



B ' N A I B ' R I T H I N T E R N A T I O N A L

May 26, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf on B'nai B'rith International's more than 100,000 members and supporters in over 40 countries, we write to thank you for clearly condemning the recent attacks against the Jewish community in the United States and abroad. We agree with your assertion that, "It's up to all of us to give hate no safe harbor." Jews have contributed too much to the freedom, development, innovation, and overall progress in this country for this matter to be treated with anything short of a full measure of attention.

B'nai B'rith has fought anti-Semitism since our founding in 1843. We are the oldest and best-known Jewish organization in America. In 1863 we protested an order by General Ulysses Grant expelling Jews "as a class" from the Tennessee Department. President Barack Obama recounted this history at a White House event in 2012, but there is more to this history. "Groups of American Jews protested General Grant's decision," President Obama said. "A Jewish merchant from Kentucky traveled here, to the White House, and met with President Lincoln in person."

The protest to which President Obama referred was issued by B'nai B'rith Missouri Lodge President Isador Bush, who sent a letter to Lincoln objecting to the decree. Paducah, Kentucky businessman and Jewish community leader Cesar Kaskel then telegrammed Lincoln and organized a delegation that met with him in the White House, prompting the repeal of Grant's order.

The struggle against anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred has continued over the decades, with B'nai B'rith playing an integral role through our prolific activities in the U.S. and around the world. But while much of our attention the past two decades has been focused on the threat to Jewish communities overseas, we are now witnessing a resurgence of anti-Semitism in America the likes of which we have not previously seen. Attacks against Jewish individuals and institutions and on social media have left the American Jewish community feeling more vulnerable than ever before.

More action from your administration will be needed to respond to this growing problem. We ask that you bolster protections for Jewish students on university campuses, including preserving the current Executive Order on combating anti-Semitism. We also call for increased funding to protect synagogues and organizations representing vulnerable communities. Appointing a State

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Department Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism, a White House Jewish liaison, and a domestic coordinator focused on anti-Semitism in the U.S. would help focus the government's efforts to address hatred of Jews. We also hope that you will continue to use your own voice to spotlight anti-Semitic bigotry and make clear that fighting this scourge is a priority of your administration.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to remaining in communication with administration officials on this and other vital issues in the near future.

Respectfully,

Charles O. Kaufman
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President and CEO

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