



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

1350 EUCLID AVENUE, SUITE 325
CLEVELAND, OH 44115-1812

REGION XV
MICHIGAN
OHIO

September 29, 2023

Via e-mail only at melissa@optnw.com

Ms. Melissa Landa
6601 Struttman Lane
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: OCR Docket No. 15-20-2049

Dear Ms. Landa:

On December 13, 2019, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the above-referenced complaint you filed against Oberlin College (the College). You alleged that the College discriminated against students on the basis of shared Jewish ancestry.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI) and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, including shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics, under any program or activity that receives Federal financial assistance from the Department. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the College is subject to Title VI.

OCR has completed its evaluation of your complaint. OCR will investigate whether the College failed to respond to the harassment of students based on national origin (shared Jewish ancestry).

Please understand that initiating an investigation does not mean that OCR has made a decision about your complaint. During the investigation, OCR is neutral; OCR will collect and analyze the evidence it needs in order to make a decision about your complaint. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and addresses your allegation, in accordance with OCR's *Case Processing Manual*. OCR would also like to make you aware that individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in federal court whether or not OCR finds a violation.

Also, when appropriate, the complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation when a college expresses an interest to OCR to resolve the complaint and OCR determines that it is appropriate to resolve the complaint allegation(s) because OCR's investigation has identified concerns that can be addressed through a resolution agreement. In such cases, OCR obtains a resolution agreement signed by the college. This agreement must be supported by the evidence obtained during the investigation, and it will be consistent with applicable statute(s) and regulation(s). OCR sent you additional information about this voluntary resolution process with

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

www.ed.gov

OCR's correspondence acknowledging your complaint and this information is also available on OCR's website at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaints-how.html>.

Please be advised that the College must not harass, coerce, intimidate, discriminate, or otherwise retaliate against an individual because that individual asserts a right or privilege under a law enforced by OCR or files a complaint, testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding under a law enforced by OCR. If this happens, the individual may file a retaliation complaint with OCR.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, it may be necessary to release this document and related correspondence and records upon request. If OCR receives such a request, it will seek to protect, to the extent provided by law, personally identifiable information, that, if released, could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

OCR will communicate with you periodically during its investigation. When contacting the office about your case, please refer to OCR Docket #15-20-2049. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Millette or Kay Longville, who are assigned to investigate this complaint. Ms. Millette can be reached by telephone at (202) 987-1829 or by e-mail at Ann.Millette@ed.gov. Ms. Longville can be reached by telephone at (202) 987-1828 or by e-mail at Catherine.Longville@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

(for) Brenda Redmond
Team Leader