

What the Executive Order on Antisemitism Means for Your Campus

Title of EO	Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism (January 29, 2025)
What is the policy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaponizes civil rights law to redefine antisemitism to include any criticism of the Israeli government’s actions or US unconditional support for Israel’s military actions. • Further expands attacks on college campuses and students who espouse left-leaning and antiwar political views. • Empowers the attorney general, secretary of education, and secretary of homeland security to leverage executive powers to police college campuses and utilize civil rights enforcement tools to curb First Amendment rights. • Calls for the use of federal law to open conspiracy charges against student organizers. • Targets noncitizen students engaged in political speech.
How does it affect campus communities?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noncitizen students may be targeted by law enforcement and university administrators. • Escalates repression of students, faculty, and staff. • Directly attacks and undermines institutional autonomy and academic freedom.
Who else is under attack?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone expressing differing political views from the current government/political administration. • Any individuals who could be classified as the “radical left” by Donald Trump and his associates. • Universities who depend on revenue from noncitizen tuition and whose capacity to host noncitizen students is subject to federal permission. • Defenders of free speech, the First Amendment, and academic freedom. • American democracy, which requires an informed and educated citizenry.
Who benefits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authoritarian leaders. • Wealthy individuals who seek to control higher education and undermine academic freedom. • Government leaders who want to prevent the free exchange of ideas and knowledge development within our country.
What can you do / How do we fight back?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proactively file complaints and lawsuits against First Amendment violations. • Provide legal resources for those facing deportation. • Personalize the stories of those being deported. • Work with organizations protecting the right to protest. • Join your campus union. If there is no union on your campus, join the AAUP as an active or associate member. • If you or someone you know is adversely impacted by the EOs, share your story with lawyers at Democracy 2025, LDF, or Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. • Write an op-ed in your local paper, weekly journal, or blog to share how students, staff, and administrators are being targeted by this EO and share with CDAF@aaup.org.
Additional resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoiding anticipatory obedience • Statement on the EO from Palestine Legal • “Know Your Rights,” ACLU • “Protecting the Right to Protest,” Piper Fund