



September 4, 2024

Ms. Lynn Rauch, Esq.  
Ms. Hannah Girer-Rosenkrantz, Esq.  
Philadelphia School District  
Office of the General Counsel  
Suite 313  
440 N. Broad Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19130

*Via email and first class mail*

Dear Counsel:

The Deborah Project submits this Complaint on behalf of our client, the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia (“Jewish Federation”), against Keziah Ridgeway, a teacher in the Philadelphia School District. Ridgeway has posted threats of violence against members of the Philadelphia Jewish community who have been exercising their rights and responsibilities as families with Jewish children in the Philadelphia School District. Ridgeway has acted threateningly towards members of our community who dare to assert their right to hold and to act on their sincerely held religious beliefs and shared ancestry connections to Israel, the Jewish Homeland. These members of our community are Zionists and have attempted to stem the tide of vitriol emitted by certain members of the Philadelphia educators’ community—one of whose main leaders is Keziah Ridgeway—towards Israel and its supporters.

The School District of Philadelphia Jewish Family Association (“SDP JFA”) is an organization of Jewish parents with children in Philadelphia public schools who oppose efforts by a tiny minority of teachers, including Ridgeway, to insert into the District’s community and curriculum a hatred of Zionism, the national liberation movement of the Jewish people. As the Philadelphia School District is by this time well aware, Ridgeway has for many months publicly attacked and vilified any person—student, parent, teacher or member of the public—who criticizes her and her campaign against this Jewish principle. See attached examples of posts in which Ridgeway has attempted to share her own anti-Zionist sentiments with her students or place them into SDP’s wider curriculum. Exhibit A, attached hereto.

SDP JFA leadership has attempted to have the organization and its platform, rather than anyone’s personal identities, be the focus of its work for exactly the reason that Ridgeway’s violent post makes clear: that public identification would enable her to threaten and encourage physical violence against members of SDP JFA and their families, including, of course, their school age children.

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But late last month Ridgeway put up a series of ominous posts on her Instagram page in which she restated her belief that SDP JFA has no right to speak about her intentionally public denunciations of Zionism and anyone who supports it. She explained that she had previously demanded that SDP JFA **“keep my name out y’all mouth”** – in other words, she had demanded that her public hostility to Zionism and Israel, and her efforts to insert those beliefs into the SDP curriculum, no longer be the subject of public discussion by anyone who disagrees with her.

Ridgeway then posted the identities of several Jewish women<sup>1</sup>, some of whom are leaders of the SDP JFA, all of whom have worked assiduously to keep their identities private. She threatened:

**“Now I’m taking the gloves off.”**

Attached hereto as Exhibit B.

Because SDP JFA had refused to simply acquiesce in Ridgeway’s vitriolic and public hatred of supporters of Zionism and the state of Israel, and her vociferous and relentless promotion of that hatred in the Philadelphia public schools.

In her next post, on August 31, 2024, Ridgeway went further posting:

**“Ain’t no fun when the rabbit got the”** followed by an emoji of a face with finger on lips – thus supplying the end of the quote: **“gun.”**

Exhibit C, attached hereto.

And then, on September 3, 2024, Ridgeway posted an even more direct threat against the leaders of the SDP JFA, this time publicly asking:

**Black owned [gun emoji] shops in or near Philly?  
Asking for a friend.**

*Ibid.*

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<sup>1</sup> The names of the Jewish parents whose children are students in the School District of Philadelphia and who have been attempting to protect their and other Jewish children from the animosity fomented by Ridgeway and her fellow antisemitic activists have been redacted from this Complaint. Counsel will provide a copy of Ridgeway’s Instagram post in which their names are displayed if requested.

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There can be no doubt –because Ridgeway has said it herself—that these posts are designed to intimidate members of the Jewish community and their families and anyone else whom she perceives as opposing her toxic campaign against Zionism. Ridgeway posts these threats to silence her targets: to “keep my name out y’all mouth,” and so to stop them from objecting to and interfering with her continued reign of terror.

