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HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE

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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

**HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICY COMMITTEE HEARING**

**Topic: Rise of Anti-Semitic Attacks**

**Congregations of Shaare Shamayim – Philadelphia, PA**

**November 28, 2017**

**AGENDA**

2:00 p.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks

2:10 p.m. Panelists:

- Jeremy Bannett  
Associate Regional Director  
Anti-Defamation League
- Naomi Adler, Esq.  
President and CEO  
Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia
- Michele Foster  
President-Elect  
Hadassah Greater Philadelphia Region
- Chuck Feldman  
President  
Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

2:50 p.m. Questions from Committee Members

3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

**Testimony of Jeremy Bannett**  
**Associate Regional Director**  
**Anti-Defamation League Philadelphia Regional Office**  
**Before the**  
**Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee**  
**Public Hearing on**  
**The Rise of Anti-Semitic Acts**  
**November 28 2017**

Chairman Sturla, Representative Boyle, and Members of the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee, I am Jeremy Bannett, Associate Regional Director of the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Anti-Defamation League. We very much appreciate the opportunity to participate in this timely hearing on the Rise of Anti-Semitic Acts. Thank you for your leadership in recognizing the importance of this issue at this time.

**The Anti-Defamation League**

Since 1913, the mission of ADL has been to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment for all." Dedicated to combating anti-Semitism, prejudice, and bigotry of all kinds, as well as defending democratic ideals and promoting civil rights, ADL is proud to be a leader in developing innovative materials, programs, and services that build bridges of communication, understanding, and respect among diverse racial, religious, and ethnic groups.

**The Impact and Disturbing Prevalence of Anti-Semitism and Hate**

All Pennsylvanians have a stake in combating anti-Semitism and all forms of hate. Hate crimes and bias incidents demand priority attention because of their special impact – they are intended to intimidate the victim and members of the victim's community, leaving them feeling fearful, isolated, and vulnerable. Failure to address hate incidents often causes an isolated event to explode into widespread community tension. The damage done by bigotry, therefore, cannot be measured solely in terms of physical injury or dollars and cents. By making members of targeted communities fearful, angry, and suspicious of other groups – and of the power structure that is supposed to protect them – these incidents can damage the fabric of our society and fragment communities.

Data must drive policy. The first step in addressing the problem of anti-Semitism and hate violence is to know its nature and magnitude.

**Addressing Anti-Semitism in the United States**

Anti-Semitism is a form of hatred, mistrust, and contempt for Jews based on a variety of stereotypes and myths, and often invokes the belief that Jews have extraordinary influence with which they conspire to harm or control society. It can target Jews as individuals, as a group, as a people, or the State of Israel as a Jewish entity. Criticism of Israel or Zionism is anti-Semitic when it uses anti-Jewish stereotypes, symbols and images, denies Jews the right to self-determination, or holds Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

## **ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents**

Since 1979, the Anti-Defamation League has been compiling an annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, which includes both criminal and non-criminal incidents. Anti-Semitism is often the “canary in the coal mine” – anti-Jewish hate frequently presages a rise in other forms of bigotry, threatens to undermine democracy and serves as an indicator of the health of society as a whole.

Prepared using information provided by victims, law enforcement, media reports and community leaders, and evaluated by professionals in ADL’s offices, the Audit is a carefully developed, uniquely credible report because every incident has been confirmed and investigated. Thus, it provides an annual snapshot of one specific aspect of the nationwide bias problem and sheds light on broader trends. The Audit assists ADL in developing and enhancing its education, training, and outreach programs to counter and prevent the spread of anti-Semitism and other forms of hate and bigotry.

Through the Audit, ADL has modeled the role that communities can take in elevating the need for monitoring and reporting hate crime. We have strongly promoted the notion that if the Jewish community wants law enforcement officials to take anti-Semitic acts seriously, we must do so – and report them to the police. Based on data from our Audit, ADL drafted the first model state hate crime penalty-enhancement law and promoted its enactment across the country. Today, the federal government and 45 states and the District of Columbia have enacted hate crime laws, many of which are modeled on, or similar to, our original draft.<sup>1</sup>

New Audit data released this month shows that the number of anti-Semitic incidents remain significantly higher in 2017 compared to 2016, with a nationwide increase of 67 percent over the first three quarters of the year.<sup>2</sup> From Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, there were 1,299 anti-Semitic incidents across the United States, including physical assaults, vandalism, and attacks on Jewish institutions – already exceeding the 1,266 incidents reported in all of last year

Nationwide, from January 1 through September 30 there were:

- 703 incidents of harassment;
- 584 incidents of vandalism;
- 12 physical assaults.

