

From: Judea Pearl

Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 7:09 AM

To: Ethnic Studies

Cc: Judea Pearl

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Expanded public comment on the 2021 Californial Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum

To: **Members the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) and the State Board of Education.**

From: Judea Pearl, Chancellor's Professor, UCLA

I strongly oppose the **2021** California Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum.

I am particularly alarmed by **its** attempt to **depict inter-ethnic relationships as a irreconcilable struggle between racially-defined "oppressed" and oppressors"** and by the way it associates "whiteness" with "oppression" and "colonialism".

I am a "white" Jewish American, and I believe that **the history of my people** is a model of **emancipation** from oppression and colonialism, culminating in the State of Israel which is an inspirational model of an oppressed ethnic minority lifting itself from the margin of history to become a world center of art, science and entrepreneurship -- **a multi-colored light-house of free speech and gender equality.**

I want my grandchildren to take pride **in** this historical transformation and to share **our experience** with other minorities; **yet sharing** as equal partners **in one** colorful mosaic of ethnic diversity, not as guilt-stricken "Whites", **burdened with** undeserved privileges.

The idea of mutually respectful ethnic diversity has been at the heart of California Education for decades, and I know firsthand that it can be operationalized successfully.

For the past 15 years I have seen it practiced in the Daniel Pearl Magnet School, here in Los Angeles, California, a top-ranking school named after my late son, Daniel Pearl. I have seen, year after year, how students of diverse background and heritage walk with a flower in their hand and, speaking in the parents' language--Spanish, Hebrew, English, Russian and Arabic-- place the flower in a huge Baguette in the center of the room – a symbol of their unity and common humanity.

I dread to see this spirit of comradeship ruined by the "oppressed" – "oppressor" ideology of the proposed Ethnic Studies Curriculum.

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