

Encampments set up by Oxford Action for Palestine were cited in the report as an example of the hostile environment at some universities

ADRIAN DENNIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Two thirds of Jewish university staff report antisemitic abuse at work

The government has been urged to take action after a survey found that almost half of those surveyed were considering leaving academia or the UK altogether

NEW



David Brown, Chief News Correspondent

Thursday November 26 2026, 12.20pm, The Times

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Antisemitism has become “entrenched in UK academia”, causing almost half of Jewish university staff to consider quitting their jobs or leaving the UK.

The government is being urged to order a review of antisemitism in higher education after new research found that 69 per cent of Jewish academics had experienced abuse at work.

Examples included a colleague saying “It’s a shame the Nazis didn’t finish the job” and another commenting “we all know who really controls these companies and who controls these wars”.

Of the 106 Jewish academics who responded to the survey, 60 per cent reported having seen antisemitic posters, banners, badges, stickers or graffiti on campus.

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The research found that 45 per cent of Jewish staff were considering leaving their current post, or UK academia altogether, because of antisemitism.



Professor Brad Blitz, president of the ICPG, said: “Jewish academics are telling us that antisemitism has become part of their working lives, and that too often it comes from the people they work alongside.”

The charity has made 14 recommendations, including that the government commission an independent review of antisemitism in higher education by the end of March, similar to Sir David Bell’s review of schools and colleges which was published in October.

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It also wants all universities to be required to publish how they respond to complaints of antisemitism and disciplinary processes by the start of the 2027-28 academic year.

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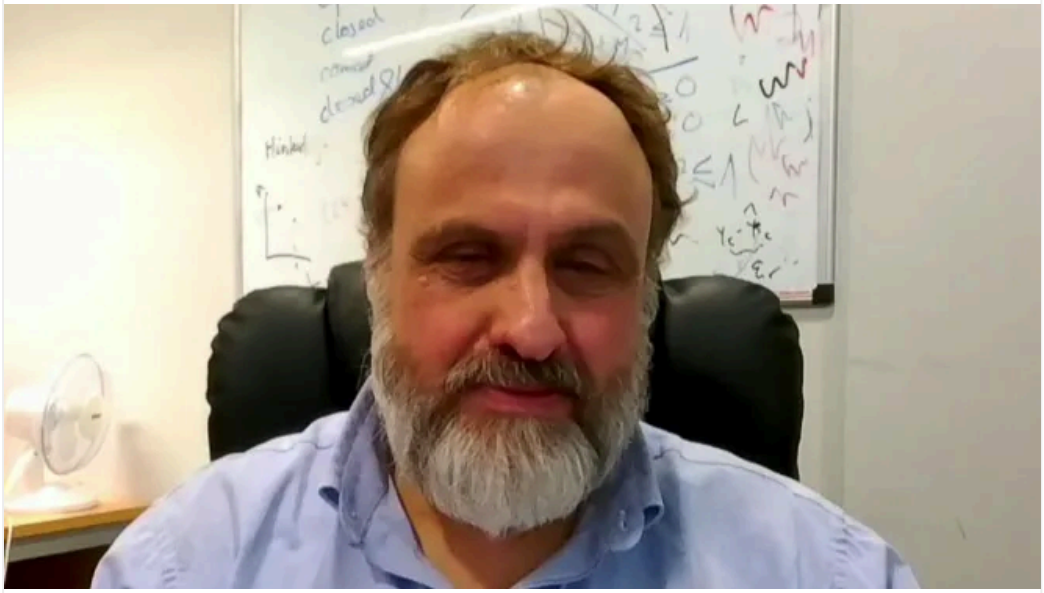
Separate research published last year found that Jewish higher education students were verbally abused and faced violent threats across the UK.

Abuse of academics highlighted by the new report includes the case of Michael Ben-Gad, an economics professor at City St George's, University of London, who was the target of a campaign organised by City Action for Palestine (CAP), a London-based student and activist group.

Ben-Gad, the son of Holocaust survivors, studied and worked at Israeli universities and completed compulsory national service in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) from 1982-85. The CAP campaign demanded the termination of "the Ex-IDF terrorist's contract' and a public apology from the university. Masked protesters entered one of his lectures.



Michael Ben-Gad was targeted by a pro-Palestine activist group

Baroness Morgan of Cotes, a former education secretary, said: "This is an extremely disturbing report that reveals the hate faced by Jewish teaching staff at universities. It should shock ministers and university leaders into action to hear almost half of Jewish academics are considering leaving their jobs due to



Baroness Morgan of Cotes

WIKTOR SZYMANOWICZ/FUTURE PUBLISHING VIA GETTY IMAGES

The report also highlighted the Oxford Action for Palestine encampment, supported by more than 500 staff and 2,000 students, which demanded the university terminate all institutional connections with Israeli universities including ending exchange programmes.

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Although Oxford's administration did not formally adopt a boycott, the pressure created an atmosphere that "contributed

Christ'

Baroness Deech, a former independent adjudicator for higher education and a past principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, said: "The hatred comes as much from colleagues as students.

"This is a shocking indictment of the universities' failure to allow their lecturers to do their jobs and ensure that students learn impartially and peacefully. If Jewish academics are silenced or leave, the loss to the universities and students would be incalculable."

Students

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Mick Flynn
17 MINUTES AGO

Anti semitism is unforgivable. But so often it seems a person's huge unpopularity due to their vocal support of the disgraceful state of Israel is characterised as 'antisemitism'. It's not. There is no natural right to popularity I'm afraid.

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D **D Doner**
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You lost me at BUT.
There is no but. No excuse. Wake up.

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S **S Martin**
17 MINUTES AGO

Not in the least bit surprised. It's all very sad, and dangerous.

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L **Laurence Wolff**
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The BBC, universities, the NHS - the virus is widespread.

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C **Colin Nugent**
15 MINUTES AGO

This is appalling. These people can no nothing about the situation in the Middle East, any more than than you or I can. Perhaps the rest of us should target Palestine action, and where they contain non UK citizens, support their removal from this country.

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H **Howard Klineberg**
12 MINUTES AGO

Let's all hate Muslims due to the incredible number of terrorist attacks made by Islamists isn't acceptable and so it's also totally unacceptable to blame Jews or indeed

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