



IlliniPAC - Illini Public Affairs Committee

Statement on Chicago Dyke March

On June 24th at Chicago Dyke March, members of the Jewish community were banned from carrying LGBTQ+ rainbow pride flags printed with the Star of David, a symbol of Judaism. Dyke March organizers and volunteers demanded participants to leave, claiming they were “triggering and offending” other attendees. They followed up by asking the participants, “Are you a Zionist?” and then stating, “This march is pro-Palestine and explicitly anti-Zionist.”

A Jewish attendee forced to leave was quoted saying: “It’s hard to swallow the idea of inclusion when you are excluding people from that. People are saying ‘You can be gay but not in this way.’ We do not feel welcomed. We do not feel included.”

Following these events, the organizers of the Dyke March released a statement doubling down on their actions and claimed that they were opposing “pink washing.” This term is used explicitly to discredit the Jewish/Israeli LGBTQ+ community, and the progressive strides that the Jewish State has made in this area. Israel is the only country in the Middle East to provide the LGBTQ+ community with the very rights that pride parades demand. This double-down statement endorsing anti-Semitism by was signed by several groups.

The Students for Justice in Palestine chapter at the University of Illinois was one one of the signatories of this statement. University of Illinois students are constantly faced with anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist, and anti-Israel rhetoric expressed by SJP and other groups. Jewish and pro-Israel students are excluded from campus events and social movements because of their faith or support of Israel.

What we find most disheartening is the way the organizers were able to isolate Jewish supporters from their right to freely participate solely based on their religion. We stand strongly against these actions and respect the rights of all races, religions, nationalities, sexualities and genders to participate in the movement celebrating the rights of LGBTQ+ communities across the world.

To isolate Jews from standing in solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community with which the State of Israel identifies, respects, and proudly celebrates, is more than just unacceptable; it is racist, hateful, and anti-Semitic. We hope you will join us in standing up and speaking out against this hatred, rejecting these actions by the Dyke March, and ensuring they never happen again. Together, we must work to further the rights and freedoms of LGBTQ+ persons both on-campus, and around the world.

About us: *Illini Public Affairs Committee (IlliniPAC) is a bipartisan organization of pro-Israel students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign dedicated to strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel. IlliniPAC advocates for bipartisan Congressional support for a strong U.S.-Israel alliance, educates the student body on the importance of supporting Israel, and engages student leaders across campus to promote a pro-Israel environment at the University. Learn more at illinipac.org/about.*