



June 11, 2021

Dear Law School community,

The recent events in Israel and Palestine have caused pain and trauma across the globe. Closer to home, we've seen an increase in acts of both antisemitic and Islamophobic violence. From attacks on Jewish people in New York and Los Angeles to the murder of a Muslim family in Canada, we are once again starkly reminded of the persistence of antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The persecution of people based on their identity is a scourge on society that has impact far beyond the immediate victims. I have heard from members of our law school community about the anxiety, uncertainty, anger, and fear that they are experiencing. I write today not only to acknowledge that pain, but to encourage us to show support to all those who are impacted by antisemitic and Islamophobic violence. Despite fierce disagreements we may have on a variety of matters, there is no justification for hate crimes or discrimination.

As we emerge from COVID and begin to re-engage with each other, it is my fervent hope that we can do so with the spirit of community and inclusivity that we continue to build here at the law school.

Sincerely,

Dean Perdue