

ANTISEMITISM

at the

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MAJORITY STAFF REPORT
119th CONGRESS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The American Psychological Association (APA) is the leading professional organization representing psychologists in the United States. As an accreditor, publisher, and standard-setter, the APA plays an influential role in shaping the psychology profession. Its members should be able to rely on the association to fulfill its core functions without perpetuating discrimination. Yet for Jewish psychologists who have raised concerns about antisemitism, the APA has too often failed to meet that responsibility.

In December 2025, under Chairman Tim Walberg's (R-MI) leadership, the Education and Workforce Committee (the Committee) opened an investigation into antisemitism at the APA.[1] The Committee found that over several years, radical activist-academics have successfully co-opted the APA to politicize the association and promote ideology that demonizes Israel, minimizes Hamas terrorism, and portrays Jews as white oppressors. Meanwhile, APA leaders have repeatedly failed to confront antisemitism within their own organization, alienating Jewish members and undermining confidence in an institution entrusted with setting professional standards.

This report details the Committee's findings, beginning with internal communications that reveal troubling leadership failures in the aftermath of Hamas' October 7, 2023, terrorist attacks. The report then examines how antisemitism has manifested across the association's resolutions, listservs, newsletters, publications, and conferences.



SECTION 1

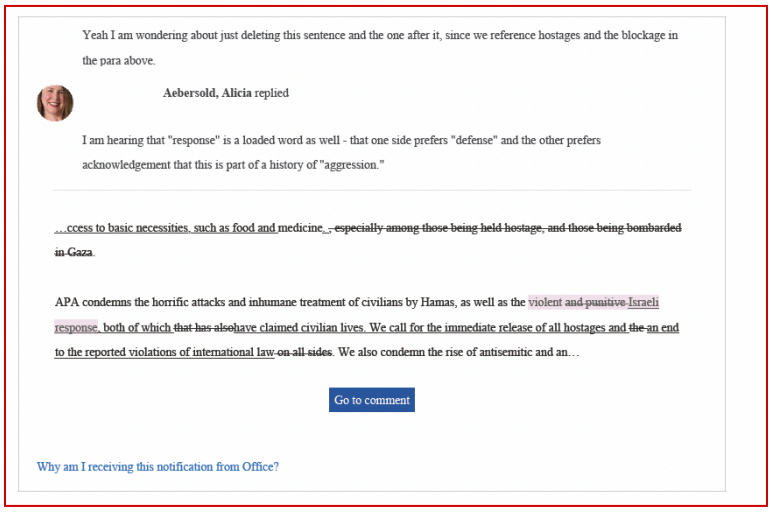
LEADERSHIP FAILURES

LEADERSHIP FAILURES

a) Appeasing Individuals and Groups that Incite Antisemitism

APA leaders have repeatedly appeased people and groups who have incited antisemitism throughout the association. For example, in crafting its statement about the October 7th attacks, the APA consulted a deeply antizionist affiliate group that foments antisemitism known as the American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association (AMENA-Psy). AMENA-Psy leaders advised that the APA's statement should not reference terrorism: "Terrorist attacks needs to change, there's a lot of problematic and racist language in this that will upset MENA membership," the group's incoming president said.[2] AMENA-Psy's then-president likewise advised that the statement should acknowledge "violence on both sides" and feature "the cost to Palestinians so it can balance out the Israeli focus." **"Terrorism language is very one sided and overused with Arabs,"** she added.[3] The final released statement did not reference terrorism.[4]

Notably, a different internal brainstorming draft of the APA's statement appeared to equate Hamas terrorist attacks to Israeli self-defense. That draft said that **the APA "condemns the horrific attacks and inhumane treatment of civilians by Hamas, as well as the violent Israeli response, both of which have claimed civilian lives."**[5] That draft also stated, "We recognize that the political situation is complicated, but there can be no justification for acts of terror on both sides."[6]



Yeah I am wondering about just deleting this sentence and the one after it, since we reference hostages and the blockage in the para above.

Aebersold, Alicia replied

I am hearing that "response" is a loaded word as well - that one side prefers "defense" and the other prefers acknowledgement that this is part of a history of "aggression."

…ccess to basic necessities, such as food and medicine. ~~, especially among those being held hostage, and those being bombarded in Gaza~~.

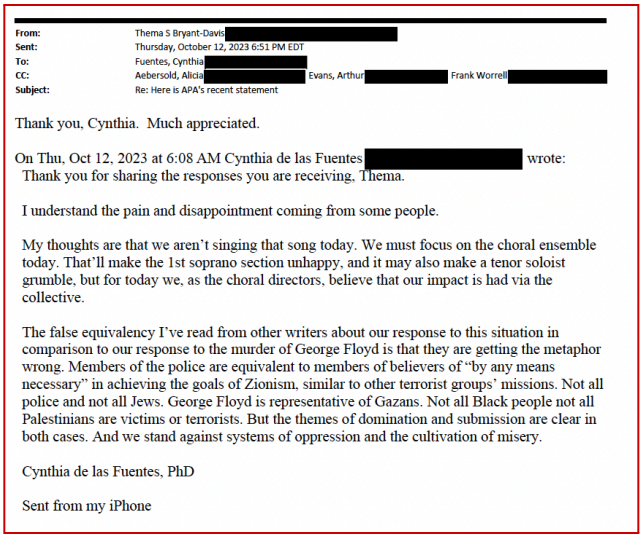
APA condemns the horrific attacks and inhumane treatment of civilians by Hamas, as well as the violent ~~and punitive~~ Israeli response, both of which ~~that has also~~have claimed civilian lives. We call for the immediate release of all hostages and ~~the~~ an end to the reported violations of international law ~~on all sides~~. We also condemn the rise of antisemitic and an…

Go to comment

Why am I receiving this notification from Office?

The APA has also involved AMENA-Psy in the association's consideration of antisemitism—describing the group internally as an "antisemitism stakeholder"—even though AMENA-Psy does not represent Jews.[7] Instead, AMENA-Psy foments antisemitism; for example, days after October 7th, the group released a statement describing Hamas' terrorist attack as a justified "resistance action" and declared that it stands "in full solidarity with our Palestinian siblings in their decolonial struggle for justice."[8]

Some in APA leadership have internally echoed this deeply biased perspective. Days after October 7th, the APA's 2024 President Cynthia de las Fuentes compared Hamas' terrorist attack against Israelis to the death of George Floyd by stating that the police in the Floyd context are equivalent to "believers of 'by any means necessary' in achieving the goals of Zionism, similar to other terrorist groups' missions." Meanwhile, she claimed that "George Floyd is representative of Gazans." She added that "themes of domination and submission are clear in both cases."[9]



From: Thema S Bryant-Davis [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:51 PM EDT
To: Fuentes, Cynthia [redacted]
CC: Aebersold, Alicia [redacted] Evans, Arthur [redacted] Frank Worrell [redacted]
Subject: Re: Here is APA's recent statement

Thank you, Cynthia. Much appreciated.