In Pennsylvania, there were 58 anti-Semitic incidents, representing a 71 percent increase over the same period in 2016.<sup>3</sup> Anti-Semitic bullying and vandalism in K-12 schools nearly doubled across the Commonwealth, mirroring a nationwide trend. Pennsylvania had the fifth-highest number of anti-Semitic incidents in the country, after New York State (267 incidents), California (197), Massachusetts (117) and Florida (69).

In the first three quarters of 2017, the 58 anti-Semitic incidents in Pennsylvania included:

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<sup>1</sup> The ADL chart of state hate crime statutes is available on our website:

<https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/combating-hate/ADL-updated-2016-ExcelState-Hate-Crime-Statutes.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-data-shows-anti-semitic-incidents-continue-surge-in-2017-compared-to-2016>

<sup>3</sup> <http://philadelphia.adl.org/news/adl-anti-semitic-incidents-in-pennsylvania-continue-to-surge-in-2017/>

- 27 harassment incidents;
- 31 vandalism incidents;
- Zero physical assaults, consistent with 2016 numbers.

#### **Selected Anti-Semitic Incidents in Pennsylvania from Jan 1 through Sept 30, 2017**

- **Philadelphia County:** Rocks were thrown through the window of a local synagogue during Friday night services. (January)
- **Philadelphia County:** More than 100 tombstones were overturned at a Jewish cemetery. (February)
- **Lehigh County:** A Jewish student received hateful online messages, including her photo superimposed near a pile of ashes and a swastika. (March)
- **Berks County:** A student called another student a “kike” and sent the victim anti-Semitic messages on Instagram. (April)
- **Montgomery County:** A utility pole on a hiking trail was spray-painted with numerous white supremacist symbols, including a swastika. (May)
- **Montgomery County:** A Jewish teacher received letters with anti-Semitic content and what appeared to be feces smeared on the letter. (June)
- **Philadelphia County:** A man was recorded urinating on a synagogue and making an obscene hand gesture in the direction of the synagogue's security camera. (August)
- **Luzerne County:** Vandals broke into a Jewish family's home and painted "Go Away Jews" and a swastika in the garage. (August)
- **Philadelphia County:** Employees of a Jewish non-profit organization discovered swastikas spray-painted outside their apartment building. (September)
- **Chester County:** Students from a public high school carved racist and anti-Semitic symbols into Halloween pumpkins, and shared the images widely on social media. (October)
- **Centre County:** Members of a non-Jewish fraternity stole and damaged a decorative menorah from a campus Jewish community organization, and placed it in front of a Jewish fraternity house. (November)

#### **The Impact of the August Charlottesville Hate Rally**

In August, ADL documented a “meta-event” rarely seen in America: the white supremacist “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.<sup>4</sup> We describe it as a meta-event because it attracted hundreds of bigots from around the country who travelled to Charlottesville specifically to attend the rally, making it the largest of its kind in more than a decade. The marchers brazenly displayed shocking, violent expressions of anti-Semitism and racism, including the display of swastika flags, chants of “Jews will not replace us!” and other overt anti-Semitic acts.

The events in Charlottesville had an outsized impact on different facets of American society, including the Jewish population. For many younger Jews, hearing white supremacists chanting “Jews will not replace us” may have been their first encounter with public anti-Semitism.<sup>5</sup> For Jewish adults and seniors, watching Nazi salutes and hearing chants of “sieg heil” and “blood and soil” (the latter is a translation of the Nazi slogan “Blut und Boden”) evoked memories or

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.adl.org/blog/violence-and-hate-unite-the-right>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.adl.org/blog/anti-semitism-on-full-display-in-charlottesville>

family recollections of the most overwhelming trauma in modern Jewish history. The white supremacist groups that participated in the Charlottesville rally have a well-established record of anti-Semitism, and individual leaders of the movements present at the rally, including former Klansman David Duke, are prolific promoters of anti-Semitism in the U.S.

Anti-Semitic incidents spiked on the days of the Charlottesville march and immediately following. Of the 306 nationwide incidents reported in the third quarter, 221 took place on or after the August 11 rally.

