

AUJS

Australasian Union of Jewish Students

A GUIDE TO SUPPORTING YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS



 @AUJS

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 info@aujs.com.au

WHAT IS AUJS?

The Australasian Union of Jewish Students is the democratic peak representative body for Jewish tertiary students across campuses in Australia and New Zealand. We were founded in 1948 and are affiliated with the World Union of Jewish Students. We operate at a national, regional and campus level and are committed to bringing Jewish life to students both on and off campus.

OUR VISION

We envision a world where every Jewish student is inspired to make a lifelong commitment to local Jewish life, Israel and Jewish peoplehood.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide meaningful experiences to Jewish students, to develop and strengthen their sense of Jewish identity and Jewish Leadership.



WHY DID WE MAKE THIS GUIDE?

The issues Jewish students face are the exact same issues faced by all Students: fees, housing, problems with their courses, exams, cost of living etc. However, Jewish students, like any other minority, face additional issues as well.

These issues are partly caused by the unique experiences of the Jewish community but can also relate to the global rise in antisemitism.

Universities should be a safe and inclusive space. In order to make universities more inclusive to Jewish students, we don't just need to fight antisemitism, but we must also address other issues crucial to Jewish student life. For example, making sure we are represented in student spaces, and providing kosher food at events.

We know the Jewish communities in Australia and New Zealand are small, which is why we have created this guide. We hope it starts a conversation, and we are always here to answer any questions.



THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA

The Jewish community in Australia has a rich and diverse history, with roots tracing back to the early 19th century. The first Jews arrived in Australia as convicts transported from Britain. Over the next century, significant numbers of Jewish immigrants arrived from Europe and the Middle East, fleeing persecution and seeking economic opportunities.

Today, the Jewish community in Australia is estimated to number around 120,000 people, with the largest concentrations in Melbourne and Sydney. The community is diverse in its origins, with Jews from countries such as Russia, Poland, Germany, South Africa, and Israel. Despite its relatively small size, the Jewish community in Australia has made significant contributions to the country's cultural, economic, and political life, and continues to maintain a strong cultural and religious identity.

Australia has the highest percentage of Holocaust survivors per capita outside of Israel. In total, about 35 000 pre-war Jewish refugees and post-war Holocaust survivors had immigrated to Australia by 1961. Many Jewish students have family stories of survival and refuge, whether that be from the Holocaust or pogroms across the Middle East.

The Jewish museums are a great place to learn more. If you are interested in a tour, please reach out to us and we can help to arrange one.

WHAT ARE JEWISH HOLIDAYS?

The Jewish community enjoys a number of holidays throughout the year. Additionally, Jews also celebrate Shabbat (the Jewish day of rest) every week from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. On Shabbat, some Jews do not use electricity or technology, write, travel (besides walking) or handle money.

Different holidays have different requirements: Some require a similar level of obligations as Shabbat (no technology, no writing, etc.), whilst some require fasting, and others have more lenient requirements. The holidays that require the same level of observation as Shabbat are called Yom Tov/Yom Tovim (plural). On these dates, observant Jewish Students will be unable to attend lectures, write exams or submit work.



WHAT DOES 'KOSHER' MEAN?

Kashrut is the body of Jewish dietary laws that govern what foods are permissible to eat and how they should be prepared.

The main rules of kashrut are based on the categories of animals and birds that may be eaten and the ways in which their meat must be prepared. According to kashrut, only certain species of mammals (such as cows, sheep, and goats) are permissible to eat. Kashrut also requires that meat and dairy products not be cooked or consumed together, as this is considered "meat mixed with milk," which is prohibited. In addition, there are restrictions on the types of fish that may be eaten. For example, shellfish is not kosher.

There are varying levels of Kashrut in the Jewish community. Some Jewish students choose not to eat any products which are not Kosher and will only eat foods prepared in a kosher manner, and labeled as such. Other Jewish students opt to eat vegetarian or vegan food when outside the home, as they only eat meat and fish prepared in a kosher way.

