# Republican-led Congressional Committee Criticizes Harvard's Response to Campus Antisemitism After Hamas Attack



A congressional committee, predominantly Republican, criticized Harvard University for inadequately addressing campus antisemitism following the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7. This criticism was detailed in a report released on May 16, 2024, by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. The report accused Harvard of not implementing recommendations from its Antisemitism Advisory Group, formed to combat rising antisemitic incidents post-attack.

Virginia Foxx, the committee chairwoman, claimed that Harvard's establishment of the advisory group was largely performative. She highlighted that none of the group's recommendations, which included holding student organizations accountable and reviewing academic content, were vigorously enforced. Notable examples of antisemitic incidents include reports of Jewish students experiencing harassment and ostracization on campus.

In response, Harvard spokesman Jason Newton stated that the report presents an incomplete and inaccurate view of the university’s efforts. Harvard insists that the actions taken since the group's formation have contributed positively to combating hate and fostering respectful engagement on campus. The advisory group has since been replaced by two task forces aimed at addressing broader biases, including anti-Muslim and anti-Arab sentiments.

The scrutiny is part of a broader congressional examination of several top universities, with upcoming testimonies expected from leaders of Northwestern, Rutgers, and UCLA. The ongoing investigations and hearings underscore a heightened focus on how higher education institutions are handling antisemitism and related issues. Former Harvard President Claudine Gay, who stepped down in January, was among those who testified in earlier hearings.