### **Unprecedented White Supremacist Recruitment on College Campuses**

The Charlottesville rally was one of at least 33 public white supremacist events in the U.S. so far this year, which were supplemented with 188 incidents where white supremacists used fliers to spread their message to new audiences, especially on college campuses.<sup>6</sup>

Until late 2016, white supremacist activity on college campuses was infrequent. Starting with the fall 2016 school year, white supremacists began a much more open effort to spread their message and recruit new adherents at colleges and universities.<sup>7</sup> Literature distribution, usually in the form of fliers scattered around campuses, is one of their most frequent tactics. The most active white supremacist groups employing this tactic are Identity Evropa and Vanguard America.<sup>8</sup>

In 2017, Pennsylvania campuses were targeted by white supremacists 18 times – the third most in the nation after Texas (40) and California (31).

### **Anti-Semitism on the Left**

It should be noted that the recent spike of anti-Semitism cannot be attributed solely to the rise of extreme right wing forces. We see anti-Semitic rhetoric used frequently by some parties who could be described as exhibiting an extreme left-wing ideological viewpoint, one that often could be characterized as “anti-Zionist.”

Groups such as Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) purport to support Palestinian self-determination, yet they often traffic in stereotypes against Israel and Jews to advance their cause. Anti-Israel groups actively seek to build coalitions with progressive groups in America in an effort to build “intersectionality” – mutual support between diverse movements. They equate various liberal causes with the Palestinian rights movement – as evidenced by slogans at rallies such as “From Ferguson to Palestine, occupation is a crime,” and “From Palestine to Mexico, all these walls have got to go.” In the process, they inject anti-Semitic invective into the far-left.

For just one example, an LGBTQ Pride event last summer was marred when organizers ejected a group of Jewish marchers from the event who were carrying a rainbow flag emblazoned with a Jewish star. As they were removed from the event, they were told explicitly that “Zionists are not

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.adl.org/news/white-supremacist-events-and-outreach-adl-2017-audit-of-anti-semitic-incidents>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-white-supremacists-making-unprecedented-effort-on-us-college-campuses-to>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/vanguard-america>

welcome here.”<sup>9</sup> ADL recently developed *Think. Plan. Act.*, a new guide for college students to provide them with tools to respond to such hostility.<sup>10</sup>

### **Why now?**

White supremacists and other adherents of extreme right-wing ideologies feel emboldened by the 2016 presidential campaign, and feel inspired to step out of the shadows and into the mainstream. For example, in January, Jared Taylor wrote, “It is widely understood that the election of Donald Trump is a sign of rising white consciousness...Now is the time to press our advantage in every way possible.” Richard Spencer has stated that now is the time to “professionalize” white supremacist beliefs, and is currently fundraising to take his message to campuses across the country. “These types of events are tremendous opportunities for us to communicate our message,” he told supporters in December. “They are ways for us to reach millions of people who would otherwise never have heard our ideas.”

On the left, anti-Israel groups that have crossed the line into anti-Semitism have been trying to gain a foothold in progressive circles for years, with mixed results. Their efforts have been redoubled in the last year or so, as they work to build common cause with liberal groups that are mobilizing in opposition to an increasingly emboldened far-right.

## **Tracking and Responding to Hate Crimes in the United States**

### **FBI Hate Crime Statistics Act**

The FBI has been tracking and documenting hate crimes reported from federal, state, and local law enforcement officials since 1991 under the Hate Crime Statistics Act of 1990 (HCSA). Though clearly incomplete, as discussed below, the Bureau’s annual HCSA reports provide the best single national snapshot of bias-motivated criminal activity in the United States. The Act has also proven to be a powerful mechanism to confront violent bigotry, increasing public awareness of the problem and sparking improvements in the local response of the criminal justice system to hate violence – since in order to effectively report hate crimes, police officials must be trained to identify and respond to them.

In 2016, the most recent report available, the FBI documented 6,121 hate crimes reported across the country – a five percent increase over 2015 figures (5,850), and nearly one hate crime every ninety minutes of every day.<sup>11</sup> Of the 6,121 total incidents, 3,489 were motivated by race/ethnicity/nation origin bias (57 percent), 1,076 by sexual orientation bias (18 percent); 70 by disability bias (1 percent), 124 by gender identity bias (2 percent). ADL has created a map that compiles and details the findings from the annual FBI HCSA reports from 2016-2000.<sup>12</sup>

Directly relevant to our focus today is the fact that religion-based crimes increased to 1,273, making up over 20 percent of all reported hate crimes. Crimes directed against Jews increased

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/More-than-1500-at-Dyke-March-in-Little-Village-Jewish-Pride-flags-banned-UPDATED-June-25-/59621.html>

<sup>10</sup> Think. Plan. Act. <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/new-adl-resource-helps-college-students-learn-how-to-deal-with-anti-semitism>, June 2017.

