

## BBYO Antisemitism Survey: Executive Summary

### OVERVIEW

An online survey of 1,989 BBYO members was conducted on behalf of BBYO by First International Resources and Impact Research between **January 23 – February 5, 2024**. Survey respondents are current high school students (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) residing in the United States and Canada. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.2%.

### SUMMARY

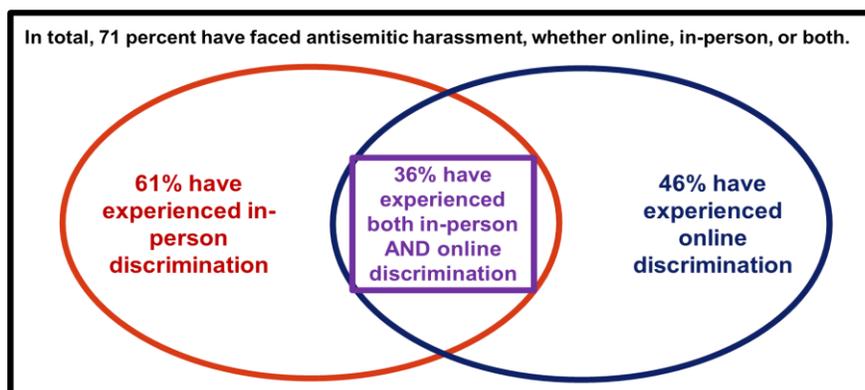
Overall, the data indicate that the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7<sup>th</sup> has had a traumatic impact on Jewish high school students in the United States and Canada. Since the start of the war in Gaza, Jewish students have been singled out, discriminated against, harassed online and lost friends simply because of their Jewish identity. They are facing this discrimination at school, online, and during extracurricular activities.

As a result, many of these students are (1) more concerned about going to school, (2) uncomfortable reporting incidents of harassment, (3) disengaging from spaces or activities and (4) factoring in levels of antisemitism in their decision on where to attend college. Not surprisingly, this has all combined to negatively impact their mental health.

Social interactions and increased engagement with BBYO are playing a critical role in helping these Jewish students navigate challenging and difficult times by providing crucial comfort and support, helping members share their thoughts in a more constructive manner and serving as a safe place to express feelings and concerns.

### KEY FINDINGS

**More than seven-in-ten BBYO members have experienced antisemitic harassment or discrimination.** In all, **71 percent** of BBYO members have experienced antisemitic harassment or discrimination. **61 percent** have experienced antisemitism in person, **46 percent** have experienced antisemitism online and **36 percent** have experienced antisemitism both online and in-person.



Among those who have experienced *in-person* discrimination or harassment, **46 percent** have experienced it at school, **19 percent** during extracurricular activities and **38 percent** have experienced antisemitism someplace else. The most common sources of harassment are classmates and peers.

**At least two-in-five BBYO members have either experienced each of the following types of harassment or know someone who has:**

- Had their concerns about antisemitism questioned, minimized, or dismissed (65 percent)
- Been harassed by anti-Israel or pro-Palestinian protesters or classmates (63 percent)
- Lost friends or been cut off by people due to disagreements over the fighting in the Middle East (57 percent)
- Disengaged from spaces or activities out of fear of being harassed over Israel (52 percent)
- Been held responsible for the actions of the State of Israel (49 percent)
- Been harassed for being visibly Jewish, such as wearing Jewish symbols, Jewish camp/youth group clothing, a kippah, or a Star of David (49 percent)
- Had someone attempt to intimidate them for wearing or owning pro-Israel items (41 percent)

Nearly half of those who have experienced in-person incidents, **45 percent, have not reported them**. A similar percentage, **49 percent**, said that they do not feel comfortable reporting such incidents.

Of the **46 percent** of teens who reported **facing antisemitism and targeting online**, the most common digital platforms where they have faced these issues are Instagram (33 percent), TikTok (23 percent) and Snapchat (17 percent).

An overwhelming number of BBYO members, **74 percent**, say they have seen more discrimination in school or during extracurricular activities **since October 7th**.

Since the start of the war, **teens are also more concerned about attending school**. A majority, **55 percent**, are more concerned about attending school since the start of the Israel-Hamas war and **38 percent** are more concerned about participating in extracurricular activities.

**54 percent** of respondents say their **mental health has gotten worse** since the October 7<sup>th</sup> attack.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents, **64 percent**, say **antisemitism on college campuses** is an extremely or very important factor in their decision on where to attend college.

Involvement with BBYO has helped students deal with the added stress and anxiety. Nearly three-quarters of BBYO members, **72 percent**, say that BBYO has influenced their ability to express their thoughts about Israel and/or antisemitism. This includes **38 percent** who say BBYO has helped them “a lot” and **34 percent** who say it has helped “some.”