On Thu, Oct 12, 2023 at 6:08 AM Cynthia de las Fuentes [redacted] wrote:
Thank you for sharing the responses you are receiving, Thema.

I understand the pain and disappointment coming from some people.

My thoughts are that we aren't singing that song today. We must focus on the choral ensemble today. That'll make the 1st soprano section unhappy, and it may also make a tenor soloist grumble, but for today we, as the choral directors, believe that our impact is had via the collective.

The false equivalency I've read from other writers about our response to this situation in comparison to our response to the murder of George Floyd is that they are getting the metaphor wrong. Members of the police are equivalent to members of believers of "by any means necessary" in achieving the goals of Zionism, similar to other terrorist groups' missions. Not all police and not all Jews. George Floyd is representative of Gazans. Not all Black people not all Palestinians are victims or terrorists. But the themes of domination and submission are clear in both cases. And we stand against systems of oppression and the cultivation of misery.

Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD

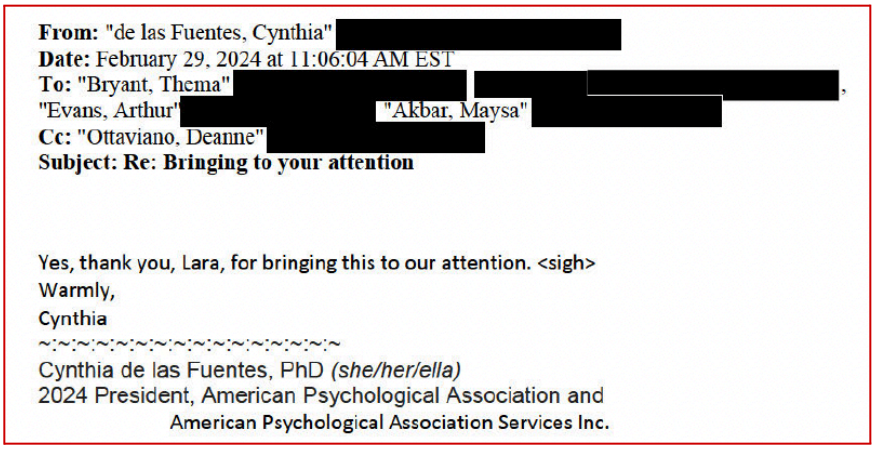
Sent from my iPhone

In addition to appeasing AMENA-Psy, APA leaders have internally praised and defended Lara Sheehi, an association member who was at the center of antisemitism allegations even prior to October 7th. In 2023, Sheehi's Jewish students at The George Washington University alleged that she discriminated against them based on their identity.[10] Elsewhere, Sheehi has called to "[d]estroy Zionism"[11] and has claimed that Zionists have "psychosis."[12] After the APA released its statement about October 7th, Sheehi emailed association leaders with praise and claimed that those who do not recognize Israel's "all out genocide" are experiencing "internalized racism."[13] None of the APA's leaders pushed back on her claims. Instead, 2023 APA President Thema Bryant praised Sheehi's "heart, truth, challenge, and compassion."[14] **2024 APA President de las Fuentes likewise expressed her "gratitude" to Sheehi and pledged, "[w]hen you are ready, I will be willing and hope to be as you model so I can receive your edification."**[15]

A month later, Sheehi sent the APA's general counsel a letter from Brown University students who argued for a "total dismantlement of the apartheid regime."[16] The general counsel responded, "[s]o impactful."[17] Around the same time, an APA employee asked the association to sign on to the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Workplace Pledge to Fight Antisemitism. The APA's human rights team senior director cautioned internally against doing so because the ADL had criticized Sheehi.[18] Several months later, in February 2024, Sheehi emailed APA leaders with alarm about potential protests against antisemitism by Jewish psychologists at the association's annual convention. "This is a PR nightmare for APA," Sheehi wrote.[19] In her email, she also expressed grave concern about a Jewish psychologist's claim that Jews are

indigenous to Israel, telling APA leaders that the idea of "Jewish folks" as the "'real' indigenous people of Palestine is dangerous, ahistorical propaganda[.]"[20] In response, 2024 APA President Cynthia de las Fuentes thanked Sheehi and, in a show of bias, added, "<sigh>."[21]

Despite her track record of inciting antisemitism, Sheehi served as president of the APA's psychoanalysis division for years. The APA has also continued facilitating continuing education credit for sessions led or moderated by her, including as recently as February 2026.[22]



From: "de las Fuentes, Cynthia" [redacted]
Date: February 29, 2024 at 11:06:04 AM EST
To: "Bryant, Thema" [redacted], "Evans, Arthur" [redacted] "Akbar, Maysa" [redacted]
Cc: "Ottaviano, Deanne" [redacted]
Subject: Re: Bringing to your attention

Yes, thank you, Lara, for bringing this to our attention. <sigh>
Warmly,
Cynthia
~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~:~
Cynthia de las Fuentes, PhD *(she/her/ella)*
2024 President, American Psychological Association and
American Psychological Association Services Inc.

b) Minimizing, Avoiding, and Dismissing Complaints of Antisemitism

APA leaders have repeatedly avoided unequivocally condemning the horrors of October 7th and antisemitism. For example, when then-APA President Cynthia de las Fuentes sought feedback on her plenary remarks in 2024, 2023 APA President Thema Bryant noted that the remarks "mention antisemitism multiple times and Islamophobia once." **She also criticized the remarks for naming "the Holocaust as one of the 'most' horrific acts with no mention of the thousands recently killed in Gaza."**[23] An APA member agreed and added that "we need to shift away from anything that might provoke folks to enter the 'which group's historical oppression is the worst?' olympics."[24] Similarly, in early 2025, when an outside group asked the APA to share its antisemitism resources, 2023 APA President Bryant only agreed to do so as long as other minority groups submitted a link to share as well.[25] "Any semblance of imbalance will cause tension with the [ethnic psychological associations]," the APA's then-chief diversity officer Maysa Akbar agreed. In still another example, Akbar advised against naming antisemitism "without the other work we will do with the [Middle East and North Africa] community" during an upcoming APA briefing.[26]

