

MARYLAND HILLEL'S RESPONSE TO CRISIS



MARYLAND
— HILLEL —



Maryland Hillel has supported our students as they navigate what occurred just three weeks ago, and is ongoing today. We know many of our students have connections to Israel - family, friends, and other loved ones. In times of crisis, being in community, Am Yisrael, is more critical than ever. This packet shares the support of our administration and the important work our students are doing.



UPDATED STATEMENT FROM UMD PRESIDENT PINES

October 13, 2023

Dear University of Maryland community,

On Monday, October 9, we addressed our campus community to express our shock and sadness at the terrifying attacks by Hamas on Israel and Israeli citizens, and to offer support to members of our community. Over the past few days, we have witnessed and learned more about the horrifying and brutal nature of the innocent loss of life. In no uncertain terms, we condemn these acts of terrorism.

The violence hits home here on campus too, with some in our community fearful for their safety in light of recent calls for violence.

Our university is committed to the safety, care and support of every member of our community. We have increased police presence on campus. We have also advised faculty to demonstrate flexibility for students who request absences and extensions on coursework deadlines, and offered counseling support for any community member who needs it.

At many universities across the world, including our own, students are gathering to share their personal stories, to protest the violence, and to mourn the tragic loss of life throughout the region. It is our role and duty as educators to support their right to free expression while at the same time prioritizing safety for all.

To all Terps who have loved ones in Israel and Palestine, we are here for you.

Above all, we hope that our entire community of students, staff, faculty and alumni will raise our voices as advocates for peace.

Sincerely,

Darryll J. Pines
President, University of Maryland, College Park
He/Him/His

Georgina Dodge
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion
She/Her/Hers

NEWS COVERAGE



Stories Beneath the Shell

By Morgan Leason

On a dark, windy Monday night, students gathered at “The Vigil: Now and Forever, We Stand With Israel,” an event on McKeldin Mall to pray for those at risk in this war, and for those who have died. The event gathered nearly 1,000 University of Maryland students who came to show their solidarity with Israel, according to Rabbi Ari Israel, the executive director of UMD Hillel.



NBC New 4 Video Coverage

The Washington Post



HIGHER EDUCATION

At colleges, violence in Israel and Gaza ignites a war of words

College campuses have long been staging grounds for debates over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. War has intensified them.

By [Jack Stripling](#) and [Laura Meckler](#)

Updated October 11, 2023 at 1:26 a.m. EDT | Published October 10, 2023 at 8:11 p.m. EDT



University of Maryland students pray at a vigil for Israel on Monday. (Julia Nikhinson for The Washington Post)

THE DIAMONDBACK

Menu



CAMPUS NEWS

About 1,000 UMD community members gather for vigil after attack in Israel

Natalie Weger · October 12, 2023

STATEMENT BY UMD PROVOST JENNIFER KING RICE

October 12, 2023

Dear Faculty and Instructors,

We have all watched with dismay, shock, and concern the events unfolding in the Middle East over these last several days. The devastating impact of the terrorist attack and resulting declaration of war is felt not only in Israel and Palestine, but throughout the world and here at the University. As an international community of scholars, staff, students, and alumni, it is important that we extend our support to those who have been affected by the terrorism and war.

I recognize that many of our students and their families and friends may be impacted by this tragedy, and ask that we all demonstrate compassion, understanding, and care during these challenging times. Students who are affected may require extra time, absences, or other assistance regarding their course participation or other responsibilities.

Additionally, I am aware of concerns for safety. Nothing is more important than the safety of our university community. Without a safe and secure campus, we cannot fulfill our academic mission. Our Chief of Police and UMPD have a robust and comprehensive safety plan in place. Again, I urge flexibility in all the ways that are possible to support our students.

Finally, I also want to acknowledge the impact that the war may be having on you and your family, friends, and colleagues. Thank you for supporting one another.

If you, your students, or colleagues need help, please know that the Counseling Center and the Faculty Staff Assistance Program are available as resources for those who may be struggling.

Sincerely,

Jennifer King Rice
Senior Vice President and Provost
She/Her/Hers

TERPS AT WORK



Students were invited to 6th & I Historical Synagogue to the “Unity in Crisis: Emergency Solidarity Mission for Israel” and heard from big political and Jewish speakers

Students tabled outside all week to raise money for Israel as well as spread awareness to what is happening in Israel.



STUDENTS HAVE RAISED OVER
\$50,000 TOTAL FOR ISRAEL



Spearheaded by the Jewish Student Union and Terps for Israel, over 1,200 students attended a Vigil in support of Israel and the Jewish community

MOMENT OF SILENCE AT HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the UMD Athletics and Administration teams for their unwavering support in observing a moment of silence for victims of terror in Israel at the recent football game.

