# Campus Antisemitism Debate: University Leaders Testify as Protests Spark Controversy



Rutgers University President Jonathan Holloway testified during a House Committee on Education and the Workforce hearing on Capitol Hill concerning pro-Palestinian protests on college campuses. The session, held on Thursday, addressed rising anti-Jewish bias amid campus protests. Congressional Republicans have introduced the Antisemitism Awareness Act, passed by the House on May 1 with a 320 to 91 vote. The Act defines antisemitism and allows the Department of Education to withhold funding from universities based on this definition. Critics, including the ACLU and some Jewish lawmakers, argue it may curb free speech by equating criticism of Israel with antisemitism. During the hearing, Republicans condemned campus protests, while Democrats highlighted Republican inaction on other anti-Jewish incidents.

In the UK, Madeline Bryant resigned from her role as Junior Common Room Vice-President at Oxford's St Hugh’s College, citing acts of antisemitism among peers. Bryant denounced the JCR's decision to dismiss a motion promoting equal treatment while advancing a pro-Gaza protest motion. The debate comes amid rising tensions and reported antisemitic incidents in Oxford, including swastika graffiti.

Similarly, pro-Palestine protests at the University of Manchester saw students clash with police, leading to 16 arrests. The university condemned the disruption, urging protesters to respect exam schedules while affirming students' rights to free speech and protest.

Audience: General Public
Perspective: Neutral
Max words: 300
Language: English