



NEWS

C

COMMENTARY

I Faced Antisemitism at Harvard. Don't Destroy the University in My Name.

How does tearing down a world-class university help Jewish people?

By Sarah F. Silverman | Contributor July 14, 2025, at 7:00 a.m.

 JOSEPH PREZIOSO | AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A police car outside the Jewish student organization Hillel's building at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on Dec. 12, 2023.

Listen to audio version of this article



 Instaread

Advertisement

As a Modern Orthodox Jewish student at Harvard College who experienced a targeted antisemitic incident on campus, I find myself uncomfortably at the center of a national debate.

Last week, the Trump administration said [Harvard's accreditation could be revoked](#) because the government had determined the university acted with "deliberate indifference" toward anti-Jewish and Israeli students. Revoking Harvard's federal funding, including student aid.



2 Australian coast guards spot a weird object floating on the water and mistake it for a toy

[Learn More](#)

Among a handful of antisemitic incidents reported at Harvard over the last two years and cited in the administration's [report alleging civil rights violations](#), one example was about me.

Reading the report brought everything from the past year roaring back. On my first day of college last fall, I woke up to find my mezuzah – a tiny Biblical scroll that Jews affix to the entry to their homes – had been [stripped off my doorpost](#). I was terrified and could not believe this had happened to me. I first reached out to campus rabbis for support and then contacted campus police. The days and weeks that followed were filled with a sinking feeling of "otherness," something I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

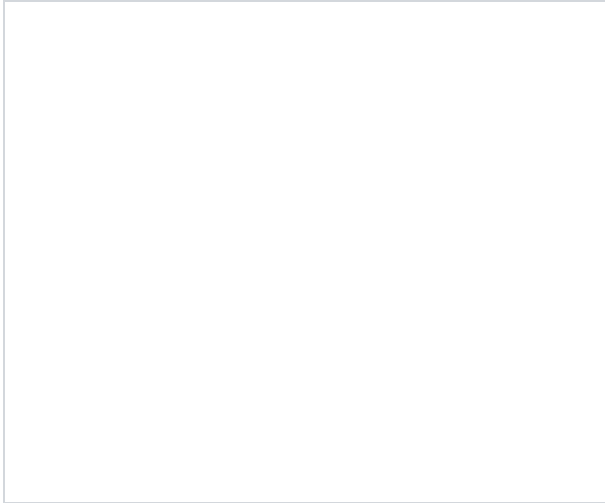
Foreign Students Make America Great

International students make America great. Turning us away will backfire.

Yurong Luanna Jiang July 9, 2025



Did Harvard respond the way it should have? They investigated but were unable to find a suspect. I wish more effort had been put into finding the culprit and updating reporting and safety policies to ensure that my experience did not happen to others. But does their handling of my case justify [threatening to cut \\$9 billion in federal funding](#) for scientific and medical research at the university, seeking to [bar Harvard from enrolling foreign students](#), or attempting to [revoke accreditation](#) from what many consider the top university in the world? Absolutely not.



I'm not political; I'm an aspiring veterinary scientist who happens to be a proud religious Jew. And this is not a partisan issue. I want to address Republicans and Democrats alike: My traumatic experience should not be used as justification for destroying the university, the research it fosters, and the lives of students and faculty. I don't want to be used as a reason for dismantling my school.

As Harvard's own [Antisemitism Task Force report](#) made plain a few months ago, the university's defense of Jewish students since the Oct. 7, 2023, massacre in Israel has been flawed. But the university has since revised several of its antisemitism initiatives, and these reforms represent a meaningful step forward. Instead of acknowledging that progress, the Trump administration is justifying an array of federal investigations and [actions against Harvard](#) by saying it is protecting Jewish students like me. But I can't help feeling that it is not taking our views and our futures into account.

In the [Trump administration's report](#) on antisemitism at Harvard, mine was the only case in which an individual was targeted, yet no one from the administration ever contacted

me to discuss what happened. No one from Washington asked what would make me feel safer at school or what policies might help Jewish students on campus.

