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Yeshiva University  
Office of the President



From the desk of  
**Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman**

My Dear Friends,

On the eve of Yom HaShoah, I am standing in Poland about to begin the March of the Living with thousands of students who have gathered from around the world to walk to Auschwitz in the footsteps of those who were killed in the Holocaust. This year, in consideration of the campus unrest throughout the country, the organizers of the event invited me to lead the march with a delegation of university presidents. The message of this moment could not be more clear. The dangers of allowing hate to go unchecked are real.

We are witnessing today an inflection point in Jewish history. Recent protests in support of Hamas have frequently veered into vile antisemitism and on many college campuses we are seeing anti-Jewish hate reach levels previously unimaginable.

In my recent visit to Israel for Pesach, the disturbing events on college campuses were a main topic of conversation. Last week I met with Prime Minister Netanyahu in his office. Together with Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs, Ron Dermer, we discussed the ways in which the American Jewish community is addressing this rising tide of hate. They emphasized to me the important role Yeshiva University and our students play in standing up for Israel and in combating antisemitism. I have found the same expressions of appreciation from a number of ministers in the Knesset and from President Herzog.



[Click here](#) or on the image above to see the readout of my meeting with the Prime Minister

As the flagship Jewish university, we will not leave behind Jewish students who feel threatened on their campuses. Even though our enrollment is full, we have reopened our transfer portal for undergraduate applicants who are seeking our environment of shared values, academic excellence and student safety. We will keep the transfer portal open through an extended deadline of May 31.

But we cannot fit all of the Jewish students in the country in Yeshiva University, and it would not be good for America and our broader society to do so. The Jewish community and all people of moral conscience need to hold these universities accountable to make sure that campuses are taking the necessary measures to prevent intimidation and hate speech. Campuses need to be safe for Jews, not free from Jews.



[Click here](#) or on the image above to watch my recent discussion about our transfer deadlines and the unrest across U.S. campuses. For a more extensive discussion, [click here](#) for my TOI interview

The current turmoil on campuses has illuminated Yeshiva University's distinction and accentuated the importance of our mission. While campuses throughout the country are working to defend the right of their Jewish students to exist, our students are being nourished with the knowledge and inspiration to be the leaders of tomorrow.

As we begin the ten day period that marks Yom HaShoah, Yom HaZikaron, and Yom Ha'atzmaut, Jews around the world will be commemorating both the tragedy and promise of the 20th century. At YU, we know that our students not only mark the past but will shape the future. They carry with them our collective memories and core values which empower them to be the leaders who will bring a better future to us all.

My best wishes for a meaningful week ahead,

Rabbi Dr. Ari Berman  
President, Yeshiva University



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