

Correction and letter to the Editor Submitted to New York Post re. Op-Ed on Choices Program

Regarding "[How Brown University spreads antisemitism even to high schoolers](#)" (New York Post, March 29, 2024, 5:16 p.m. ET)

Correction to the New York Post Sent on March 30, 2024

Dear Editors,

Brown University is seeking an immediate correction of two blatant errors of fact in the piece "How Brown University spreads antisemitism even to high schoolers." First, there is no identifiable source for the false claim that there was ever federal data of \$11 million received by Brown by the Palestinian Territories, as the article claims. The correct figure is \$643,000, not \$11 million. The University learned in January that the Foreign Source Reporting team in the Office of Federal Student Aid in the U.S. Department of Education accidentally re-uploaded data, which created two entries in 2020 for a single gift of \$643,000, and the correction has been made on the federal portal. Any member of the public can access the portal online and see one gift of \$643,000 from the Palestinian Territories on 02/05/2020. Search Brown University, RI, Palestinian Territories from 2020 – present, and this is the only gift. Even with the original federal government's erroneous double entry, there would be no justification for the false \$11 million claim in the article. That is a blatant error.

Second, the piece clearly seeks to represent that the curriculum resources on the Middle East "are used by 1 million students across the United States and in 200 international schools." There is no basis for this number. There are 41 different Choices social studies units that schools may purchase, and only one (1) is on the Middle East. The number of students using the Middle East curriculum is a small fraction of the 1 million that is quoted in the piece, estimated at less than 80,000.

We seek correction of these errors in the original published article and any republication online in the New York Post.

—Cass Cliatt

Letter to the New York Post Sent March 31, 2024 to letters@nypost.com

Universities bear a responsibility for interrogating widely varying – and sometimes highly debated – perspectives and viewpoints. This necessary role in helping students develop critical thinking is undermined by defamatory attacks against academic curricula like the social studies units in Brown University's Choices Program ("How Brown University spreads antisemitism even to high schoolers," March 29).

Through deliberate omissions, selective excerpts, and partial quotations, we see an effort to misrepresent an expansive and multi-faceted curriculum that is designed to be taught in its totality — not used for biased purposes, as reflected in the article. Choices has partnered with such organizations as Echoes and Reflections, the Illinois Holocaust Museum near Chicago, and numerous Holocaust and genocide centers to provide school materials.

Attempts to defame Brown also extend to the blatantly false claims about how academic programs are funded. Any member of the public can access the federal Foreign Source Reporting portal and get verified data on gifts to Brown. There is no credible source for the fabricated claims in the article. Brown is committed to academic integrity.

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