

August 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the West Hollywood Israel Coalition, a strong community coalition of many organizations and individuals. We strongly and vehemently oppose this new ethnic studies curriculum. It is clearly highly biased. It is anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

The language used to delegitimize Israel is shocking. The pro BDS language is outrageous as it is a movement dedicated to the destruction of Israelis and the state of Israel. The language of BDS is used to taunt Jews on college campuses throughout our state. The curriculum gives a flagrantly and irresponsibly inaccurate definition of BDS, blaming Israel for a grossly disproportionate amount of wrongdoing, and does not explain the history or context of the broader, two-way, Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This curriculum is offensive as it omits any mention of Jewish ethnicity or discussion of anti-Semitism alongside other racism and homophobia issues. When anti-Semitism is a growing cancer in America, when we have evidence of it with murder in synagogues, including here in California, it is morally reprehensible to exclude teaching about Anti-Semitism from this ethnic studies curriculum.

Let's ask students to learn about the diverse people of California and their proud histories. Let's learn how to combat racism homophobia misogyny and anti-Semitism, and classism. But this curriculum is not up to the task. It is meant to be inflammatory and one sided and this should be shelved.

The West Hollywood Israel Coalition

Organizational Members:

Congregation Kol Ami
Iranian Jewish Federation
Israel Civic Action Network
The Israel Group
JQ

A Wider Bridge

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Shalom,
Rabbi Denise L. Eger, D.D.