<sup>11</sup> <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2016/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.adl.org/adl-hate-crime-map>

three percent – from 664 in 2015 to 684 in 2016. As has happened every year since 1990, a disturbingly high and disproportionate percentage of the total number of reported religion-based crimes (53 percent) were directed against Jews and Jewish institutions. In fact, since 1990, anti-Jewish hate crimes have been between 50 and 85 percent of the religious-based hate crimes – an especially disturbing fact when you consider that Jews are less than three percent of Americans.

### **The Urgent Need to Address Incomplete HCSA Reporting**

Led by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), police have come to recognize the significant benefits of effectively tracking hate crime, as well as preventing and responding to them. The IACP has demonstrated tremendous leadership in promoting resources and training materials to address hate violence. IACP recently updated its excellent Model Policy and Concepts and Issues Paper on hate crime for agencies,<sup>13</sup> as well as its handbook, *A Police Officer's Guide to Investigation and Prevention*.<sup>14</sup> Effective policies, procedures and response can reduce crime while building public trust between police officials and the communities they serve and protect. By compiling statistics and charting their geographic distribution, officials may be in a position to discern specific patterns and anticipate an increase in intergroup tensions.

However, it is absolutely clear that the HCSA data we have now significantly understates the true number of hate crimes committed in our nation. On one hand, participation in the FBI's reporting program (which, like the rest of the UCR Program, is voluntary) has increased over the years. In 2016, 15,254 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies voluntarily reported hate crime data to the FBI. Yet, on the other hand, only 1,776 of these participating agencies, a mere 12 percent, reported even a single hate crime. That means that 88 percent of all "participating" police agencies affirmatively reported zero (0) hate crimes to the FBI (including at least 70 cities with populations over 100,000 – including Allentown, PA). And approximately 1,500 law enforcement agencies did not report (DNR) any data at all to the FBI (including 22 cities over 100,000).

In Pennsylvania, 1,463 agencies participated in the FBI's data collection, but only 20 agencies (1.3 percent) reported any incidents. This may explain why the FBI's statistics on anti-Semitic hate crimes in Pennsylvania only counted 7 criminal acts in 2016, even though ADL tracked many more incidents that year – including 25 acts of vandalism that likely would have qualified for the FBI's report.

There are very real consequences to this lack of comprehensive reporting. It is well documented that victims are far more likely to report a hate crime if they know a special reporting system is in place – if they believe the police are ready and able to respond effectively. Yet, studies by NOBLE and others have revealed that some of the most likely targets of hate violence are the least likely to report these crimes to the police. In addition to cultural and language barriers, some immigrant victims, for example, fear reprisals or deportation if incidents are reported. Many new to America come from countries in which residents would never call the police – especially if they were in trouble. Gay, lesbian, and transgender victims, facing hostility, discrimination, and, possibly, family pressures, may also be reluctant to come forward to report

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.commandanswers.com/new-iacp-model-policies-available-iacp-net/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.theiacp.org/ViewResult?SearchID=123>



these crimes. General fear and distrust of law enforcement by minority communities further contributes to underreporting.

### **Addressing Anti-Semitism and Hate Crimes Online**

Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other hatreds have exploded online. Online hate speech is global by nature. A call to kill Jews can be uploaded in the Middle East and watched around the world at any time. Social media and the Internet enable racists, anti-Semites, and anti-government extremists to reach a much larger audience than ever before. It provides instant and anonymous access to propaganda that can inspire and guide criminal activity.