APA leaders have also internally expressed frustration toward, avoided, or dismissed antisemitism-related inquiries or complaints. For example, **in response to a June 2025 exchange with a Jewish psychologist who wrote to APA leaders with grave concern about antisemitism, Akbar internally replied, "Sigh!"**[27] Similarly, in response to a May 2025 letter from Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) about antisemitism at the association, the APA's 2021

president wrote to Akbar: "sigh....."[28] Separately, the association's chief advocacy officer described the letter as "very thin factually[.]"[29] In another show of disdain, after the medical advocacy group Do No Harm criticized antisemitism at the APA in the spring of 2025, the association's then-senior director of strategic communications and public affairs, Kim Mills, wrote, "I wonder if the Jews who are so angry at us know they are now feeding hatred from this horrible group."[30] That fall, Mills said that **when the ADL sent a survey to the APA inquiring about antisemitism, the APA declined to respond "because it was so biased and clearly aimed at finding fault with [the] APA."**[31] The year prior, the APA avoided a request to recommend trauma psychologists who could be available during a White House screening of Screams Before Silence, a documentary about the sexual violence committed by Hamas on and after October 7th. "I fear providing some names might insert us into the politics of the film and audience," one APA official said.[32] The APA's then-chief diversity officer likewise recommended holding off, while its then-chief communications officer recommended that the association "kick the request to the [D.C. Psychological Association]."

c) Endorsing Decolonial Psychology

APA leaders have inflamed antisemitism at the association by endorsing and promoting decolonial psychology. Decolonial academic frameworks view Israel as a settler colonial—and therefore illegitimate—state against which violent resistance in the name of decolonization is justified.[33] The same frameworks view Jews as white and therefore part of the oppressor class.[34] In the psychology space, decolonizing therapy links mental wellness with Palestinian "liberation" achieved through resistance and mental illness with Zionism.[35] This form of therapy has been described as one that pathologizes aspects of Jewish identity, "demand[s] activism as part of treatment," and is "explicitly political."[36]

Days before October 7th, then-APA President Thema Bryant published a column urging psychologists to "embrace decolonial psychology."[37] Bryant has described the APA's embrace of decolonial and liberation psychologies as one of her presidential initiatives, including a special issue on the subject by the APA's flagship journal *American Psychologist*. This special issue, described further below, received significant backlash for fomenting antisemitism.

The APA has also endorsed decolonial psychology by facilitating continuing education credit for its study. In October 2023, the APA offered a session titled "Decolonizing Your Clinical Practice."[38] In February 2026, the APA facilitated credit for a session by Lara Sheehi that promised to explain "how settler colonial logics and their imperialist counterparts work to lodge themselves inside of us."[39] Similarly, in April 2026, the APA's psychoanalysis division offered credit for a panel titled "Social Disability and Colonial Violence: From social justice movements to the genocide in Palestine."[40] This division—of which Sheehi was formerly president—has retained the APA's approval to provide continuing education credit even as it has incited antisemitism at the association.[41]



SECTION 2

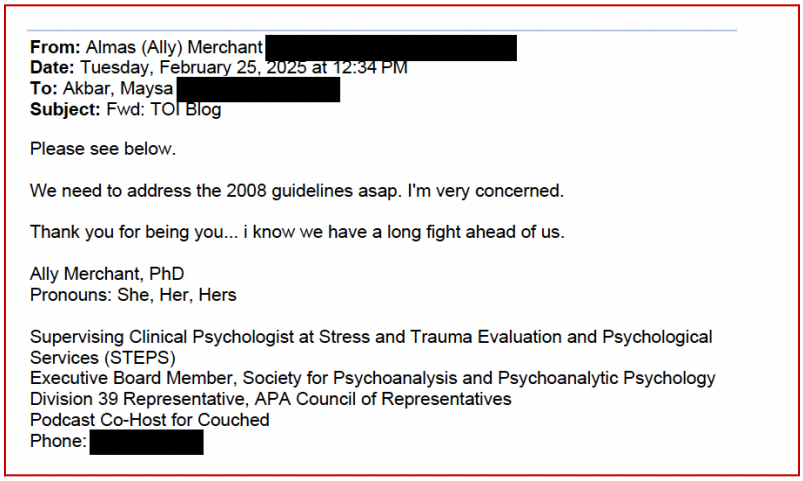
RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

APA members have used association-wide resolutions, known as New Business Items, to incite antisemitism. After October 7th, some APA members sought to revise the association's resolution on antisemitism so that it did not reflect contemporary manifestations of antisemitism. They succeeded. Many of these same members have lobbied against an effort by Jewish members to create an ethnic psychological association (EPA) for Jews, on par with existing EPAs for Arab, Asian American, Native American, Latino, and black psychologists.[42] That effort remains ongoing.

In 2026, the APA revised its resolution on antisemitism, which previously stated that antisemitism may occur "in the context of discourse regarding the actions of the Government of Israel" and described a "'new'" antisemitism where "actual bias against Jews is denied while prejudiced attitudes exist."[43] After October 7th, antizionist and non-Jewish members led the charge to pass a new resolution that greenlights antisemitism.[44] The now-passed resolution contains a freestanding clause about the "weaponization of antisemitism" and cites the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, which was created to whitewash contemporary antisemitism.[45] The APA's Council of Representatives approved this new resolution in February 2026 by a 127–37 vote.[46]

APA leaders collaborated with antizionist members who supported revising the resolution. For example, in February 2025, after a Jewish member described his efforts to combat antisemitism at the association in an email thread, an antizionist member who received the email wrote to the APA's then-chief diversity officer, "We need to address the 200[7] guidelines asap. I'm very concerned. Thank you for being you… i know we have a long fight ahead of us."[47] Similarly, in May 2025, after AMENA-Psy demanded that the association publicly commit to revising its resolution on antisemitism, 2024 APA President de las Fuentes said the demand was "within reach" although "not without political risk."[48]



From: Almas (Ally) Merchant [redacted]
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at 12:34 PM
To: Akbar, Maysa [redacted]
Subject: Fwd: TOI Blog

Please see below.

We need to address the 2008 guidelines asap. I'm very concerned.

Thank you for being you... i know we have a long fight ahead of us.

