

My name is Maya Sobel and I am a Jewish student at the University of Vermont who grew up in the Vermont education system. I am grateful for all of the opportunities that UVM has given me through my Jewish activism including bringing a Holocaust survivor to campus, traveling to the UAE to converse with Emiratis about the emerging Holocaust education in the country, visiting the only Holocaust museum in the Arab world, and meeting with the Biden-Harris Administration to contribute to the first ever U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.

Changing one word of clause B would change the entire trajectory of the education of future generations.

I was only in highschool a few years ago and I remember what it was like to sit in a classroom for 8 hours straight. I noticed what caught my peer's attention. Nazis. Gas chambers. Human experiments. Not the people they killed.

It has always disgusted me how students were more fascinated by mechanics of systematically murdering millions of people than learning about the minority groups that were dehumanized to the point where educated people- doctors, lawyers, teachers- decided that it was the right decision, or were indifferent to the decision, to eradicate them from society. This isn't limited to European history, as the Holocaust affected Jews across North

Africa and the Middle East even if they tried to change their religion (because Jews are an ethnic group).

I ask you: “what is the point of teaching solely about the systematic murder of millions of people while keeping their identity hidden?” So students would not be able to recognize antisemitism but know about the evil humans are capable of inflicting onto each other?

One of my friends is an education major completing her teaching practicum at a local middle school. Her students joke to each other during class through “Heil Hitler” salutes. Taking out the ethnic groups affected by genocide from clause B would enable this behavior after they graduate your school system.

George Santayana famously said that those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it. Learning about the most documented dehumanization process of a minority group that lead to a genocide should not be controversial. Only antisemities would want the actions of the past repeated.