Ridgeway’s public posts, containing specific names and identities of those opposing her, pose a threat to the safety of these individuals and their families because Ridgeway’s words are a call to violent action, addressed to a wider audience including high school students. Ridgeway’s public social media includes minor children, many of whom are Ridgeway’s impressionable high school students whom Ridgeway has already indoctrinated with hate against “Zionists” (Jews) and promoted violence as “resistance,” and who may seek to gain Ridgeway’s approval. See Exhibit D, attached, for Ridgeway’s “Social Media Rules” directed to her students, past and present. What Ridgeway posted makes it clear that she knows many of her students and members of their families follow her on social media. For all of these reasons, Ridgeway’s social media posts with her public threats of violence violate the Employee Code of Ethics governing all public-school teachers. In relevant part, that Code provides:

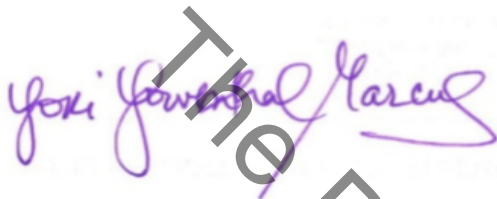
In particular, we cannot engage in conduct or use language that could be reasonably interpreted as abusive, hostile, intimidating, coercive, discriminatory, harassing or exploitative. We cannot refer to anyone else’s race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability in a negative or joking way in any job-related situation.

[https://www.philasd.org/src/wp-content/uploads/sites/80/2017/06/300\\_Employee-Code-of-Ethics\\_Guidelines\\_Aug-1-1.pdf](https://www.philasd.org/src/wp-content/uploads/sites/80/2017/06/300_Employee-Code-of-Ethics_Guidelines_Aug-1-1.pdf)

The District’s Code of Ethics is designed to create a school community in which people with different views can live, teach and learn together. Ridgeway’s demand that those whose religious and ancestral commitments she despises must cease resisting her hatred quite clearly violates both this ethical command and it makes it impossible for the District to be the learning community that the Ethics Code is designed to create. Her threats of physical violence against any members of the Philadelphia community—and here we are asserting the right of our client’s community, specifically—must not be tolerated. Coming as it does at the end, at least as of

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today, of her years' long, voluble, angry, and uncontrolled denunciations of Jews who insist on the legitimacy and legal protection for their religious and ancestral commitments, The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and its counsel, The Deborah Project, believes that the time has come for the Philadelphia School Board to enforce its rules against the serial offender, harasser, and Jew-hater Keziah Ridgeway.



Lori Lowenthal Marcus, Esq.  
Legal Director  
The Deborah Project

With Attachments

Join Philly Educators for Palestine for the first  
teach-in of the 24-25 school year.

All are welcome!

You do not have to be an educator to attend.



Swipe through the slides to learn more.  
There will be something for everyone!  
Lunch provided. Free childcare available.



## LESSON PLANNING

A breakout session for educators on how to  
talk about Palestine in the classroom.

Led by one of the editors of the forthcoming  
book "Teaching Palestine" (Rethinking  
Schools, 2024)

UNAFFILIATED, UNCOMMITTED, UNAPOLOGETIC, UNBOTHERED

# SDPJFA Leaders and Members:



teachkizyteach Edited · 3d

Part 1. I asked y'all nicely to leave me alone. I asked y'all nicely to keep my name out y'all mouth.

Now, I'm taking the gloves off. Y'all been harassing me for almost a year. Writing 10 page letters to the US Congress, Governor Shapiro, Philly City Council and The School District. Reporting me to Canary Mission like I give AF.

Y'all are bullies and you're mad because I won't take it lying down.

I'm not going to be silenced.  
I'm not going to quit.



teachkizyteach · [Follow](#)



I'm not making my account private unless I want to and I don't want to.

You can report me to the Department of Education 10 million times.

I'mma still talk my 🗨️

So now what?

Keep eating your time and energy up on me. What you want to happen, won't.

Zionism is Racism  
Zionism is White Supremacy  
Israel is Committing a Genocide

And who gone check me?



The Deborah Project

7:53



teachkizzyteach 2h  
From Create Mode >



**Ain't no fun when the**  
 **got the** 

The Deborah Project

Send message

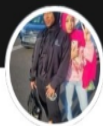




teachkizzyteach 1h



**Black owned 🖊️ shops  
in or near Philly?  
Asking for a friend.**



Send Recs

Type something...

Reply to teachkizzyteach...