Ally Merchant, PhD
Pronouns: She, Her, Hers

Supervising Clinical Psychologist at Stress and Trauma Evaluation and Psychological Services (STEPS)
Executive Board Member, Society for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Psychology
Division 39 Representative, APA Council of Representatives
Podcast Co-Host for Couched
Phone: [redacted]

Earlier, in the fall of 2024, APA staff "shared information with AMENA-Psy leaders" about efforts to update the antisemitism resolution.[49] They also confirmed AMENA-Psy's ability to "have seats" on a task force to update the resolution.[50] The APA charged the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)—an association body that provides feedback on resolutions—with collecting nominations for the task force.[51] BAPPI's "highest-ranked" applicants included virulently antizionist individuals.[52]

This task force ultimately did not come to fruition. Instead, the APA formed a "Collaborative of Jewish Psychologists" (CJP) that was intended to advise the APA Board of Directors on the resolution. Ultimately, however, the APA's Council of Representatives defied both the Board and the CJP by voting on and passing the aforementioned antisemitism resolution—which the CJP never approved—in February 2026.

Amid concern over the replacement of the antisemitism resolution, a group of Jewish psychologists within the APA introduced a resolution that would recognize a Jewish EPA. APA ethnic minority groups mobilized against the resolution. **One of the main opponents to the resolution described it as one where "folks who have been conscripted into whiteness and benefitted from white privilege (whether they have collectively agreed or not) are seeking a seat and voice at the table with folks who have historically been marginalized."**[53] She added that the resolution is "rooted in its own form of anti-black logics."[54]

Similarly, a representative for the Society of Indian Psychologists—one of the APA's ethnic minority associations—stated that the society does not view Jews as being an "underrepresented marginalized and disadvantaged ethnic minorit[y][.]"[55] She added that if the resolution to recognize the Jewish association were to move forward on the basis of "religious persecution," then "it would open other predominately White privileged religious groups" to also seek ethnic minority status.[56]

Meanwhile, BAPPI reported that "[t]he feedback from several groups is that many Jewish individuals (the majority of whom are white) do not face the same anti-Blackness, racism, white supremacy, coloniality, systemic or structural oppression as People of Color."[57] **The body also criticized the resolution for relying on information from the ADL and for citing Sigmund Freud and Albert Ellis, whose contributions to psychology BAPPI said "may be influenced by factors such as white/economic/male privilege."**[58] Freud escaped Nazi Austria in 1938; four of his sisters were murdered in the Holocaust.[59]

Still another APA body—the Committee on Ethnic Minority Affairs (CEMA)—argued that recognizing a Jewish EPA without taking "urgent, unapologetic action on Palestine" and showing "explicit support for AMENA-Psy" would risk "reinforcing inequities and undermining solidarity across marginalized groups."[60] Specifically, CEMA recommended that the APA "[c]enter AMENA-Psy as a fully supported EPA partner, ensuring its leadership and advocacy are visible within APA governance, Council discussions, and public communications," "[f]rame Jewish

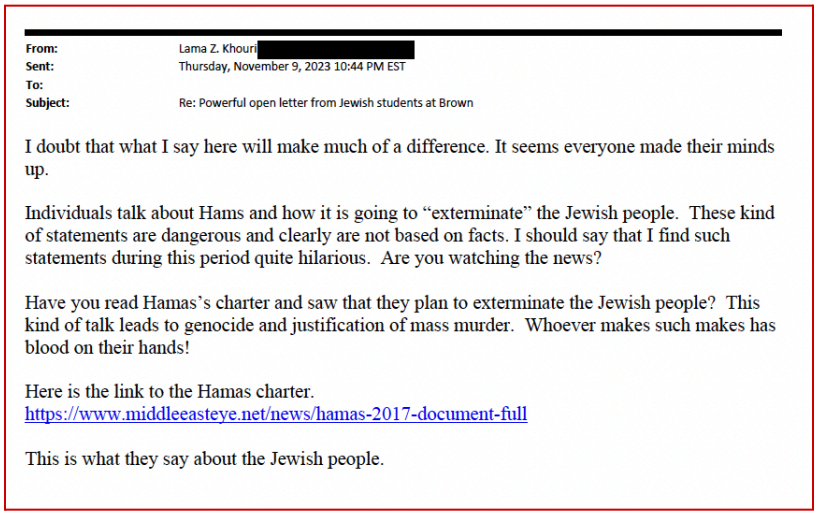
safety and Palestinian freedom as interconnected," release policy statements that "clearly distinguish[] antisemitism from legitimate criticism of Israeli state policy," and update the APA's antisemitism resolution to "remove reliance on definitions that conflate antizionism with antisemitism."[61]

SECTION 3

LISTSERVS, NEWSLETTERS, AND PUBLICATIONS

LISTSERVS, NEWSLETTERS, AND PUBLICATIONS

After the October 7th attacks, APA members turned the association's division listservs into hostile, political, and deeply antizionist forums.[62] Members of various divisions, which represent various psychological disciplines, described claims that Hamas is seeking to "'exterminate' the Jewish people" as "clearly … not based on facts" and "quite hilarious";[63] stated that "Hamas is very far from perfect on lots of levels" but that Hamas terrorism on October 7th was and is "the only signs of life and resistance" for Palestinians;[64] defended the "humanity" of "Hamas fighters" and argued against rendering them as "one-dimensional";[65] argued that Hamas is "protecting civilians" and therefore deserves "kudos";[66] described Israel as a "terrorist" state;[67] urged their colleagues to donate to an antizionist Member of Congress;[68] questioned whether expressing solidarity with Israel constitutes "violating listserv etiquette because of how it affects peoples' sense of safety";[69] and more.[70]



From: Lama Z. Khouri [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 10:44 PM EST
To:
Subject: Re: Powerful open letter from Jewish students at Brown

I doubt that what I say here will make much of a difference. It seems everyone made their minds up.

Individuals talk about Hams and how it is going to "exterminate" the Jewish people. These kind of statements are dangerous and clearly are not based on facts. I should say that I find such statements during this period quite hilarious. Are you watching the news?

Have you read Hamas's charter and saw that they plan to exterminate the Jewish people? This kind of talk leads to genocide and justification of mass murder. Whoever makes such makes has blood on their hands!

Here is the link to the Hamas charter.
https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/hamas-2017-document-full

This is what they say about the Jewish people.

