



## **Statements from Ron Albucher and Sheila Levin**

### **Ron Albucher:**

As a mental health counselor, I strongly support diversity, equity and inclusion as a way to grow as therapists and enhance our abilities to work skillfully with a wide range of students of different backgrounds and identities. I want to ensure that Stanford is a welcoming place for everyone and I was excited to participate in the CAPS DEI program when it started. But I was appalled when I realized that the DEI program is accomplishing precisely the opposite of its intended aims. Instead of facilitating the full inclusion of all members of the Stanford community, the CAPS DEI program is undermining that goal by promoting anti-Semitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories about Jews and teaching CAPS clinicians that anti-Semitism doesn't matter.

It was deeply hurtful and shocking to me when my own colleagues accused me of derailing the DEI's agenda merely because I asked the program to address anti-Semitic incidents that happened on Stanford's campus. I was distressed and disturbed to hear leaders of the DEI program invoke anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about Jewish wealth and power to justify their decision to ignore anti-Semitism. No one stood up for me. The hostility directed at me by DEI committee members based on my Jewish identity forced me to drop out of the DEI program, furthering my sense of isolation and exclusion. As a Jewish person, I do not feel the CAPS DEI program is a welcoming place where I can safely explore issues of diversity, equality, and inclusion in a supportive environment.

As the former director of CAPS, I am deeply troubled that CAPS and Vaden leadership have failed to recognize and repair the problems in the CAPS DEI program to ensure that the program does not perpetuate hostility against Jews. I sought the Brandeis Center's help because I am very concerned about the dangerous consequences of the CAPS DEI program for future CAPS clinicians and for Jewish students at Stanford. I am very worried that CAPS mental health clinicians, who are exposed to anti-Semitic narratives that vilify and stereotype Jews and are taught that anti-Semitism doesn't matter, cannot provide effective and unbiased mental health services to Stanford's Jewish students.

### **Sheila Levin:**

After a zoom-bombing at Stanford, where students were exposed to images of swastikas, and yet again after swastikas were found on the Stanford campus, the CAPS DEI program decided to ignore the swastikas and omit the topic of anti-Semitism from its discussion. The deafening silence by CAPS' DEI program in response to symbols of Jew-hatred on Stanford's campus was even scarier to me than the swastikas themselves.

I was shocked and scared as I watched members of the DEI committee verbally attack my Jewish colleague merely because he asked them to address anti-Semitism. I couldn't believe that our own colleagues would spew such vile anti-Semitic accusations and conspiracy theories. I was too

intimidated to even speak up in Ron's defense because I was afraid I would be subjected to the same vitriol. The CAPS DEI program is not a safe space for Jewish staff like me.

The CAPS DEI program assumes that because I am Jewish, that I am white, or that I can hide behind my white identity, and that I therefore belong in the "white affinity" group. Assuming that I, an immigrant Jewish daughter of World War II survivors will feel any special affinity with people because they identify as white, is naive and hurtful; because it ignores the history of the Jewish people, including my own family who were traumatized in the UK while the Nazis attacked Britain. They hid in bomb shelters and listened to the radio in terror while Jews were tortured and murdered around Europe because they were viewed as contaminants to the Aryan race.