

Statement on Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism has a long and dangerous history in the world and in this country. Unfortunately, we are living a disturbing spike in anti-Semitic intimidation and violent behavior in recent years, and regrettably, it continues to grow. The staff at the W&M Counseling Center is alarmed by this wave of anti-Semitic incidents around the globe, in the nation, across college campuses, and in nearby communities.

Bias and hostility are antithetical to the Counseling Center mission and its fundamental social justice stance. We condemn discrimination and bigotry and all the cowardly and hateful rhetoric and hostility against the Jewish community be it via displays of hate symbols, Holocaust denials, Nazi salutes, hateful stereotypes and hateful speech, white supremacist bias against Jewish people, villainization of the community, instigation towards violence, and/or violence itself. That sacred spaces like synagogues need to add security measures/police surveillance to ensure the safety of those attending services or of children engaged in Sunday school, that Jewish Community Centers are put on alert due to circulation of pamphlets with offensive accusations, that individuals or communities worry about wearing or displaying symbols that would identify them as Jews, should not be tolerated and be a matter of concern for all.

We stand in support and solidarity with our Jewish faculty, staff, and students, community members and all those harmed by hate and discrimination. We are here to support our Jewish students who are directly or vicariously affected by incidents of bigotry. We are aware of the cumulative impact that micro-aggressions can have on students' mental health, and we understand the role that inter-generational trauma has on individuals' feelings of safety and sense of well-being.

You are not alone; the Counseling Center staff offers students a space where we hope all will feel safe to express and process reactions and concerns, feel heard, seen, validated, understood, and affirmed.