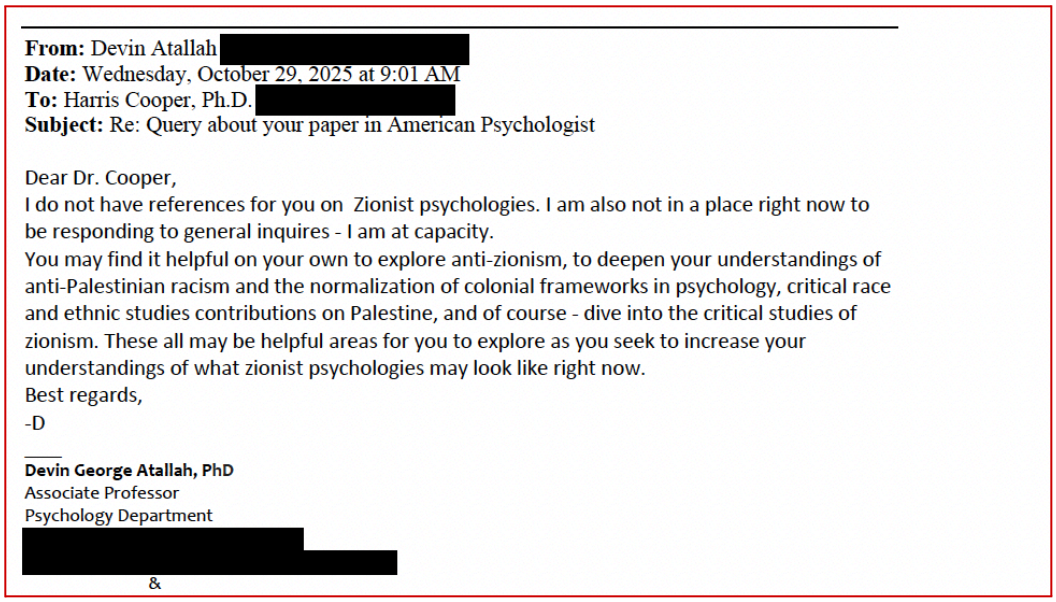
After years of online hostility, in July 2025, the APA updated its listserv rules to specifically prohibit antisemitic discrimination.[71] But in the process, the association's then-chief diversity officer advised that the term "antisemitism" should not be explicitly identified, because doing so "will cause a ripple effect that we want to avoid."[72] She added that it was "[i]mplicit" in the guidelines that antisemitism is prohibited.[73] In June 2026, the APA informed the Committee that the association will no longer host division listservs and will instead provide "an alternative online announcement and conversation space for divisions" that "will enhance APA's ability to monitor and remove content that violates its policies."[74]

In addition to listservs, APA divisions circulate newsletters that incite antisemitism.[75] In the summer of 2026, for example, the APA's community psychology division released a special edition newsletter that included poems and essays demonizing Israel and Israelis, claiming that "Palestinian resistance" has been improperly "pathologized as mental illness and terrorism" and describing Hamas' terrorist attack on October 7th as an "uprising." The same division's fall 2023

newsletter links to what it describes as an “incredible action toolkit” that contains terrorism propaganda.[76]

Alongside listservs and newsletters, divisions and the APA itself publish journal articles that advance a highly political “decolonial” approach to psychology.[77] For example, the APA published a “special issue” on decolonial psychology in 2025 that contained an article titled “Supervision as Decolonial Love: Toward a Transformative Training Process for Palestinian Community Health Workers.”[78] This article referred to “Palestinian freedom fighters” and described Israel as a “settler colonial” state.[79] It also pathologized Zionism by referring to “Zionist psychologies,” which it claimed “uniquely legitimize the Israeli settler colonial project.”[80]

That article received significant backlash.[81] After publication, the journal’s editor-in-chief wrote to one of the article’s authors, Devin Atallah, asking for references to describe the concept of “Zionist psychologies” that the article referenced but did not elaborate on. Atallah responded: “I do not have references for you on Zionist psychologies. I am also not in a place right now to be responding to general inquires [*sic*] - I am at capacity.”[82] Atallah then suggested that the editor educate himself about antizionism “on your own.”[83]



From: Devin Atallah [redacted]
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 at 9:01 AM
To: Harris Cooper, Ph.D. [redacted]
Subject: Re: Query about your paper in American Psychologist

Dear Dr. Cooper,
I do not have references for you on Zionist psychologies. I am also not in a place right now to be responding to general inquires - I am at capacity.
You may find it helpful on your own to explore anti-zionism, to deepen your understandings of anti-Palestinian racism and the normalization of colonial frameworks in psychology, critical race and ethnic studies contributions on Palestine, and of course - dive into the critical studies of zionism. These all may be helpful areas for you to explore as you seek to increase your understandings of what zionist psychologies may look like right now.
Best regards,
-D

Devin George Atallah, PhD
Associate Professor
Psychology Department
[redacted]
&

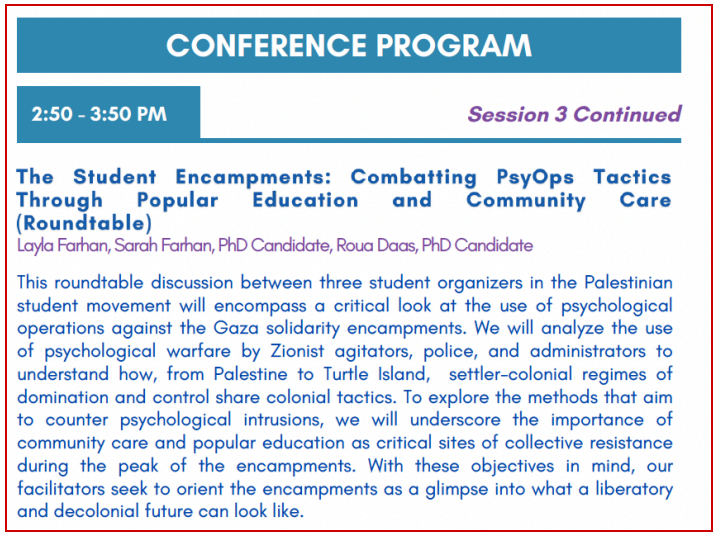
The decision to publish this article led an editor for the journal’s May 2026 antisemitism special issue to resign. The piece, he said, contains language that is “incendiary, politicized, and […] lacking the scholarly rigor we set out to uphold.” He added that **while lowering its standards to publish the “Decolonial Love” article, the APA was simultaneously enforcing “strict parameters” for the special issue on antisemitism “that it does not apply elsewhere.”**[84]

SECTION 4

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS

APA conferences have repeatedly featured sessions that ostracize and alienate the association's Jewish members. For example, in 2024, the annual AMENA-Psy conference, which 2025 APA President Debra Kawahara and the association's then-chief diversity officer attended, featured a session on anti-Israel university encampments that promised to "analyze the use of psychological warfare by Zionist agitators, police, and administrators to understand how, from Palestine to Turtle Island, settler-colonial regimes of domination and control share colonial tactics."[85] The APA facilitated continuing education credits for sessions at this conference, including a session about "ethical and legal issues in social justice advocacy on Palestine" such as the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement.[86]



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

2:50 - 3:50 PM *Session 3 Continued*

The Student Encampments: Combatting PsyOps Tactics Through Popular Education and Community Care (Roundtable)

Layla Farhan, Sarah Farhan, PhD Candidate, Roua Daas, PhD Candidate

This roundtable discussion between three student organizers in the Palestinian student movement will encompass a critical look at the use of psychological operations against the Gaza solidarity encampments. We will analyze the use of psychological warfare by Zionist agitators, police, and administrators to understand how, from Palestine to Turtle Island, settler-colonial regimes of domination and control share colonial tactics. To explore the methods that aim to counter psychological intrusions, we will underscore the importance of community care and popular education as critical sites of collective resistance during the peak of the encampments. With these objectives in mind, our facilitators seek to orient the encampments as a glimpse into what a liberatory and decolonial future can look like.

