



**NONE SHALL
BE AFRAID**
FIGHTING ANTI-SEMITISM

Anti-Semitism in the United States

For as long as the United States has existed, anti-Semitism has been within its borders. Sadly, anti-Semitism in the U.S. is at a near-historic high, and shootings at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life and Chabad of Poway synagogues have drawn renewed attention to the challenges facing the American Jewish community.

In the United States, anti-Semitism manifests in many different modalities, growing throughout society and across the political spectrum. Social media has likewise become an increasingly common breeding ground for the spread of these anti-Semitic activities and ideas.

Anti-Semitic Groups and Ideologies in the United States

With the rise of white nationalism and the alt-right in the past five years, anti-Semitic activity has become more aggressive and hostile toward American Jewish communities. Anti-Semitic groups such as the Klu Klux Klan, as well as newer hate groups such as the Patriot Front and the Proud Boys, have become emboldened in their hostile activities toward Jewish people and Jewish communities. The increased danger of anti-Semitism in the U.S. was clear during the Charlottesville “Unite the Right” rally in 2017, where the Charlottesville synagogue came under direct threat from white nationalists, while the night prior, torch-bearing neo-Nazis protesters invoked the Nazi-era slogan “Jews will not replace us.”

A study by the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism confirms this broader rise in hostility, showing that American Jews are subject to hate crimes more than any other religious group, with acts increasing by 40 percent annually and with these incidents becoming increasingly more violent. Ranging from the vandalism of Jewish cemeteries to terrorist-style attacks and bomb threats, the dangers facing American Jews are real and on the rise.

These acts of anti-Semitic harassment, assault, vandalism and terror have grown in the U.S. alongside growing left-wing anti-Semitism, also known as new anti-Semitism. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has emerged as a flashpoint for progressive activists that has divided several groups, including some of the leaders of the Women’s March. Rhetoric used by prominent progressive activists and politicians in these spaces crosses the line to become anti-Semitic when it denies Jewish people the right to self-determination or accuses Zionist Jews of having dual loyalties, among other criticisms.

Beyond rhetoric, the American Jewish community is increasingly unwelcome in many of these progressive spaces. For example, in 2017, Dyke March organizers around the country barred anyone displaying a Jewish pride flag featuring the Star of David from participating in their protests. In addition to being widespread on social media, anti-Semitism is particularly prevalent at American colleges and universities, particularly where groups affiliated with the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement increasingly espouse these anti-Semitic ideas and rhetoric. The result is often the isolation, discrimination, harassment and targeting of Jewish students.



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Another prevalent source of American anti-Semitism is Islamic extremism. Groups such as the Nation of Islam and a minority of aggressive mosques and leaders have espoused anti-Semitic conspiracies about Jewish power and used rhetoric that denies Israel's right to exist.

While anti-Semitism in the United States has grown and remains a grave concern, positive progress has been made identifying and combating it. In 2004, Congress passed the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, which established the position of special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism within the U.S. Department of State, which also adopted a widely-accepted working definition of anti-Semitism in 2016 developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

B'nai B'rith has a longstanding record at the forefront of combating anti-Semitism. The organization has implemented educational and political initiatives on how to combat anti-Semitism and promoted education on the Holocaust, including its None Shall Be Afraid platform, providing political analysis, educational podcasts and regular updates about the status of anti-Semitism in the U.S. and around the world, plus ways to get involved. B'nai B'rith International will continue to fight anti-Semitism in all its forms.



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