**Dear Classmates who have Registered for our Jan. 22 program on American Anti-Semitism:**

We are looking forward to having a conversation with you about rising anti-semitism in the U.S. and some of the stereotypes and tropes associated with Jews. Below is a slightly revised description of the event, as well as four links you may want to look at in advance of the program to get a feel for the context in which this idea arose:

1. Information about The Mapping Project, a map of 600 institutions, schools and individuals named as supporting the colonization of Palestine
2. The *Wellesley News* editorial supporting the Mapping Project
3. President Paula Johnson’s response to the editorial
4. Not specifically related to the above events, a graphic of the “Pyramid of Hate” which shows how biased attitudes and behaviors can encourage more blatant threatening and ultimately fatal actions toward a marginalized group.

Also attached is a resource list of sites and articles for further understanding of this complex and nuanced topic.

We look forward very much to our conversation with you on Sunday, January 22 at 4 pm, Eastern!

Kim Gilbert, Reverend Irene Monroe, and Sherry Zitter

**American Anti-Semitism:**

**Tropes, Micro-aggressions and Ways to Support the Diverse Jewish Community**

Two Jewish and one African American classmate will lead a discussion on anti-semitism in the US and at Wellesley, past and present. This will NOT be a discussion of Israeli politics or the specific topic of Jews of Color; rather, a time to explore and challenge stereotyping and micro-aggressions.

The session will emphasize building bridges and safety for all, whether Jewish, Palestinian, or from other marginalized groups. Discussions will focus on common confusions or pitfalls, allowing for diversity of viewpoints and how to hold complexity of identities with empathy, while supporting basic safety and rights.

1**. From The Mapping Project: <https://mapliberation.org/>:**

**“**Welcome to the Mapping Project. …Our work is grounded in the realization that oppressors share tactics and institutions – and that our liberation struggles are connected. We wanted to visualize these connections in order to see where our struggles intersect and to strategically grow our local organizing capacities.…

Our goal in pursuing this collective mapping was to reveal the local entities and networks that enact devastation, so we can dismantle them. Every entity has an address, every network can be disrupted."

The following is the webpage on Wellesley College:

<https://mapliberation.org/plain/entities/WellesleyCollege.html>

Nadja Hajj (a Palestinian who is co-chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Department and professor of the course on “Palestinian-Israeli Peace Prospects” described below) felt unsafe after threats following the publication of the Mapping Project and changed the location of her class to an undisclosed location.

**Wellesley College**

* **Type**: [University](https://mapliberation.org/plain/entity_types/University.html)
* **Complicit in:** [Propaganda/Normalization](https://mapliberation.org/plain/harms/Propaganda-Normalization.html), [Zionism](https://mapliberation.org/plain/harms/Zionism.html)
* **6** links
* View on [map](https://mapliberation.org/dev/map_js/?entities=Wellesley%25252520College)

Pro-Israel students and administration at Wellesley college have engaged in tactics of harassment and intimidation to repress the organizing efforts of Palestinian students and their allies, creating a climate in which students who support Palestinian liberation, those on student visas in particular, [no longer feel able to speak freely](http://thewellesleynews.com/2021/05/31/palestinian-professors-and-students-question-wellesley-communitys-silence-on-palestine/) without risking consequences. When Palestine is discussed at Wellesley, it is discussed through classes such as [PEAC358 / POL2359-2 "Palestinian Israeli Peace Prospects,"](https://catalog.wellesley.edu/course.php?pos=87&doc_type=PEAC+358) a class which, true to its name, misrepresents events on the ground in Palestine as a "conflict" requiring "peace negotiations, conflict mediation, compromise, and solutions," whitewashing over the reality of Israeli ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homeland met by Palestinian efforts to remain on and reclaim their land and resources. Wellesley college also [works with](http://archive.boston.com/news/local/articles/2011/07/03/birthright_israel_at_wellesley_college/) Birthright Israel to [encourage students](https://www.instagram.com/wellesleyinisrael/?hl=en) to attend free propaganda trips to Israel.

2**. Editorial in the Wellesley News, (9/28/22), supporting the Mapping Project:**

<https://thewellesleynews.com/2022/09/28/the-wellesley-news-calls-for-the-liberation-of-palestine/>

[This is an updated/edited version of the original editorial, which appeared in the Wellesley News on September 28, 2022.]

Sadly, members of the editorial board felt threatened and some deleted or privatized their social media accounts after receiving threats after this editorial was published. They also removed their names from the public masthead of the paper.

3**. President Paula Johnson’s response to the editorial:**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XeI8A__9lSRXtIk8HtLQmjauBjaD-RZoanffq2JraJ0/edit>

A group of students who vehemently disagreed with President Johnson’s response marched chanting to her home and surrounded it.

(If you sign in to the College website and go to this link, you will get more information on President Johnson’s responses to this situation:)

<https://alum.wellesley.edu/class-of-1956/news/latest-news/p/~board/1956-news/post/president-paula-johnson-on-anti-semitism>

We have heard reports of both Jewish and Palestinian students on campus feeling unsafe, and being fearful of expressing views on the Mapping Project and broader Israeli-Palestinian issues. Growing up in such a polarized political climate, these students have not had the benefit of wise adult role models having thoughtful dialogue about differences of opinion.

4. **Pyramid of Hate graphic**:

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/pyramid-of-hate.pdf>

**Further Resources on Antisemitism: (including an article by our own Reverend Irene Monroe)**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1x-nbFYQEAxTlxQ5NtLMLDIhTtj_my66u/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113134561299350559643&rtpof=true&sd=true>