



DATE:

22 June 2026

Statement Regarding Islamophobia and Discontinuation of History Education in Sharon Public Schools

On June 19, JVP Boston learned of disturbing incidents in Sharon Public Schools in Sharon, Massachusetts. A Jewish teacher of a World History course showed two videos that highlighted the human cost of war, one depicting a Palestinian father and daughter navigating checkpoint humiliation and resource scarcity, and the other depicting an IDF soldier suffering from PTSD. At the behest of two parents' complaints of anti-Semitism regarding the videos, the School Committee called this teacher's material anti-Semitic, forced the teacher to discontinue the unit, temporarily replaced her with an administrator with no world history expertise who could deliver more "balanced" content, and considered a resolution to ban the discussion of controversial topics. The School Committee eventually voted to direct the superintendent to vet the curriculum for "anti-Semitic content" without further definition of anti-Semitism.

On behalf of the thousands of Massachusetts-area Jews who support our movement and know that Palestinian and Jewish liberation is intertwined, JVP Boston would like to affirm that showing the lived impact of historical events on human beings, in this case both Palestinians and Jews, is NOT anti-Semitic. The suppression of history and the denialism of the lived impact of war on human beings, however, is anti-Semitic, because it further engrains the same revisionist, anti-education climate that created the Shoah, Shoah denialism, and anti-Semitic stereotypes.

It is deeply upsetting, but not surprising to us that following this incident, there was an outpouring of Islamophobic and anti-Semitic hate toward teachers and community members online. Those who attempted to raise awareness about this injustice were called terrorists and associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, Iran, Qatar, Hamas, and Hezbollah. The teacher was called a "self-hating Jew" and a "Pick me Jew" and subjected to threats of sexual abuse and death. School leadership has not acknowledged or challenged these characterizations or offered protection and/or support to the teacher.



These incidents are just the latest in a long pattern of Islamophobia by members of the Sharon Public Schools community. Muslim students and community members have experienced the last-minute cancellation of Eid observations, hijabi speakers, and events supporting hijabi students. Muslim voices have been repeatedly questioned, marginalized, and falsely accused. Palestinian history and perspectives are facing removal from the curriculum. Members of the School Committee continue to wield their power to reinforce discrimination and repression.

JVP Boston and our supporters are committed to ensuring that Muslim and Palestinian students, educators, and community members in Sharon are afforded the same dignity, representation, and protection as all others. Furthermore, we stand in solidarity with all other teachers who have defended the importance of teaching history, no matter their religion, and taught especially the lived impact of apartheid and genocide on all human beings, including our shared communities. The intertwined struggle of Palestinians and Jews to navigate freedom and safety must not be undermined.

In solidarity,

The JVP Boston Chapter Council
on behalf of JVP Boston



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