

# Title VI & Jewish Students: Understanding Protections Against Discrimination

## Combating Discrimination and Creating Safe Campuses for Jewish Students



### What is Title VI?

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in programs and activities that receive federal funding. While Title VI does not explicitly cover religion, it protects individuals who experience discrimination based on shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, which applies to Jewish students.

### Key Provisions

- Federally funded educational institutions must respond promptly and adequately to discrimination.
- Violations occur when discrimination is encouraged, tolerated, ignored, or inadequately addressed.
- Complaints can be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) or federal courts.

### Examples Of Prohibited Discrimination Include:

- Harassment or bullying based on stereotypes, ethnic identity, or ancestry.
- Exclusion from academic or extracurricular activities due to Jewish identity.
- Unequal treatment in policies related to religious observance or safety.

### How To Define Antisemitism

The organized Jewish community relies on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. This definition provides an outline for what is antisemitism including:

- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (i.e. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

### Take Action

Investigate and resolve complaints. In addition make sure that your university is equally enforcing all sections of its code of conduct against all its organization.