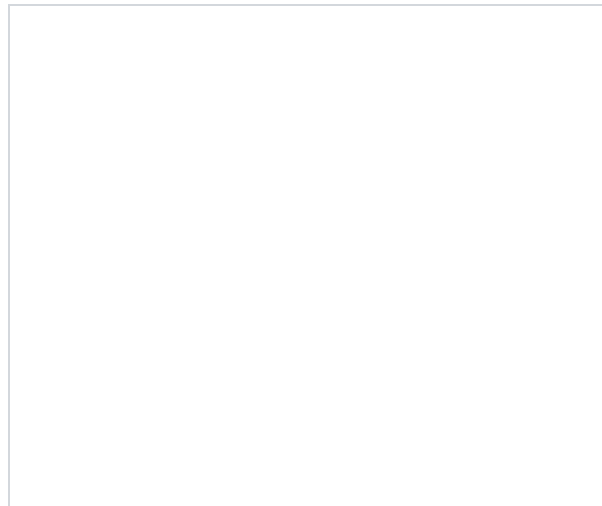
Trump Is Right to Go After Harvard

Elite universities won't rein in antisemitism without external pressure.

Jay Greene May 20, 2025



To those who believe the Trump administration's actions are the best way to combat antisemitism, I ask you this: How does blocking students and faculty, including Jewish ones, from conducting life-changing research fight antisemitism? How does banning Israeli students, who need visas to study at Harvard, protect us?



Or was it never really about us?

Despite the challenges I faced this year, I have faith in Harvard's commitment to its core educational mission and to fostering a respectful interfaith community. Yet even as I stand with Harvard, we must be honest about the work that remains.

Failures to address antisemitism must be taken seriously. But they will not be solved by tearing down or hollowing out an institution defined by academic excellence, world-class faculty and a community of students I am proud to call friends.

So I'm begging the Trump administration: Please do not continue down this path. Think about real people like me whose futures are on the line. Listen to Jewish students whose careers will be harmed if these policies are carried out in our names.

There is still time to reverse course and protect Jewish students without destroying the universities that educate and inspire us.

[Sarah F. Silverman](#), a New York City native, is an undergraduate at Harvard College studying biology.

Join the Conversation

See Comments

Tags: Harvard University, Donald Trump

SPONSORED CONTENT



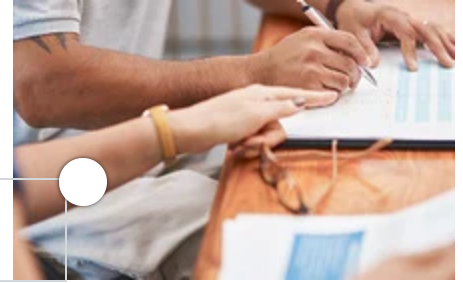
Selling a business? Get advice and insights from 127 business owners.

BNY Wealth



The Guide to ETFs: Your roadmap for navigating the ETF landscape

J.P. Morgan Asset Management



Planning a Financial Meeting With Your Spouse

Charles Schwab



Why Naming Your Beneficiaries is Key

Charles Schwab



How to prepare your loved ones for the wealth you've built.

Northern Trust



13 Things The U.S. Plans To Do For Seniors On SS in 2025

Smart Lifestyle Trends



Think America Has an Inflation Problem? Here Are the 10 Countries W...

U.S News



The 10 Worst U.S. Presidents

U.S News



The 25 Counties With the Longest Life Expectancy

U.S News

Read More



Trump Hammered Democrats on Transgender Issues. Now the Party Is at Odds on a Response



Republican Senator Cornyn 'Absolutely' Wants to See Matt Gaetz Ethics Report



China's Xi Arrives in Lima for APEC, to Open Pacific Megaport

AdChoices

Sponsored

Conversation 2 Comments

2 Viewing

Your voice matters. Discussions are moderated for civility. Read our guidelines [here](#). You can edit your display name in our [preference center](#).

Log in

What do you think?

Sort by **Best** ▾

- Observer**

...

1 day ago

And this is why they will always for us, jews, we're always ready to forgive for a sake of greater good. I'm a jew and I totally support President Trump!

Reply ▀ ▀ Share

M

Mustafa

1 hour ago

Nobody is bent upon destroying Harward Slight holding the hand bending a finger here and there helps the child continue to walk straight

Reply ▀   ▀ Share

...

Powered by  OpenWeb

X

Terms | Privacy | Feedback

- NEWS

LAW FIRMS

EDUCATION

RANKINGS

HEALTH
- MONEY

REAL ESTATE

CARS

TRAVEL

360 REVIEWS
- UK

INSURANCE



About Editorial Guidelines Contact Press Advertise Newsletters Jobs Site Map

Store

Copyright 2025 © U.S. News & World Report L.P.

Terms & Conditions/Privacy Policy/U.S. State Privacy Notice/Your Privacy Choices 