morality and decency;

WHEREAS: As reported in the November 8, 2021 issue of The GW Hatchet, there have been several other troubling reports of anti-Semitism at George Washington University over the past several years including the theft

¹ <https://www.usccr.gov/files/2021/07-23-Anti-Semitism-Statement-2021.pdf>;

² <https://www.gwhatchet.com/2021/10/31/tau-kappa-epsilon-reports-torah-vandalized-at-on-campus-house/>;
<https://www.npr.org/2021/11/02/1051534447/torah-george-washington-university-fraternity-vandalized>.

³ https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/333007/jewish/What-Is-a-Torah-Scroll.htm,

and denigration of a mezuzah⁴ mere days after the destruction of Tau Kappa Epsilon's Torah;

WHEREAS: These are not the first accounts of anti-Semitism at George Washington University, but are only the latest in reports dating back many years⁵;

WHEREAS: Considering the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States, those who would harm Jewish people may feel that they can do so without being held to account; *and*

WHEREAS: The Student Bar Association, in its diverse membership, embodies a set of values including a respect for religious diversity and a commitment not to harm fellow students, that is wholly inconsistent with the acts described above; *now, therefore,*

WHEREAS: University President Thomas Leblanc condemned the anti-Semitic vandalism and stated that "[a]ny act of antisemitism is an attack on the entire GW community and cannot, and will not, be tolerated", Law School Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew condemned the anti-Semitic vandalism and committed to "look for actions, concrete steps we can take . . . [to] make this a safe community, an inclusive community, & one in which--unequivocally--anti-Semitism is not tolerated"⁶, SBA President Jordan Michel also stated that the Student Bar Administration "pledge[s] our support beyond words and will work with JLSA, TKE, and the administration to ensure that Jewish students feel a sense of belonging here at GW Law"⁷, and the Jewish Law Students Association stated that they "stand in complete solidarity with the students impacted, and wholeheartedly condemn this blatant act of anti-Semitism"⁸;

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<https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/11/04/mezuzah-reported-vandalized-at-george-washington-university-days-after-fraternity-torah-desecrated/>. A mezuzah is (a scroll inscribed with Torah text and attached in a case to the doorpost of a Jewish home as a sign of faith)

⁵ <https://www.gwhatchet.com/2019/11/06/officials-condemn-work-to-respond-to-abhorrent-snapchat-video/>;
<https://www.gwhatchet.com/2020/10/25/documents-show-marvins-leadership-tainted-by-racist-anti-semitic-policies/>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKygcOHsUog>

⁷ November 1, 2021 SBA Newsletter

⁸ October 31, 2021 email.

