

From: Gayle Rosenthal
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 7:38 AM
To: Ethnic Studies
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Blatant anti-semitism in curriculum

Dear Commissioner Chao,

I want to register my concern as a United States citizen and as a Jew, regarding demands by Palestinian radical activists over ethnic studies curriculum.

Israeli Arabs and descendents of Palestinian Arabs are second and third generation removed from true "refugees". Rather than assimilate like the countless displaced populations have done across the globe, and across time, these residents of other nations like Jordan and Lebanon, are unfairly privileged with inherited refugee status. They are the only refugee population in history to be so privileged. In addition, Jordan and Lebanon largely refuse to grant them citizenship. Refugee descendants who have settled in the United States abuse the privilege of freedom of speech by agitating against Israel and fomenting violence against Jews all over the world, including Europe and Latin America. Arab countries such as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon foment hatred and war with Israel, when in fact they themselves are guilty of ethnic cleansing of countless Jews over the past 70 years and also of confiscating their land and property.

It does not take much of an internet search to find the hate-filled message of student and advocacy groups who demand the right of return to Israel and who advocate for an end to the State of Israel. Such would change the course of history and cause the displacement of Jews in Israel who have either generations of Jews before them or have been themselves ethnically cleansed from Europe and the Middle East.

Any curriculum should stick to the facts:

1. MODERN HISTORY OF JEWS:

There were 15 million Jews in the world before the Holocaust. There are barely 15 million Jews in the entire world today, 70 years later.

2. ANCIENT HISTORY OF JEWS:

There have been more than 2,000 years of ethnic cleansing of Jews in Europe and the Middle East, beginning with the Babylonian Captivity 2,500 years ago, the Roman sacking of Israel and the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD.

3. RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF JEWS, MUSLIMS, AND CHRISTIANS:

Judaism is the source faith of the 3 Abrahamic faiths.

This is a chronological fact. Both Christianity and Islam are derivatives of Judaism. Judaism is the foundation faith and remains small because it does

not encourage or offer mass conversion or forced conversion. Jews have also been persecuted throughout history which keeps their numbers small as a proportion of world population. Judaism is also the source the most universally accepted moral code throughout and across history, including our U.S. Constitution.

4. THE VALUE OF LITERACY

Jews have been the earliest people to bring literacy to their general population. This is the source of their advanced cultural development. They hold a disproportionate number of Nobel Prizes and excel in all professions disproportionately. Vile stereotypes and screeds about Jews in media and banking are unjust and wrong.

Commissioner Chao, please share this message with all of your committees and curriculum development experts. I beseech you.... if our country continues on this path to allow the foment of Jew-hatred, there will be a second Holocaust in the making and California will be guilty of not only anti-semitism, but of contributing to ethnic cleansing and also of genocide.

Regards,
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Austin, Texas