ADL has been a leader in fighting hate online, with a dedicated team tracking online hate speech and hate groups, reporting on trends and tools to fight online hate, sharing insights and data with law enforcement, assisting Jewish institutions with their security needs,<sup>15</sup> and establishing best practices for addressing cyberhate that have been guiding the biggest Internet and social media companies for years.<sup>16</sup> After the ADL Task Force on Harassment and Journalism documented 2.6 million anti-Semitic tweets from August 2015 through July 2016, accounting for over 10 billion online impressions, ADL issued a series of detailed recommendations in a 52-page report entitled *Control-Alt-Delete*.<sup>17</sup>

### **Policy Recommendations**

#### **Legislative Action**

1. Improve Pennsylvania's Ethnic Intimidation Act

The current Ethnic Intimidation Act must be strengthened in order to be an effective tool to combat hate crimes in Pennsylvania. ADL strongly supports the passage of HB 505 and SB 96 to strengthen Pennsylvania's hate crimes laws.

ADL urges the following additional recommendations to further improve these bills:

- Use Discriminatory Selection language as upheld in *Wisconsin v. Mitchell*
  - Instead of requiring, as part of the definition of a bias-motivated crime, that the perpetrator harbor hatred or animus toward a protected characteristic of the victim, we suggest using the model upheld by the U.S.

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<sup>15</sup> ADL publishes a Security Manual, *Protecting Your Jewish Institution*, to assist Jewish institutions in creating welcoming environments while keeping them safe, conducts extensive security training programs for community institutions, and is a leading producer of training resources for law enforcement officials on extremism, terrorism, and hate violence. <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/Protecting-Your-Jewish-Institution-2015-Edition-Final-docx.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> In 2013, the League developed the ADL Cyber-Safety Action Guide, <https://www.adl.org/cyber-safety-action-guide> which allows visitors to access information on submitting complaints and reporting hate speech and harassment to the major online companies. In 2014, ADL convened an industry Working Group on Cyberhate and published —Best Practices for Responding to Cyberhate, <https://www.adl.org/news/press-releases/adl-releases-best-practices-for-challenging-cyberhate>, and in February, 2016, following clear evidence that domestic extremists and foreign terrorist organizations were using social media as a primary tool to recruit followers and incite terrorism, ADL joined as one of the inaugural members of the Twitter Trust & Safety Council, <https://blog.twitter.com/2016/announcing-the-twitter-trust-safetycouncil>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/press-center/adl-journalism-task-force-recommendations.pdf>



Supreme Court in Wisconsin v. Mitchell, 508 U.S. 476 (1993) and included in ADL's model hate crimes statute, which defines bias crimes in terms of the perpetrator's intentional, discriminatory selection of the victim. The Supreme Court held unanimously that this model clearly does not criminalize hate speech, which is constitutionally protected.

- The suggested language below, which is based on the model upheld by the Supreme Court and consistent with the First Amendment, strengthens the statute by clarifying that a bias-motivated crime can occur even if a perpetrator does not necessarily have deeply rooted animus or hatred toward a particular racial, religious, ethnic, or other group. If the perpetrator intentionally targets the victim for violence because of actual or perceived immutable personal characteristics – which causes the same unique harm to the victim and the community described earlier regardless of what emotions the perpetrator may have had -- the bias-motivated crime statute should apply. The act of intentionally selecting a victim for a crime because of an immutable, protected characteristic is what differentiates bias-motivated crimes from other crimes.
- § 2710. Ethnic intimidation.
  - **(a) Offense defined.--**A person commits the offense of ethnic intimidation if, ~~with malicious intention toward the race, color, religion or national origin of another individual or group of individuals, he~~ **that person** commits an offense under any other provision of this article or under Chapter 33 (relating to arson, criminal mischief and other property destruction) exclusive of section 3307 (relating to institutional vandalism) or under section 3503 (relating to criminal trespass) ~~with respect to such individual or his or her property or with respect to one or more members of such group or to their property.~~ **and intentionally selects the person against whom the actor commits the crime, or selects the property damaged or otherwise affected by the crime, in whole or in part because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or physical or mental disability of another individual or group of individuals, whether or not the actor's belief or perception was correct.**
  - ~~(c) Definition.—As used in this section "malicious intention" means the intention to commit any act, the commission of which is a necessary element of any offense referred to in subsection (a) motivated by hatred toward the actual or perceived race, color, religion [or], national origin, ancestry, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity of another individual or group of individuals.~~
  - Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.
- Include Bias-Crime Training
  - We recommend including a requirement for training of all police officers in identifying, responding to, and reporting all bias-motivated crimes. The

unique role of law enforcement officials in any community and the special impact of hate crimes on a community make training on bias-motivated crimes imperative. We recommend instruction on the special nature of hate crimes, the legal framework in which hate crimes statutes operate, the importance of hate crime reporting, and how to perform investigative and enforcement duties in a way that reassures the victims and helps alleviate community tensions and fear.