The following year, the APA's 2025 annual convention featured a "critical conversation" defending anti-Israel encampments across the country, including the alleged "psychological warfare[] and psychological operations tactics used to disavow Palestinians' and student activists' lived experiences."[87] Similarly, the APA's 2026 convention featured sessions such as one titled "Silenced and Still Resisting: Student Solidarity for Palestine."[88]

During the 2026 convention, the APA honored one of its most vocal antizionist members, Roy Eidelson, as a "Psychologist[] Rising."[89] 2026 APA President Wendi Williams described the award as recognizing "bold thinkers who are redefining the future of the field."[90] In 2025, a third-party investigator had found that Eidelson violated the APA's meeting code of conduct and civility statement when confronting a Jewish APA member at the association's annual convention.[91] That same year, Eidelson sent 2025 APA President Debra Kawahara a lengthy essay he wrote about the "weaponization of antisemitism;" she responded thanking him for his "dedication to addressing these vital concerns."[92]

CONCLUSION

For years, Jewish psychologists have faced hostility in professional spaces that should welcome and support them. Rather than consistently confronting these concerns, **APA leaders have too often minimized complaints, accommodated individuals promoting antisemitic rhetoric, and embraced political approaches to psychology that deepen divisions within the profession.**

The consequences of these actions extend beyond the APA's Jewish members. When an organization responsible for accrediting psychology programs and shaping professional standards allows ideology to overshadow scholarship, it risks undermining the credibility of the entire profession. APA members have themselves expressed concerns. In the association's 2024 membership survey, one member warned that the APA had become so involved in political matters that its core functions were no longer being served.[93] Another member said, "[m]any psychologists, including myself, go into this profession to relieve suffering from mental illness in the general public. How does research and content on the APA that has an overt or implicit political bias help professionals in this challenging endeavor?"[94]

As the Committee was preparing this report, the Department of Education's accreditation advisory committee recommended suspending the APA's recognition for one year.[95] The APA cannot credibly set standards for the psychology profession—among other critical responsibilities—while failing to stop discrimination and politicization in its own ranks. The Committee's findings will inform its ongoing legislative efforts to address discrimination by accrediting organizations and ensure that they are grounded in fairness, integrity, and equal treatment.

[1] Letter from Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairman of H. Comm. on Educ. & Workforce, to Dr. Debra Kawahara, President, American Psychological Association (Dec. 12, 2025), https://edworkforce.house.gov/uploadedfiles/apa_letter_12.10.2025.pdf.
[2] APA_CEW_00006764 (on file with Comm.).
[3] APA_CEW_00006763 (on file with Comm.); APA_CEW_00009327 (on file with Comm.).
[4] *APA Warns of Psychological Impacts of Violence in Middle East*, American Psychological Association (Oct. 11, 2023), https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2023/10/middle-east-violence-statement.
[5] APA_CEW_00006788 (on file with Comm.).
[6] APA_CEW_00006787 (on file with Comm.).
[7] APA_CEW_00036037 (on file with Comm.). APA leadership has claimed that they "have been assured that AMENA accepts all Middle Eastern psychologists, including Israeli and Jewish members." APA_CEW_00006409 (on file with Comm.).
[8] APA_CEW_00002221 (on file with Comm.). *See also* APA_CEW_00001623 (on file with Comm.).
[9] APA_CEW_00006978 (on file with Comm.).
[10] A.J. Caschetta, *George Washington University Still Has an Anti-Semitism Problem*, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (Aug. 23, 2023), https://www.asmeascholars.org/gwu-still-has-an-anti-semitism-problem; Cary Nelson, *Not One Sentence of Exoneration for Sheehi*, The Times of Israel (Feb. 23, 2025), https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/not-one-sentence-of-exoneration-for-sheehi/.
[11] Josh Christenson, *Jewish Students Reported a Professor for Anti-Semitism. Their University Retaliated Against Them*, The Washington Free Beacon (Jan. 12, 2023), https://freebeacon.com/campus/jewish-students-reported-a-professor-for-anti-semitism-the-university-retaliated-against-them/.
[12] Josh Christenson, *George Washington University Professor Accused of Anti-Semitism Says Zionism Is a Mental Illness*, StandWithUs (Jan. 25, 2023), https://standwithus.com/news/george-washington-university-professor-accused-of-anti-semitism-says-zionism-is-a-mental-illness/; Complaint, *Soffer v. George Wash. Univ.*, No. 1:25-cv-01657 (D.D.C. May 22, 2025), https://www.holtzmanvogel.com/uploads/ECF-001-52225-Soffer-v-GWU-Complaint.pdf.
[13] "I would be happy to join you all in any reflective space that asks us to do better, think harder, connect solidarity struggles, and most importantly, hold us accountable to the internalized racism that might make us hesitate to show full support and/or misread what is happening in real time when an all out genocide on a captive population, held in an open-air prison for 15+ years, is unfolding." APA_CEW_00001416 (on file with Comm.).
[14] *Id.*
[15] *Id.*
[16] A Collective of Anti-Occupation Jews, *An Open Letter from Jewish Students*, The Brown Daily Herald (Nov. 7, 2023), https://www.browndailyherald.com/article/2023/11/an-open-letter-from-jewish-students.
[17] APA_CEW_00010823 (on file with Comm.).