If you ever have any questions about how to best accomodate for kosher students, please reach out.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

INCREASE KOSHER FOOD ON CAMPUS AND AT EVENTS

One way to make your events and spaces more inclusive and welcoming for Jewish students is to provide kosher food and snack options at your events. You can check out the Kashrut Authority Australia product directory (Ka.org.au) to find a list of kosher snacks. If you are serving kosher products or snacks, make sure to use disposable cutlery to adhere to the highest level of observance. If you would like help connecting with Kosher caterers and providers in your city, please reach out to us.

Here are some examples of some easy to find kosher snacks:

- Plain Kettle chips
- Carmens Bars
- Dairy Milk Chocolate
- Sunrice Rice Cakes
- Obela Hummus



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

BE AWARE OF JEWISH FESTIVALS AND SHABBAT

Many Jewish students feel excluded from student spaces on campus, as many events and parties are held on a Friday night or on a Jewish festival.

We encourage everyone to try and make sure that events are accessible to Jewish students by scheduling events on Saturday or Sunday nights instead. Before picking the dates for major events throughout the year, please look at the dates of the Jewish festivals. We have attached a calendar in this guide.

Another way to show your Jewish students that you recognise their religion and culture is by posting on socials for Jewish festivals, wishing the community your best, or by supporting your local Jewish students club in running events on campus for Jewish holidays.

This way, students will feel represented and comfortable to share their culture with others.



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

HELP AUJS AND JEWISH STUDENTS AVOID CLASHES BETWEEN JEWISH HOLIDAYS AND UNIVERSITY

Some Universities allow Jewish students to take exams or lectures, scheduled during Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, at an alternate date. That, however, is not the case everywhere, and often, Jewish students are dependant on the goodwill of their individual lecturers or professors. Every member of AUJS across Australia and New Zealand has access to our resources to provide any documentation they need to submit to gain special considerations.

What you can do:

- Have a clear and easily accessible procedure that helps Jewish students understand the resources available to them for academic support.
- Include Jewish students in any research or consultation you are doing regarding academic support and provisions.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

RUN AN ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS TRAINING

Antisemitism is a complex and nuanced issue that can be difficult to understand. This is why the Australasian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) has developed an antisemitism awareness training specifically for non-Jewish student unions. This training is designed to help student leaders understand the complexities of antisemitism and to recognise the different forms it has manifested in throughout history. The training will also explore the impact that antisemitism can have on Jewish students, and how it can create a hostile and unwelcoming environment in educational institutions if not addressed.

This training will touch on common misconceptions about the Jewish community, and the historical roots of antisemitic tropes and stereotypes. We look at modern, historic, indirect and direct examples of antisemitism on campus. We know the Jewish community is small, and we want to teach you about our family histories, our stories and our culture.

Understanding the history and culture of the Jewish community is key to addressing antisemitism today. We will work with you to cater the training to your specific needs and level of understanding.

By participating in this training, student leaders will be equipped with the knowledge they need to promote a more inclusive and respectful environment for all students, and will gain a more in depth understanding of the Jewish community.

If you are interested in running this training on your campus or for your student union, free of charge, please email info@aujs.com.au.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on January 27th each year to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust; a systematic and systematic extermination of six million Jews and other minority groups by the Nazi regime during World War II. The significance of this day lies in remembering the atrocities committed during the Holocaust, educating future generations about the dangers of hatred and prejudice, and honouring the survivors and victims of this tragic event.

According to a recent study, 1 in 4 Australians know little to nothing about the Holocaust. At the same time, the number of survivors able to give testimony is declining every year. Therefore, giving consideration to Holocaust remembrance is crucial.

In order to stand up against hate today we must remember and learn from the past.

We would be more than happy to help you put together a commemoration or event for your campus (year-round).

If you want to organise a Holocaust commemoration, please get in touch with us at info@aujs.com.au.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

ACKNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNISE ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism is often dubbed "the world's oldest hatred" because it has existed for centuries, and manifested in different ways over time. With this in mind, antisemitism can be very difficult to identify and call out. Historically, manifestations of antisemitism have shown how prejudice and intolerance can lead to systematic harassment, discrimination, and, ultimately, mass displacement. We are really lucky and fortunate that in Australia and New Zealand, physical attacks against the Jewish community are rare, and when they do occur, they are called out. However, we have seen an alarming rise in insults and attacks which capitalise on thousand year old stereotypes.

