



Imagine a World Without Hate®

March 18, 2015

**VIA EMAIL AND US MAIL**

Nanci Howe  
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Dear Ms. Howe:

I write to you on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), a 102 year-old civil rights agency. A member of the Stanford campus community contacted us concerning a troubling interaction she had related to the upcoming Associated Students of Stanford University (ASSU) Senate elections.

Stanford student Molly Horowitz, who is running for the ASSU Senate, is seeking an endorsement from Stanford Student of Color Coalition (SOCC). As you may know, as part of the SOCC vetting process, those seeking SOCC's endorsement undergo an interview. Molly reported to us that during her interview on Friday, March 13 a member of SOCC asked her, "Given your Jewish identity, how would you vote on [Israel] divestment?"

It is our understanding that other students seeking SOCC's endorsement were not asked identity-based questions, nor were they asked about the issue of divestment. It appears that SOCC asked her this question solely because of her Jewish identity. We have serious concerns about treating individuals differently on the basis of their religion or ethnic affiliation.

This episode is not identical to, but nevertheless reminiscent of, recent incidents of bias and bigotry on other college campuses where Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS) resolutions against Israel have been debated. BDS resolutions foster divisiveness in the campus community and create an environment in which anti-Semitic expression may flourish. We are very concerned that this is precisely what is occurring here.

We understand that Ms. Horowitz has contacted you about this matter and you are investigating what transpired. We request that you share the results of your investigation and let us know how you plan to address the situation.

In this regard, we hope you will view us as a partner in navigating these often difficult issues. In particular, we are pleased to share with you ADL's *Responding to Bigotry and Intergroup Strife on Campus: A Guide for College and University Presidents and Senior Administrators*, which may be accessed at: <http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/Responding-to-Bigotry-and-Intergroup-Strife-on-Campus.pdf>

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Seth Brysk  
Regional Director

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