[18] “I would not recommend signing onto the ADL pledge,” she wrote. “We previously received communication from the ADL opposing comments on the Division 39 listserv involving Dr. Laura [*sic*] Sheehi, so it could get complicated.” APA_CEW_00010777 (on file with Comm.).
[19] “This is a PR nightmare for APA, and one that is being actively planned. We saw what happened with Thema, which was also pointed, and they are many of the same actors. While these antics have become regularized over the past year, I can't say that I am not shocked at how blatantly these plans now are spoken.” APA_CEW_00016303 (on file with Comm.).
[20] *Id.*
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Scholarly Dialogue: Despecializing Psychoanalysis for Psychic Militancy with Lara Sheehi, PsyD.*, Northwest Alliance for Psychoanalytic Study (Feb. 28, 2026), https://www.nwaps.org/alliance-event/Despecializing-Psychoanalysis-for-Psychic-Militancy. *See also The Hijacked Soul Speaks Back*, cvent (April 23, 2025), https://web.cvent.com/event/dbbe7750-65fb-4912-90af-d22fa43453fa/websitePage:c80e89a5-fe8a-4396-ac6c-f0e8b4b239cc?session=f08e7db5-3dd7-4c65-ab7a-85db80cbed61; *Social Disability and Colonial Violence: From Social Justice Movements to the Genocide in Palestine*, cvent (April 25, 2026), https://web.cvent.com/event/dbbe7750-65fb-4912-90af-d22fa43453fa/websitePage:c80e89a5-fe8a-4396-ac6c-f0e8b4b239cc?session=5335e355-2651-4b28-8b2e-58cd01586557.
[23] APA_CEW_00018969 – APA_CEW_00018981 (on file with Comm.).
[24] APA_CEW_00018969 (on file with Comm.).
[25] APA_CEW_00031500 (on file with Comm.).
[26] APA_CEW_00035256 (on file with Comm.).
[27] APA_CEW_00035224 (on file with Comm.). The response came after the Jewish psychologist wrote, “The suggestion that Jewish psychologists - who have stepped forward to help APA address antisemitism from within - should now also lead the charge to fundraise for these efforts, is deeply troubling.” *Id.*
[28] APA_CEW_00021494 (on file with Comm.).
[29] APA_CEW_00043680 (on file with Comm.).
[30] APA_CEW_00044294 (on file with Comm.).
[31] APA_CEW_00023166 (on file with Comm.).
[32] APA_CEW_00036427 (on file with Comm.).
[33] *Responding to “Settler Colonialism,”* Yeshiva Univ. (Sept. 19, 2024), https://www.yu.edu/news/straus/responding-settler-colonialism.
[34] *10 Tough Questions on Antisemitism Explained*, American Jewish Committee (Feb. 15, 2024), https://www.ajc.org/news/10-tough-questions-on-antisemitism-explained.
[35] Mathilda Heller, *‘Decolonizing Therapy’ and the Erasure of Jewish Identity in Mental Health*, The Jerusalem Post (July 29, 2025), https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-862643. *See also* Christopher L. Schilling, *The Derangement of American Psychotherapy*, Minding the Campus (Feb. 23, 2026), https://mindingthecampus.org/2026/02/23/the-derangement-of-american-psychotherapy/.
[36] Dean McKay et al., *Decolonial Psychology’s Blind Spot: From Liberation Praxis to Antisemitism*, 9 J. Contemp. Antisemitism 210 (2026), https://www.researchgate.net/publication/414059112_Decolonial_Psychology's_Blind_Spot_Fro

m_Liberation_Praxis_to_Antisemitism; *see also NACIQI Transcript September 23-24, 2026 (Day 2 September 24, 2026)*, National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity – U.S. Dep't of Educ. (Sept. 24, 2026), https://sites.ed.gov/naciqi/archive-of-meetings/.
[37] Thema Bryant, *Column: Psychologists Must Embrace Decolonial Psychology*, American Psychological Association (Oct. 1, 2023), https://www.apa.org/monitor/2023/10/embracing-decolonial-psychology.
[38] Erlanger "Earl" Turner, *Decolonizing Your Clinical Practice: Addressing Power, Privilege, and Bias to Provide Equitable Care (Providing Access and Equity)*, American Psychological Association (Oct. 25, 2023), https://www.apa.org/education-career/ce/provide-equitable-care.
[39] *Scholarly Dialogue: Despecializing Psychoanalysis for Psychic Militancy with Lara Sheehi, PsyD.*, Northwest Alliance for Psychoanalytic Study (Feb. 28, 2026), https://www.nwaps.org/alliance-event/Despecializing-Psychoanalysis-for-Psychic-Militancy.
[40] *Social Disability and Colonial Violence: From Social Justice Movements to the Genocide in Palestine*, cvent (April 25, 2026), https://web.cvent.com/event/dbbe7750-65fb-4912-90af-d22fa43453fa/websitePage:c80e89a5-fe8a-4396-ac6c-f0e8b4b239cc?session=5335e355-2651-4b28-8b2e-58cd01586557.
[41] *APA Approved Sponsors of Continuing Education*, APA Office of CE Sponsor Approval, https://cesaoas.apa.org/cesaApprovedSponsors.
[42] *Ethnic Psychological Associations*, American Psychological Association, https://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/associations.
[43] *Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice*, American Psychological Association, https://www.apa.org/about/policy/antisemitic.pdf.
[44] *See, e.g.*, *In Flames: APA Resolution with Barry Trachtenberg, Lara Sheehi, & Jordan Dunn*, Institute for the Critical Study of Zionism (May 7, 2026), https://criticalzionismstudies.org/in-flames-apa-resolution/.
[45] *APA Resolution on Antisemitism (2026)*, American Psychological Association (Feb. 2026), https://www.apa.org/about/policy/resolution-antisemitism-2026.
[46] *February 2026 Council Meeting Highlights*, APA (Feb. 2026), https://www.apa.org/about/governance/council/february-2026-cor-summary-update.pdf.
[47] APA_CEW_00036270 (on file with Comm.).
[48] President de las Fuentes said: "Although Debra paused this endeavor pending more favorable conditions, #1 is within reach, as we have been deliberating on this for over a year and have a pool of candidates who are willing to serve. This is not without political risk." APA_CEW_00034200 (on file with Comm.). AMENA-Psy's first demand was that the APA "[p]ublicly commit to revising the 2007 Resolution on Antisemitism, particularly the language equating criticism of a nation-state with religious prejudice—language that remains inconsistent with APA's treatment of other forms of bias and out of step with its own writing style guidance. Developing a resolution on anti MENA (including anti Arab and anti Palestinian) racism and, separately, regarding anti Muslim discrimination." APA_CEW_00034198 (on file with Comm.).
[49] APA_CEW_00026338 (on file with Comm.).
[50] APA_CEW_00025132 (on file with Comm.).
[51] APA_CEW_00026338 (on file with Comm.); APA_CEW_00025132 (on file with Comm.); APA_CEW_00042216 (on file with Comm.).

