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Jewish professor horrified by anti-Semitism on university campuses

If we don't act soon, our ability to generate knowledge, our safety, and our future could face disastrous consequences

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For the better part of twenty years, I've been active on university campuses in this country.

As a young undergraduate student at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, I was molded by mentors in the Political Science Department who gave my peers and I the freedom to debate everything from sex in politics, to our foreign policy, to the wars and carnage in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Years later, at York University in Toronto – where I completed a Master's degree – I vividly recall fiery classroom debates about the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the 2012 attacks on U.S. facilities in Benghazi, and the state of America under an Obama Administration.

Now, more than a decade later, I don't just participate in these discussions – I lead them.

Teaching courses on terrorism and global conflict at Carleton, I've repeatedly pushed students to challenge assumptions, to ask themselves and others hard questions, and to embrace the academic freedom we so often take for granted. Indeed, this freedom to pursue knowledge – wherever it may take us – is in my view the most critical element of higher education.

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