FAQs: Campus Antisemitism Legal Line (CALL)

Q: What is the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line?
A: The Campus Antisemitism Legal Line (CALL) is a free legal protection helpline for students, faculty members, and staff who have experienced antisemitism on campus, or online. Anyone impacted by antisemitism on campus who is seeking legal advice can submit an incident report to the CALL website or text “CALLhelp” to 51555 and receive free, 24/7 support.

Q: Who is partnering on this new initiative?
A: Hillel International, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the Brandeis Center, and the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP (Gibson Dunn) are the creators of this project. Supporting Jewish organizations include the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA), the American Jewish Committee (AJC), and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. In addition to Gibson Dunn, other law firms, including Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP and Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP will help provide legal support. CALL is actively seeking other law firms, companies, and organizations to help support this effort.

Q: How does the helpline work?
A: Anyone who has been impacted by incidents of antisemitic hate or bias on campus — including students, faculty, staff, and professionals — can request legal help through the CALL website. After an incident is submitted, it will go through the following intake process:

1. The submission will be triaged by a lawyer from Gibson Dunn
2. A thorough review of the information will be conducted by the legal team*
   *As noted on the website, anyone who feels they are in immediate danger should call 9-1-1, or contact local law enforcement
3. The review team will determine if legal representation is recommended;
   a. If “Yes”, a lawyer will be assigned
b. If “No”, advice will be shared with the person who submitted the incident

Q: What type of incidents can be submitted?
A: Any incident of antisemitic discrimination, intimidation, harassment, vandalism, or violence that may necessitate legal action can be submitted to the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line (CALL). While the primary focus is college campuses and online incidents that impact college and university students, all submissions of antisemitic incidents will be reviewed, including those from K-12 schools. Please note that at this time, CALL lawyers will only be able to provide support for incidents and cases occurring in the United States.

Q: What is the cost for students, faculty, and families who receive legal services through CALL?
A: There is no cost for students, faculty, and families for any aspect of CALL, from submitting an incident to receiving legal services and representation. Lawyers from Gibson Dunn and the other participating law firms are providing these services pro bono because of their commitment to the Jewish community, and to countering antisemitism in all forms, including on campus.

Q: Why is Hillel International participating in this effort?
A: As the world’s largest Jewish campus organization with 1,200 professionals interacting with thousands of students every day, it is important that Hillel participate in this effort, rather than defer it to off-campus, outside organizations that don’t have as complete an understanding of the campus environment. In addition to building flourishing Jewish campus communities and educating university presidents and leadership about antisemitism through programs like the Campus Climate Initiative, legal support for students and families can be an important tool for helping to reduce campus antisemitism.

Q: How do you anticipate this impacting campus Hillels?
A: While it’s too early to assess the full impact of this initiative, our belief is that this new helpline will provide an important (and simple) answer for Hillel professionals when students, faculty, or parents ask for legal advice related to campus antisemitism – there will be one convenient place to direct them for expert support. The helpline and associated process for vetting and addressing legal claims will also provide campus Hillels with a simple way to direct (and deflect) the growing number of inbound legal-related requests coming from students, professionals, faculty, and others. By having Hillel International participate in this effort, we will also work to ensure that the perspectives and interests of campus Hillels are considered. In the coming days, we will be providing templated emails so that Hillel professionals can have language on hand when responding to these requests, and directing constituents to the new helpline.

Q: How will this initiative impact other tools and programs for reporting and responding to antisemitism on campus, such as IAP and ReportCampusHate.org?
A: All incidents of antisemitism on campus (or online that impact college and university students) should continue to be reported by campus Hillels to their IAP and CSD teams, and should be entered at ReportCampusHate.org to ensure that every incident is tracked, reported, and acted upon, regardless of whether legal support is sought. When in doubt, we recommend timely reporting through all of the relevant channels to ensure a quick and thorough response, and that the right support is provided.

Q: I’ve seen legal initiatives about antisemitism on campus from other organizations and law firms. How is this one different?
A: There are many options for legal support for students, faculty, and families who have experienced antisemitism on campus. However, CALL has a few unique benefits that make it the most effective mechanism for legal support. These include: Dedicated pro bono support from some of the world’s leading law firms, led by Gibson Dunn; knowledge of the campus environment provided by the world’s largest Jewish student organization,
Hillel International; expertise from some of the world’s foremost legal experts on campus antisemitism, who have decades of experience specific to this area of law; and the full backing and commitment of the world’s largest Jewish communal organizations.

These FAQs will continue to be updated following the public launch of the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line on Monday, November 6.