

THE U.N.'S DURBAN CONFERENCE: 25 YEARS OF HATE

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

The World Conference against Racism—held by the United Nations in Durban, South Africa, in 2001—perversely earned notoriety as the setting for shocking attacks against Israel and Jews.

Convened as a conference against racism, Durban became a conference of racism against Israel and the Jewish people.



1 WHAT HAPPENED AT DURBAN (2001)



ISRAEL WAS SINGLED OUT.

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) singled out only Israel—the world's sole Jewish state and the Middle East's sole diverse democracy—for implied characterization as racist.



THE NGO FORUM ESCALATED THE ATTACKS.

NGO materials defamed Israel as a "racist, apartheid state" guilty of "genocide" and "alien domination" of Palestinians and urged discrimination only against those positively engaging with it.



JEWISH PARTICIPANTS FACED ABUSE, THREATS AND ANTI-SEMITIC INCITEMENT.

Rally signs and printed materials featured anti-Semitic symbols, the glorification of Nazism and explicit incitement to terrorist violence against Israelis. Even U.N. officials were forced to decry the noxious anti-Semitism that overtook Durban.

2 DURBAN'S TOXIC LEGACY



2001

DURBAN CONFERENCE

B'nai B'rith walked out of Durban, as did the United States and Israel.



2009

DURBAN REVIEW CONFERENCE

Held in Geneva, Switzerland, and addressed by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a Holocaust-denier who had openly called to wipe Israel "off the map."



2021

20TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT

The U.N. General Assembly commemorated Durban's 20th anniversary with a "high-level summit."



TODAY

DURBAN REMAINS EMBEDDED IN THE U.N.

The U.N. Human Rights Council maintains a standing agenda item dedicated exclusively to the promotion of the Durban Programme.

3 B'NAI B'RITH'S RESPONSE



B'nai B'rith brought the largest Jewish delegations, headed by then-President Richard D. Heideman, to Durban and its follow-up meetings.



We walked out of Durban in 2001, as did the United States and Israel.



We advocated for the world's major democracies to boycott the Durban follow-up meetings, as many did.



We organized high-level counterprogramming on Durban's 10th anniversary (2011) and 20th anniversary (2021).

We have taken action by raising our voices in key U.N. forums, in published op-eds and in online programs; meeting with ambassadors from around the globe to build awareness of Durban's toxic legacy; and planning events to provide a truthful and just response to misguided celebrations of Durban.



The critical fight against anti-Semitism—like the genuine and necessary fight against all forms of racism—demands nothing less.

As with the successful struggle to rescind the infamous 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism, we are determined to ensure that anti-Jewish hatred, racism and bigotry are erased from the United Nations.



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SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION

