

Centers for Educational Justice & Community Engagement at UC Berkeley Condemn Canary Mission

As centers that exist to advance social justice and create equitable experiences for marginalized and underserved student populations at the University of California at Berkeley, we condemn the Canary Mission website as an effort to intimidate and blacklist students, faculty, and activists who stand for justice for Palestinians.

Canary Mission is an anonymously hosted website and social media initiative that slanders student, faculty, and activists critical of the policies of the state of Israel as extremist, anti-Semitic, and sympathetic to terrorism. They do so by writing grossly distorted descriptions of their targets, and publicizing their names, social media accounts, employment history, and other personal information. Dozens of UC Berkeley students and faculty have been listed on Canary Mission and have faced threats, harassment, and material harm as a result.

Our centers recognize the function of Canary Mission as a campaign to threaten the security of those on the website, especially students and campus community members, to heighten anxiety and fear, and infringe upon people's ability to freely express their opinions. Advocacy for Palestinian rights is not inherently anti-Semitic, and students working towards principled human rights activism on campus should be protected on our campus. Canary Mission seeks to silence free and open campus discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and any public opinion critical of the Israeli state. We reject their McCarthyist tactics and affirm the core values of social justice and freedom of speech that are at the heart of our work at UC Berkeley.

Signed by the Centers for Educational Justice & Community Engagement (EJCE):

African American Student Development
Asian Pacific American Student Development
Chicanx Latinx Student Development
Gender Equity Resource Center
Multicultural Community Center
Native American Student Development