



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

JOHN C. KLUCZYNSKI FEDERAL BUILDING
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CHICAGO, IL 60604

REGION V
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
IOWA
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September 17, 2024

Via e-mail only to: contact@legalinsurrection.com

William Jacobson
Legal Insurrection Foundation, Equal Protection Project

Re: OCR Case Number 05-24-2372

Dear William Jacobson:

On May 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), received the complaint you filed against Northwestern University (the University) alleging that the University discriminated against students on the basis of national origin when, on April 29, 2024, it entered an Agreement on Deering Meadow (the Agreement) with students and faculty to provide: full cost of attendance exclusively to five Palestinian students to attend the University, immediate temporary space for MENA/Muslim students, and a renovated house for MENA/Muslim students.

OCR processes complaints in accordance with its [Case Processing Manual \(CPM\) \(July 18, 2022\)](#). OCR enforces Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., and its implementing regulations at 34 C.F.R. Part 100, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, and national origin by recipients of federal financial assistance.

Section 110(h) of OCR's CPM states that OCR may close or dismiss an allegation where the same allegation has been filed as a class action against the same recipient with a state or federal court and the relief sought is the same as would be obtained if OCR were to find a violation regarding the allegation.

On May 20, 2024, a class action complaint with the same allegations of discrimination based on national origin was filed against the University in federal court. The relief sought is the same as would be obtained if OCR were to find a violation regarding the allegation. Based on this information, OCR is closing the complaint as of the date of this letter.

You may refile your complaint within 60 days following termination of the court proceeding if there has been no decision on the merits or settlement of the federal complaint. A dismissal with prejudice is considered a decision on the merits.

There may be state and local laws relevant to your complaint. You may wish to consult with a private attorney, local legal aid organization, and/or state or local bar association, which may be able to assist you further.

This letter sets forth OCR's determination in an individual OCR case. This letter is not a formal statement of OCR policy and should not be relied upon, cited, or construed as such. OCR's formal policy statements are approved by a duly authorized OCR official and made available to the public. Individuals who file complaints with OCR may have the right to file a private suit in court regardless of OCR's determination.

Please be advised that the University 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.

If you have any questions about this letter, you may contact Krenice Ramsey by telephone at (202) 987-1517 or by e-mail at Krenice.Ramsey@ed.gov.

Sincerely,



Marcela Sanchez-Aguilar
Chief Attorney