



"To promote solidarity with Israel through education and advocacy"

Don't Let Your City Become the Next to Boycott Israel

In April of 2018, Durham, North Carolina became the first city in the United States to boycott police trainings with Israel – the only Jewish majority country on the planet. No other countries were singled out or mentioned. As explained by the Mayor Pro Tempore of Durham, the City Council issued “a statement affirming a city policy against police exchanges with Israel.”

The Durham City Council’s decision to **discriminate** against Israel and the Jewish people was in direct response to an intense lobbying campaign and petition lead by the deceptively named Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). In their lobbying materials to the Council, JVP falsely **accused** Israel of training U.S. police forces to “**terrorize Black and Brown communities here in the U.S.**” One Council member even explained that the anti-Israel policy statement was a “compromise” with JVP.

One of the speakers who presented at City Hall right before the Council voted referred to Jews as “the Synagogue of Satan.” Less than two weeks after the Durham City Council voted to demonize Israel, anti-Semitic posters appeared in Durham and were removed by city workers.

A widely read column in a Durham paper, signed by eleven local rabbis, **explained**, “Rabbis rarely agree, but we, rabbis from Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh, do all oppose the petition and subsequent City Council statement on April 16 banning police exchanges with Israel. For many Jews in Durham, that vote felt like a punch in the gut.”

The mainstream Jewish community is working together to make Durham a city that is truly welcoming to all. To that end, Voice for Israel and the Jewish Federation of Durham-Chapel Hill jointly filed **complaints** with Durham’s Human Relations Committee (HRC) and with the Department of Justice.

Following their “success” in Durham, JVP adopted the rallying call, #DoltLikeDurham, signaling their intent to bring their anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist tactics to other communities. Durham is clearly “patient zero” in JVP’s plan to have other local governments single out and discriminate against Israel and the Jewish people.

Local Jewish communities need to be aware of what just happened in Durham so this anti-Israel hate does not spread to your city and local government.

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