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JCRC-NY Statement on The New School's Anti-Semitism Panel

The Jewish Community Relations Council of New York (JCRC-NY) is appalled by The New School's co-sponsorship of a panel on "Anti-Semitism and the Struggle for Justice," which features individual activists seeking to manipulate the definition of anti-Semitism for their own nefarious political agenda. Asking the members of this panel to discuss anti-Semitism is the equivalent of asking white supremacists to discuss racism.

By participating in The New School's panel, the vicious anti-Zionist organization Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) and its allies will attempt to reframe their malicious attacks against Israel as mere "criticism of Israeli policy." In reality, JVP's vile rhetoric extends far beyond legitimate criticism into the realm of delegitimization and destruction. While denying the Jewish people's right to self-determination and denying Israel the right to exist, JVP conforms to the State Department's definition of anti-Semitism. It is immoral and repugnant for a respectable university in New York to provide a platform to those who perpetuate anti-Semitism and label them as experts in that very same subject.

Our community is deeply distressed by the resurgence of Nazi-era chants of "Jews will not replace us" and "Blood and soil" from white supremacist groups and neo-Nazis carrying torches into the night. We are shaken by frequent calls for the destruction of Israel and by extension the Jewish people. Jewish schools, synagogues, fraternities, dorm rooms, institutions, community centers, and cemeteries have been victims of desecration, vandalism, and bomb threats. JCRC-NY takes these anti-Semitic threats seriously and works closely with law enforcement to ensure the physical safety of our Jewish communities and defend their rights. We cannot afford to remain silent when the very definition of anti-Semitism is obfuscated by political fanaticism.

JCRC-NY demands that The New School (1) conduct an investigation into how this panel was composed, (2) remove the university's co-sponsorship of this panel, and (3) sponsor an event that seriously explores the scourge of anti-Semitism.

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