



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, SW
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION XI
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA
WASHINGTON, DC

December 22, 2023

By email only to [REDACTED]

David Weisberg
[REDACTED]

Re: Case No. 11-24-2119
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

On December 7, 2023, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) received your complaint against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (University). You alleged that the University discriminated against students on the basis of national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) by failing to respond appropriately to incidents of harassment in October and November 2023.

OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulation, at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance from the Department of Education. Because the University receives federal financial assistance from the Department of Education, OCR has jurisdiction over it pursuant to Title VI.

Because OCR determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was timely filed, OCR is opening the complaint for investigation. OCR will investigate the following issue:

Whether the University responded to alleged harassment of students based on national origin (shared Jewish ancestry) in a manner consistent with the requirements of Title VI.

Please note that opening an investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination on the merits of the complaint. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the Complainant, the University, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and fully responds to the allegation in accordance with the provisions of the [Case Processing Manual](#). Please open this link for additional information about [OCR's Complaint Processing Procedures](#).

When appropriate, a complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation if the university expresses an interest to OCR in resolving the allegation(s) and OCR determines that it

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is appropriate to resolve them because OCR's investigation has identified concerns that can be addressed through a resolution agreement. In such cases, OCR obtains a resolution agreement signed by the university. This agreement must be supported by the evidence obtained during the investigation, and it must be consistent with the applicable statute(s) and regulations(s). Additional information about this voluntary resolution process may be found in OCR's *Case Processing Manual*.

Please be advised that the University must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint against the University with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, OCR will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Gooft Nissim, the OCR attorney assigned to this complaint, at 202-245-7261 or sharon.nissim@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Dan Greenspahn
Team Leader, Team 1
District of Columbia Office
Office for Civil Rights