

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 247

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Rutgers University address all incidents of hate and exclusion, including antisemitism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Rutgers University to address
2 all incidents of hate and exclusion, including antisemitism.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, An act of hate or exclusion directed toward a specific
5 group reflects a lack of tolerance and empathy, and attempts to
6 deny equality and dignity to the targeted group; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey has a history
8 of antisemitic incidents including acts of vandalism, hateful flyers,
9 and statements made by community members on social media; and
10 **WHEREAS**, The most recent incident, in April of 2021, occurred during
11 an event held by the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi to
12 remember the victims of the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah,
13 Holocaust Remembrance Day, when an individual, or group of
14 individuals, threw eggs at the fraternity house; and
15 **WHEREAS**, The event consisted of a 24-hour reading of the names of
16 victims of the Holocaust in order to commemorate the six million
17 Jews systematically murdered and persecuted by the Nazis and their
18 collaborators, and to reaffirm the commitment to the dignity of
19 those murdered and to the need to respect the rights and liberty of
20 all people; and
21 **WHEREAS**, An increasing number of people do not have knowledge of
22 the Holocaust, distort the history of the Holocaust, or deny the
23 reality of the Holocaust, highlighting the need for increased
24 education and programs on the Holocaust such as the one held by
25 Alpha Epsilon Pi at Rutgers, and on Judaism as a whole; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Though Rutgers has been making efforts to be a diverse,
27 equitable, and inclusive community, there is more to be done in
28 order to stop these incidents from occurring in the first place as no
29 minority group of students, faculty, or staff should be marginalized,
30 ignored, or excluded; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Rutgers should be committed to a swift and appropriate
32 response to bias incidents, regardless of whether the incidents rise
33 to the criminal level; and
34 **WHEREAS**, Every student, staff member, and faculty member deserves
35 to be safe, supported, and included within the Rutgers University
36 community; and
37 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper that this House condemn strongly all
38 hatred and bigotry and urge all residents of this State to fight
39 antisemitism and all forms of bigotry and hate in order to create a
40 better, more inclusive society; now, therefore,
41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
43 *Jersey:*
44
45 1. This House urges Rutgers, the State University of New
46 Jersey to address all incidents of hate and exclusion, including
47 antisemitism, and to engage with members of the university

1 community in order to improve educational efforts concerning the
2 Holocaust and Judaism.

3

4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
6 President and four Chancellors of Rutgers, the State University of
7 New Jersey.

8

9

10 STATEMENT

11

12 This resolution urges Rutgers University to address all incidents
13 of hate and exclusion, including antisemitism, and to engage with
14 members of the university community in order to improve
15 educational efforts concerning the Holocaust and Judaism.

16 There has been history of antisemitic incidents at Rutgers
17 University, most recently at a Yom Hashoah event held by the
18 Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, when eggs were thrown at the
19 fraternity house during the 24-hour reading of names of the victims
20 of the Holocaust. Holocaust education is increasingly important as
21 people have less knowledge of the atrocities, diminish or shift the
22 blame of the events of the Holocaust, or deny the Holocaust
23 occurred.

24 Though Rutgers has been working towards creating a more
25 diverse and inclusive community, more needs to be done to stop
26 bias incidents from occurring and on appropriate responses to make
27 sure every community member is safe.