RASHTRA JYOTI

REPORT BRIEF
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Harvard Student Statement Draws Backlash and Withdrawn Endorsements

Original reporting by **Swati Goel Sharma**

An October 2023 Harvard student statement assigned Israel sole responsibility for unfolding violence after the Hamas attack. The report traces the backlash, university responses, hiring threats and withdrawn endorsements, exposing the consequences of a sweeping claim issued in student organisations' names.



Harvard University students facing backlash.

THE ESSENTIAL POINTS

- The coalition statement opened by holding the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence, the assertion at the centre of the backlash.
- Harvard president Claudine Gay's subsequent statement explicitly condemned Hamas's terrorist atrocities, saying that views about the conflict's origins could not excuse such inhumanity.
- The coalition later concealed the original signing organisations' names, citing student safety, according to the replacement notice reproduced in the report.
- By Tuesday, the report said five of the original 34 signatories had withdrawn their endorsement, marking a retreat after the public backlash.

THE TAKEAWAY

Five of the original 34 signatories withdrew their endorsement after the backlash, and Harvard's president said the student groups did not speak for the university.

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Updated from an original written by Swati Goel Sharma in October 2023. Summary prepared by Rashtra Jyoti Staff. Facts refer to the original reporting date.