This thoughtful gesture provided a meaningful opportunity for all attendees to come together, reflect, and honor those impacted. It was a powerful reminder of the strength of our community and the compassion that unites us all

STATEMENT TO ISRAEL GAP YEAR STUDENTS

October 20, 2023

Dear Future Terps:

We understand that you are spending a Gap Year in Israel before you begin your studies at the University of Maryland in Fall 2024. Some of you are studying in Israel; some of you are in the Israeli military; some of you may be engaged in other activities. In any case, we are writing to you today out of our deep concern about your safety and well being. While you are not yet "officially" a Terp, we already regard you as a treasured member of our educational community. We are thinking about you and are holding you in our hearts.

Shalom,

James B. Massey Jr.
Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Rabbi Ari Israel
Maryland Hillel

Ross Lewin, PhD
Associate Vice President for International Affairs

Andrea Goodwin
Dean of Students



TERPS AT WORK



We provided spaces for students to to freely talk about their feelings on the situation, which gave them a sense of community in a tough time.

3 Strands, our Challah baking club raised over \$1,000 at their Challah braiding event last week!



Students attended a rally in DC and heard from various political figures including those from foreign embassies to show their support.

TERPS AT WORK



We hosted Shabbat 1,000: 1000 Strong for Israel which brought together Jewish students from across campus. Adam Lehman, CEO of Hillel International, was in attendance as well.

Mishelanu and Terps For Israel hosted a cooking class making chocolate balls, which is a classic Israeli homemade dessert. Some normalcy in a time that is anything but.



Students held a phone-a-thon competition to continue their fundraising efforts! They raised over \$10k in one day.

REMARKS AT VIGIL BY RABBI ARI ISRAEL

We are gathered here, over a thousand Terps strong in solidarity, prayer, reflection, strength, allyship and...song

...the hurting song of the heart that cries out in pain

...the intellectual song that screams out how and why could this happen

...the supporting song for fellow Terps who have lost cousins and friends

...the mournful song of the soul that grieves the loss of life

...the resilient song of 85-year-old Holocaust survivor held captive in Gaza

...the silenced song of 7 year old Batoul, a Palestinian girl killed today as my Jewish faith embraces that all human being are created in the image of Gd

...the eternal song of sadness for over 900 Israelis murdered, the single largest day of tragedy for the Jewish people since the Holocaust

...the song of hope as we will end tonight singing HaTikvah I am grateful for our student leaders and Hillel colleagues for assembling this austere holy space & stand here as a proud Jew, and worried son, brother, uncle, father, father-in-law and grandfather of direct relatives in Israel.

When I asked my daughter in Jerusalem how my 3 year old grandson Yaakov is faring with all of the sirens from missile attacks, she shared his response "probably there's a big emergency and they're going to help." He isn't old enough to recognize that a siren of terror is not a siren of help. He doesn't understand and neither do I...do any of us? I stand here in silence of trying to find words to express the hurt and loss. The dismay and the tragedy I wish I had the naivete of a three year old to only see the good in all people, alas I know and saw pure evil and hatred the other day. And yet...I see so much goodness in front of me now - all of us standing here screaming out Hinainee, here I am - I want to be counted - I care - I want to help - I can and I will, and we are all grateful for your strength - your hug - your tears - your smiles. Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel charged humanity with the following: just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, so too, hope, like peace, is not a gift from Gd. It is a gift only we can give one another. I wish I had as much hope in humanity as Elie Wiesel did. As my grandson son. I don't know. But I cannot give up and must try. We will pick up the song from the music festival in Israel that was silenced on Shabbat morning by gunfire and we will keep on singing. As Elie Wiesel relayed when he was in the hospital in New York, his grandson Elijah visited, sat on his bed, and said, "Grandpa, I know you suffered a lot, and you have great pain. But you know how much I love you, tell me, if I loved you more, would you suffer less?" If I loved you more, would you suffer less? This doesn't answer the hard questions, but it does give me an action item Love more so others will suffer less! We will now share a moment of silence for the pain is too loud and the silence of thought is our safe space. Let us spread wishes of healing and strength to those families and injured and kidnapped Israelis, and to the Israeli Defense forces who are working tirelessly to save lives! For our first song, we are going to sing Ani Maamin which was sung by Jews on the ways to gas chambers in the Holocaust - I have faith - I live with and for redemption, no matter how long it takes nor no matter how much suffering we endure, Ani Maamin - I keep on believing and singing!

IMPACTFUL EVENTS

 GREEK PACKAGING EVENT FOR ISRAEL

 TEHILLIM

 COMMUNITY ISRAELI DANCING

 LETTERS TO IDF SOLDIERS

 COMMUNITY SHABBAT AT HILLEL

 VIDEO TO IDF/FORMER UMD STUDENT

 AIPAC CALLS TO CONGRESS

 ISRAELI FLAG AND PIN SALES

 MILE FOR MDA