

From: EJ Chanin  
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 4:36 PM  
To: Ethnic Studies  
Subject: Horrified!!

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply disturbed by the model curriculum currently being reviewed by The State of California, which openly promotes hateful boycotts against Israel and omits antisemitism as a form of bigotry. I am appalled that an educational effort meant to teach students about marginalised communities includes no lessons about Jews as a sizeable ethnic minority and frequent target of overt racism and hatred.

'The implementation of Ethnic Studies presents an opportunity for teachers to enable students to develop a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and inclusion, and aids in the eradication of bigotry, hate, and racism.' Despite this stated goal, the curriculum does not feature a single lesson about the Jewish community, mentioning Jews only in passing.

Glossary – includes a definition of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) Movement against Israel. It claims the purpose of BDS is to “establish freedom for Palestinians living under apartheid conditions.” It then parrots more BDS talking points while offering no critical perspectives about this campaign of hate, which seeks to end Israel's existence.

#### Sample Lesson Plans

Page 234 – Encourage teachers to highlight BDS and a pro-BDS group called Direct Action for Palestine, but no voices critical of their perspectives.

Page 234 – Promotes a false equivalence between Israel's efforts to stop terrorists from entering communities to murder innocent people, and U.S. policies on the border with Mexico

Page 237 – Uses unclear language that implies “Israel-Palestine” as a whole is an Arab country

Page 242 – Frames the Palestinian narrative of the 1948 War as fact, with no alternative perspectives.

Page 256, 264-269 – Encourages teachers to use a poem featuring harsh criticism of Israel, but no content offering a positive perspective about Israel or criticism of Palestinian leaders.

With antisemitism rising and ignorance about the Jewish people still a major problem in our society, the exclusion of Jews from this curriculum is deeply disappointing and troubling.

As a California resident, taxpayer and voter, I would hope to see the State of California teaching inclusion and tolerance, rather than BDS, which promotes hate and division. BDS unabashedly calls for the destruction of a nation state and its people (often cloaked under the auspices of alleviating the suffering of the Palestinians who have been completely failed by their brutally corrupt and cruelly inept leadership.) The disgusting phrase of “from the river to the sea” (Palestine will be “Juden” free) can consistently be heard at their rallies and is the common battle cry of their organisers.

Sincerely,

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