

Scholars Circle Resource Guide

Double-sided

Upholding Israel's Rights: Challenging Anti-Palestinianism Narratives

SCHOLARS CIRCLE



About Dr. Mika Hackner

Mika is the Senior Research Associate at the Jewish Institute for Liberal Values (JILV). She has a PhD in Politics from Brandeis University where her research focused on internal challenges to liberal democracy. Her work at JILV continues that theme – focusing on ideological challenges to liberalism particularly as it relates to and/or causes antisemitism.

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OVER 1400 PEOPLE ENGAGED

The program offers a multifaceted teaching of worldly topics around Judaism and Israel. The Speakers Bureau consists of prestigious scholars, who provide simple and easy to follow presentations through 1-hour live lectures with Q&A. Resource guide included for all attendees. All lectures recorded.

SCHOLARS
CIRCLE
A Chai Mitzvah Program



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Common Q&A's

What is APR?

Anti-Palestinian racism (APR) is a fairly new concept, but one we are going to hear of more and more. To proponents of APR, anti-Palestinian racism is the erasure, silencing or excluding of Palestinian identity or narratives. APR can take many forms – including but not limited to denying Palestinian indigeneity to Israel; denying the Nakba ‘catastrophe’ of 1948, and justifying violence against Palestinians.

I thought ‘Palestinian’ was a nationality, why is it called APR?

You’re right to point out that APR seems to be a muddled concept. But I believe this ‘muddle’ to be a deliberate tactic to legitimize the claims of APR and make it harder to oppose implementing measures against APR. After all, no one wants to be deemed racist.

How big of a problem is it?

It is a new but growing problem. The Toronto District School Board adopted APR, meaning that how the conflict can be spoken about or taught will have to change – any challenge to the Palestinian narrative can now be claimed to be APR. Advocates for APR in the US are mounting challenges to school districts and colleges in order for them to adopt the definition of APR and to hold APR training for faculty, staff and students. Organizations like CAIR claim that APR is an influence behind the Biden administration’s policy in Gaza. The more the term is normalized and institutionalized, the harder it will be to challenge.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ APR is a new concept, but post-October 7th there has been a concerted effort to normalize the term and institutionalize it. Once embedded in organizations, such as in schools and colleges, it will be difficult to root out.
- ✓ APR mirrors the IHRA framework. And in so doing, it attempts to delegitimize the dominant Jewish narrative of the Israel-Palestinian conflict making only one narrative of the conflict appropriate to discuss, to teach or to express.
- ✓ The strategy of proponents of APR is to cloak their argument in social justice language, hence the term ‘anti-Palestinian racism.’ In this way, they change the terms of the debate to be not about asserting a narrative of the conflict but instead to be the socially acceptable and noble goal of fighting racism. In this way, anyone opposed to APR is automatically placed on the negative end of the racist/anti-racist binary. It is no surprise or coincidence that APR gained popularity following the George Floyd riots.

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