One reason why antisemitism can be difficult to define is that it often involves negative attitudes and beliefs about Jews that are deeply rooted in cultural, religious, and historical stereotypes. For example, antisemitism has often involved the belief that Jews are greedy, powerful, and manipulate world events for their own benefit. These beliefs are so ingrained in certain cultures that they can be difficult to recognize and challenge.

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

ACKNOWLEDGE AND RECONGISE ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism does not exist on a political spectrum. In the 20th century, the Jews were blamed for the rise of capitalism, and at the same time, the rise of the communism. In order to understand contemporary antisemitism, it is essential to learn about the history of antisemitic tropes and the Jewish community. Below are some books and resources that we recommend:

- Jews Don't Count, By David Baddiel
- People Love Dead Jews, by Dara Horn
- Antisemitism Here and Now, by Deborah Lipstadt
- How to Fight Antisemitism, by Bari Weiss
- The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum "Holocaust Encyclopedia" series on Antisemitism

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism encapsulates how historical antisemitic tropes can play out in a contemporary context. This definition is largely endorsed by Jewish communities across the globe as a means of defining our experiences. IHRA is an important guide to recongising what antisemitism can look like.

Read the working definition in full [here](#).

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR JEWISH STUDENTS

IF YOU SEE ANTISEMITISM ON CAMPUS

Antisemitic incidents on campus take place in various forms. It could be a 'Hitler was right' stickers placed on campus, it could be the use of antisemitic language or symbols from a student, staff or representative, or it could be verbal abuse directed at a visibly Jewish student.

When incidents of antisemitism take place on campus, it is important to support your Jewish students.

- 1. If a crime is occurring or anyone is in any immediate danger, please first contact the police on 000.**
2. Report any antisemitic incidents to AUJS at incidentreporting@aujs.com.au. Depending on the incident, we will work with the impacted students, relevant organisations and university to address the incident.
3. Reach out to the Jewish student club on your campus, and let them know that you are standing alongside them.
4. Call antisemitism out publicly. Let Jewish students know that this behaviour is not acceptable on campus.
5. Run antisemitism awareness training for your club/student union, so they can call it out as well.

JEWISH CALENDAR 2023

DATE	FESTIVAL
NIGHT 5 FEB	TU BISHVAT
6 MAR	FAST OF ESTHER
NIGHT 6 MAR	PURIM
5 APRIL	FAST OF BECHOROT
NIGHT 5 APRIL	PESACH*/ PASSOVER
7 APRIL	THE WEEK OF PASSOVER
NIGHT 13 APRIL	END OF PASSOVER*
NIGHT 17 APRIL	YOM HASHOAH (HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY)
NIGHT 24 APRIL	YOM HAZIKARON (REMEMBRANCE DAY)
NIGHT 25 APRIL	YOM HA'AZMAUT (INDEPENDENCE DAY)
NIGHT 8 MAY	LAG BA'OMER
NIGHT 25 MAY	SHAVUOT*
NIGHT 5 JULY	FAST OF 17TH OF TAMMUZ
NIGHT 26 JULY	TISHA B'AV (FAST DAY)
NIGHT 1 AUG	TU B'AV
NIGHT 15 -NIGHT 17 SEPT	ROSH HASHANAH* (JEWISH NEW YEAR)
18 SEPT	FAST OF GEDALIAH
NIGHT 24 - 25 SEPT	YOM KIPPUR* (DAY OF ATONEMENT)
NIGHT 29 SEPT	SUKKOT*
NIGHT 30 SEPT	WEEK OF SUKKOT
NIGHT 6 OCT	SHMINI ATZERET*
NIGHT 7 OCT	SIMCHAT TORAH*
NIGHT 7 -15 DEC	CHANUKAH

*YOM/TOV (RELIGIOUS DAY). ON THESE DAYS JEWISH STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND CLASS, USE TECHNOLOGY OR USE ELECTRICITY.