



April 8, 2021

Dear Board of Trustees of Linfield University,

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is a leading anti-hate organization founded in 1913 to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all. We are often contacted by concerned community members who witness or learn of incidents of bias, discrimination, or hate and after hearing from concerned community leaders from two of Oregon's Jewish institutions, we contact you today.

After learning about allegations of antisemitism on campus, we reached out to Professor Daniel Pollack-Pelzner who shared concerning details about recent incidents at Linfield University. Professor Pollack-Pelzner, who is a Jewish member of the Board of Trustees of the University, reported that he experienced religious harassment after he reported that members of the Board of Trustees were accused of sexual misconduct.

In response to his actions and over the course of his employment at Linfield, several antisemitic comments were allegedly directed at Professor Pollack-Pelzner, including comments about "Jewish noses," Jewish "secret agendas" and "power grabs," and that Professor Pollack-Pelzner could only show loyalty to Linfield by accepting the teachings of Jesus Christ. These comments are very common antisemitic tropes and extremely troubling.

Additionally, it has come to our attention that Linfield University downplayed the appearance of swastikas on campus and other hate incidents.

We are not representing Professor Pollack-Pelzner, nor are we serving as his attorney in this matter, and we are not in a position to verify the allegations he has made. However, we are troubled by Professor Pollack-Pelzner's description of these incidents, and we urge you to investigate these claims and to take any action you may deem necessary to ensure a culturally sensitive campus environment.

In order to mitigate the harm caused by discrimination, or even the perception of discrimination, it is important that Linfield University thoroughly investigate the allegations raised. Ideally, any such investigation should be independent and transparent and include a full investigation of the Board's conduct. At the conclusion of the investigation, regardless of outcome, you should communicate the results to the community.

Additionally, we encourage the Board of Trustees and other University leadership to attend training to address bias and/or antisemitism. Campus leadership should learn how to respond effectively to bias and implement policies on campus that establish a more welcoming, inclusive and diverse environment where all individuals are valued and respected. We hope that ADL can be a resource to you in this and any other related matters.



We thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you promptly. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mcypers@adl.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miri Cypers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Miri Cypers
ADL Pacific Northwest Regional Director

CC: Linfield University President and Members of the Board of Trustees