

Subject: Today's Protest
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 9:08:26 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: President Gregory L. Fenves
Attachments: Outlook-xqrsi1ew.png, Outlook-zj11fczv.png



Dear Emory Community,

Earlier today, there was a protest on our Atlanta campus by members of the Emory community. Throughout the event, antisemitic phrases and slogans were repeatedly used by speakers and chanted by the crowd. I cannot be more clear—this kind of rhetoric has no place at Emory. I am appalled by this behavior. It violates our core values, particularly our commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all who learn, work, and live on our campuses.

The terrorist atrocities and ensuing war in Israel and Gaza have horrified us all, and the continued loss of innocent life is deeply painful. So many at Emory have risen to meet this challenging moment—fostering dialogue, hosting vigils, relying on our religious leaders across faiths, and leaning into the expertise of our scholars. But antisemitic slogans degrade that important work and the mutual respect that underpins the Emory community.

Emory has a long and distinguished history of supporting open expression. We welcome peaceful protests. We welcome a vast range of ideas and perspectives. But antisemitism targeting Jewish members of our community, even as part of a protest protected by our Open Expression policy, must be called out for what it is—divisive and reprehensible.

No matter how strongly you feel about an issue, there is another perspective to consider and there are other people with their own beliefs, values, and history that you may not agree with or fully understand. Seek out that other perspective. Seek understanding over division and hateful attacks.

Your words are powerful. I urge you to use them respectfully and in a manner that

values every person at Emory. That isn't too much to ask. It's simply the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Fenves', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gregory L. Fenves
President



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