



**B'NAI B'RITH
INTERNATIONAL**



March 7, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Attorney General of the United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Sessions:

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International and the National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry, we write to call for the U.S. Justice Department (DOJ) to appoint a special coordinator on domestic anti-Semitism.

A frightening wave of anti-Semitism has been unleashed, and seems, at the moment, unchecked. This official would focus the Department's efforts to monitor anti-Semitic hate crimes and pursue those responsible. He or she would also cooperate with officials from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security in their efforts to keep Jewish communities safe from threats.

Though the rise of anti-Semitism in the United States has been well-documented for decades, the sheer volume of threats and attacks on Jewish institutions in recent months has reached alarming levels that require swift action at the highest levels of government. In recent months, scores of bomb threats have been called into Jewish Community Centers and day schools across the United States. In recent days, hundreds of headstones have been overturned at Jewish cemeteries. Swastikas have been carved into cars and on mass transit. Threats against Jewish college students are reported at alarming rates.

FBI hate crimes statistics find that Jews are the primary religious hate crime victims in the United States—more than 50 percent of all hate crimes in the U.S. are against Jews. And those numbers were calculated before this recent wave of attacks and threats.

The normalization of anti-Semitism, like any hate crime or speech, is a direct threat to our democracy and the preeminent ideals of tolerance and diversity on which this nation was founded. In the wake of the rising number of domestic anti-Semitic incidents, it is vital that DOJ exert much-needed leadership to shine a spotlight on these crimes and send an important message that combating anti-Semitism is a priority for the United States government.

We urge you to support the creation of this critical position to investigate, prosecute and educate against the threat of anti-Semitism.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President & CEO
B'nai B'rith International

Mark B. Levin
Executive Vice-Chairman & CEO
NCSEJ