

Statement from the MIT Israel Alliance post MIT's corporation press release

Last week, after the U.S. House Education and Workforce committee launched an investigation into antisemitism at MIT, the MIT Corporation publicized their support for the inflammatory remarks of their President. The MIT Israel Alliance has issued the following statement in response:

We are deeply disappointed and profoundly concerned by the lack of accountability demonstrated by MIT's administration, board, and President in their failed attempts to address the Antisemitism on our campus. Policies created to protect students from <u>bullying and</u> <u>harassment</u> have not been enforced. We are shocked that a subset of MIT Corporation actually endorse President Kornbluth's disturbing insinuation that all is well at MIT, and that calls for genocide against Jews do not immediately violate MIT's code of conduct. The MIT Corporation's continued gaslighting of Jews has now made the university the subject of a federal investigation. While other universities have started to treat these matters seriously, such as the University of Pennsylvania's leadership changes at both the executive and board level, MIT still lacks the moral courage to do the right thing. As such, we have provided a roadmap below.

To achieve the goal of uprooting antisemitism at MIT, we need to reassess the path we are on and how we got here. It is imperative to understand who has prioritized political concerns and toxic ideologies above scholarship for the campus community and rededicate ourselves to the advancement of knowledge. Section 14 of MIT Corporation bylaws state the Executive committee has "superintendence of all matters relating to the Institute", and as such *this breach rests directly on their shoulders*. This includes the "organizational structure of the Institute and the Institute's policies," such as the DEI apparatus and other members of the President's advisory circle which have clearly failed the students.

Among other responsibilities, the MIT Corporation has the responsibility to ensure MIT is "well and prudently stewarded, and soundly deployed to advance the Institute's mission." As of this writing, there are individual posts on social media that have been viewed more than 100 million times showing President Kornbluth delivering the MIT Corp's perverted message. In aggregate, the negative exposure is inestimable at this point. We are the laughingstock of institutions, our degrees that we have invested our lives in have been devalued, and major employers have publicly stated they no longer want employees inculcated with the hatred fostered on MIT's campus. The MIT Corporation hasn't just failed to "advance the Institute's mission." In its current form, it has breached its "fiduciary duty...to ensure that MIT adheres to the purposes for which it was established." According to the bylaws, one such purpose is "the betterment of humankind." The MIT Corporation's stated position on calls for genocide are obviously diametrically opposed to this requirement.

We urgently call upon the MIT executive board, Board of trustees, President Sally Kornbluth, and the administration leadership to recognize the gravity of institutional antisemitism at MIT and take immediate, meaningful action, including:

1. Publicly admit that MIT has had an existential antisemitism problem on campus. Stop gaslighting Jewish students by dismissing their safety as secondary to the University's interest in avoiding legal accountability for its negligence. Make an unequivocal statement that calling for the death of Jews (in whatever form it takes) violates University policy as would calling for the death of any other people/ethnic group.

2. Publish a list of all 41 MIT Corporation member votes on the subject of supporting the President and her stance regarding calls for genocide on campus. Also provide an accounting of all donations to MIT and its affiliates, and indicate any relationships these donations have to members of the MIT Corporation executive or general board.

3. Remove members from the MIT Corporation immediately, including members of the Executive Committee, who support tacitly, or otherwise, the calls for genocide of Jews (or any group) on campus. As the code of conduct for MIT Corporation directors states in section 21, their behavior should be "in the best interests of the Corporation or that such conduct was at least not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation." The destruction of MIT's reputation paired with the devaluation of our MIT degrees meets neither standard.

4. The MIT Israel Alliance has published documentation of claims regarding the unsafe environment for Jewish and Israeli students at MIT (1,2,3,4). Our President, Talia Khan, has also <u>testified</u> to these claims in front of congress. We demand transparency on the disciplinary process for such issues to clarify the contradiction between Kornbluth, who stated in her sworn testimony that these cases have been referred to a committee on discipline, and the committee which have stated they haven't received any such complaints. Let us return to first principles, and utilize the basic disciplinary process that has existed for decades in evaluating code infractions; we do not need to buy more time for the perpetrators by building up ineffective layers of the DEI apparatus. As students, we are given deadlines for p-sets and exams, and expect no less from the administration in dealing with these serious matters. Publish the reports that have been submitted for disciplinary action, and the dates which we should expect resolution.

Sincerely,

MIT Israel Alliance