



# STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

**Office of the Chancellor**  
325 West Gaines Street, Suite 1614  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone 850.245.0466  
Fax 850.245.9685  
[www.flbog.edu](http://www.flbog.edu)

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State University System Presidents

**FROM:** Chancellor Ray Rodrigues

**DATE:** October 13, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **Anti-Semitism on University and College Campuses**

Earlier this week, Commissioner Manny Diaz and I issued a joint statement reiterating the protections Governor DeSantis signed into law over the last four years. These statutes provide the means for acts of anti-Semitism to be immediately investigated, for miscreants to be swiftly punished for unlawful discrimination, and for appropriate actions to be taken to ensure this conduct does not continue.

This week on many of our campuses there were pro-Palestinian demonstrations. We are deeply troubled that allegations have been made of anti-Semitic activities at these demonstrations. Specifically, it has been alleged that university students called for Israel to be wiped off the map, that these demonstrators stated that killing Jewish babies is legitimate and necessary, and that the killing of Jews was justified.

Let me be clear, if any of these allegations are true, this is criminal activity. It is a violation of the Florida statutes prohibiting anti-Semitic activities. These crimes will not be tolerated. As we have previously discussed, you have been requested to ascertain the facts of what occurred on campus during these demonstrations.

It is our primary responsibility to ensure that all students are protected and that the law is equally enforced on our campuses. Governor Ron DeSantis has placed the full weight of state law enforcement resources at our disposal to assist us in this charge. Calling for the continuing murder of Jews and those of Jewish heritage is no different than discrimination based on race in the eyes of the law. Under our university's respective codes of conduct, as consistent with state law, these types of grotesque behaviors should be punished equally.

These are difficult times, and free speech remains a fundamental American and Florida value. But Florida laws protect our Jewish residents and visitors with unique vigor. These laws must be enforced, and our residents protected. Further, we expect that appropriate action will be taken against any student or organization who is found to have violated respective codes of conduct, including expulsion.

The State of Florida stands with Israel and the Jewish people.