[52] APA_CEW_00042216 (on file with Comm.). *See, e.g.*, *Emmaia Gelman*, Canary Mission, https://canarymission.org/individual/Emmaia_Gelman; Roy Eidelson, *Weaponizing Antisemitism 101: A Back-to-School Special*, CounterPunch (Oct. 4, 2024), https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/10/04/weaponizing-antisemitism-101-a-back-to-school-special/; *Barry Trachtenberg Lecture: The End of Antisemitism: How the Fight Against Antisemitism Became a Tool of Political Repression*, Univ. of Virginia Glob. Affairs, https://global.virginia.edu/events/barry-trachtenberg-lecture-end-antisemitism-how-fight-against-antisemitism-became-tool.
[53] APA_CEW_00004280 (on file with Comm.).
[54] *Id.*
[55] APA_CEW_00044861 (on file with Comm.).
[56] APA_CEW_00019783 (on file with Comm.).
[57] APA_CEW_00019303 (on file with Comm.).
[58] *Id*.
[59] JP O'Malley, *How Sigmund Freud Fled Nazi Austria, Leaving Siblings Who Perished in the Holocaust*, The Times of Israel (Sept. 26, 2022), https://www.timesofisrael.com/how-sigmund-freud-fled-nazi-austria-leaving-siblings-who-perished-in-the-holocaust/.
[60] CEMA added, "[i]t could send the message that APA acts swiftly where it is politically safe, but hesitates where moral courage is most needed." APA_CEW_00035856 (on file with Comm.).
[61] *Id.*
[62] In response to antisemitism by division heads, the APA has disclaimed responsibility, pointing to association bylaws and claiming that the APA "does not, and cannot, censure their members or elected/appointed officials for their speech[.]" APA_CEW_00006398 (on file with Comm.).
[63] APA_CEW_00010863 (on file with Comm.).
[64] APA_CEW_00010880 (on file with Comm.).
[65] APA_CEW_00008724 (on file with Comm.).
[66] Email on file with Comm.
[67] APA_CEW_00000001 – APA_CEW_00000002 (on file with Comm.).
[68] APA_CEW_00001855 (on file with Comm.).
[69] APA_CEW_00005080 (on file with Comm.).
[70] APA_CEW_00010880 (on file with Comm.).
[71] *American Psychological Association Listserv Usage Rules*, Wayback Machine (July 20, 2025), https://web.archive.org/web/20250720000228/http://lists.apa.org/archives/infopages/APARules.html.
[72] APA_CEW_00031194 (on file with Comm.).
[73] *Id.*
[74] Letter from Partner, WilmerHale, to Rep. Tim Walberg, Chairman of H. Comm. on Educ. & Workforce (June 12, 2026) (on file with Comm.).
[75] *See, e.g.*, APA_CEW_00006255 (on file with Comm.).
[76] *All Out for Palestine – Digital Action Toolkit*, Palestinian Feminist Collective, https://palestinianfeministcollective.org/all-out-for-palestine/.

[77] *See, e.g.*, Devin G. Atallah & Hana R. Masud, *Returning Home with Dr. Ibrahim Makkawi: Toward Palestinian Decolonial States of Being*, 29 Peace & Conflict: J. Peace Psychology 194 (2023), https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fpac0000669; Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, *Persistent Faces: Palestinian Fatherhood Against Necropower*, 29 Peace & Conflict: J. Peace Psychology 82 (2023), https://psycnet.apa.org/doi/10.1037/pac0000680; Rimona Afana, *Unseeing Settler-Extractive Colonialism: The "Blindness Epidemic" in the (Com)promised Lands*, 29 Peace & Conflict: J. Peace Psychology 126 (2023), https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fpac0000666.
[78] Devin G. Atallah et al., *Supervision as Decolonial Love: Toward a Transformative Training Process for Palestinian Community Health Workers*, 80 Am. Psychologist 563 (2025), https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Famp0001364.
[79] *Id.*
[80] *Id*.
[81] *See, e.g.*, *ADL Issues Joint Statement with Academic Engagement Network & Psychologists Against Antisemitism*, ADL (July 15, 2025), https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-issues-joint-statement-academic-engagement-network-psychologists.
[82] APA_CEW_00031179 (on file with Comm.).
[83] *Id.*
[84] APA_CEW_00018469 (on file with Comm.).
[85] APA_CEW_00027781 (on file with Comm.).
[86] APA_CEW_00027759 (on file with Comm.).
[87] APA_CEW_00015184 – APA_CEW_00015185 (on file with Comm.). As in other contexts, the APA has sought to disclaim these sessions, stating that "the APA convention includes a wide range of sessions developed by APA's 54 divisions, which operate autonomously with their own governance and represent the diversity of psychology's many subfields and perspectives." *Program Content Disclaimer*, American Psychological Association Annual Convention (2026), https://www.xcdsystem.com/apa/program/e11aYnx/index.cfm?pgid=2947&RunRemoveSessionFilter=1.
[88] *Silenced and Still Resisting: Student Solidarity for Palestine*, Presentation at the American Psychological Association Annual Convention (August 6, 2026), https://www.xcdsystem.com/apa/program/e11aYnx/index.cfm?pgid=2947&sid=52605.
[89] Wendi Williams (@drwendiwilliams), Instagram (Aug. 3, 2026), https://www.instagram.com/p/Dbk7LpVxcPK/.
[90] Wendi Williams, 100 Psychologists rising: Spotlighting bold thinkers who are redefining the future of the field, American Psychological Association (Apr. 1, 2026), https://www.apa.org/monitor/2026/04-05/psychologists-rising-wendi-williams-presidential-initiative.
[91] Email on file with Comm.
[92] APA_CEW_00038347 (on file with Comm.).
[93] APA_CEW_00033668 (on file with Comm.).
[94] APA_CEW_00033659 (on file with Comm.). After the APA Council of Representatives' February 2026 meeting, another member expressed frustration that "we have considered many items - mostly as NBIs - that are what I would consider to be outside of our purview in APA. I

mean things that are social justice type statements that are not adequately grounded in the psychological science." APA_CEW_00045577 (on file with Comm.).

[95] *Federal Advisory Panel Recommends One-Year Suspension of APA Commission Over 'Pervasive Culture of Antisemitism' in Accredited Programs*, Combat Antisemitism Movement (Sept. 24, 2026), https://combatantisemitism.org/cam-news/federal-advisory-panel-recommends-one-year-suspension-of-apa-commission-over-pervasive-culture-of-antisemitism-in-accredited-programs/.