- Improve Data Reporting
  - We urge you to consider incorporating language that would require Pennsylvania law enforcement to report the hate crimes data they receive to the FBI.

2. Updating harassment laws to protect against online harassment

ADL's *Control-Alt-Delete* report on the cyber harassment of Jewish journalists illustrates the need for our laws to combat evolving online threats. Cyber harassment has real-world impact. Doxxing, the intentional release of personal information online, can terrorize targets, and can lead to in-person harassment. Swatting, in which a person falsely reports a crime at a target's residence leading to the deployment of a SWAT team, can cause extreme fear and anxiety, wastes taxpayer money and law enforcement resources, and could lead to physical harm and property damage. ADL recommends updating harassment laws to account for online harassment, while taking pains to ensure that the laws do not penalize speech that does not cross the line into harassment.

3. Strengthen anti-bullying laws

ADL's Audit revealed that anti-Semitic incidents in K-12 schools doubled from January 1 through September 30, 2017 over the same time period the previous year. Lawmakers should work to ensure that all students remain safe in schools, regardless of their backgrounds or beliefs. ADL supports legislation that:

- Promotes training for educators and students
- Creates reporting procedures
- Mandates data collection
- Creates a bullying task force to help schools improve their responses to bullying

4. Promote General Anti-Bias Education

We cannot combat anti-Semitism without fighting bigotry in all forms. The best way to combat prejudice is through anti-bias education, to prevent hate from taking root in our schools. We encourage Pennsylvania lawmakers to pass anti-bias education legislation similar to Act 70, which strongly encourages Holocaust education in Pennsylvania schools. Like Act 70, this legislation could create a steering committee of anti-bias education experts to advise schools on high-quality anti-bias educational resources.

### **Launch a Hate Crimes Prevention Task Force**

Made up of elected officials, law enforcement, community advocates and other diverse stakeholders, the Task Force would be charged with researching hate crimes in Pennsylvania and developing wide-ranging responses to address this diffuse and complex problem. The Task Force could look to successful models throughout the state and nation, such as the Philadelphia District

Attorney's recently expanded hate crimes unit and newly developed hate crimes reporting hotline.<sup>18</sup>

### **Use the Bully Pulpit to Speak Out Against Hate**

Elected officials should call out bigotry at every opportunity. While much hate speech is constitutionally protected, elected officials have the right and responsibility to use their own speech to condemn hate wherever and whenever it arises. Failure to do so only emboldens the bigots and adds to the fears of targeted communities.

### **Encourage Pennsylvania Mayors to Sign the Mayors' Compact to Combat Hate**

We urge lawmakers to encourage mayors in their districts to sign on to the Mayor's Compact to Combat Hate, Extremism and Bigotry, a joint initiative of ADL and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.<sup>19</sup> Signatories pledge to follow ten guiding principles to effectively reduce bigotry in their cities and towns.

### **Aggregate Online Hate Crime Prevention and Response Resources**

In cooperation with law enforcement organizations and civil rights and religious groups, the General Assembly should fund, and the Governor should create, a website to serve as a one-stop hate crime prevention and response portal for key stakeholders and the general public, modeled after the Federal government's online anti-bullying reference, [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov).

### **Adopt best practices from ADL's resource, "How Elected Officials Can Respond to Hate"<sup>20</sup>**

- Stand Up and Speak Out
  - *Condemn*: Through Resolutions and statements, denounce all acts of hate whenever they occur.
  - *Investigate*: Call for fully-resourced law enforcement and civil rights investigations of hate crimes.
  - *Convene*: In the aftermath of incidents, organize events to support targeted communities and condemn hate.
- Advocate and Legislate
  - *Protect*: Pass comprehensive hate crimes, cyberhate and anti-bullying laws that protect people targeted for their immutable identity traits.
  - *Streamline*: Improve hate crime reporting procedures, including hotlines and online tools.
  - *Equip*: Support training for law enforcement to better report and respond to hate incidents.
- Support Victims
  - *Educate*: Teach community leaders and citizens how to identify and respond to bias incidents, both in the real world and online.
  - *Connect*: Bring together minority communities, law enforcement, and civic leaders to build trust.
  - *Empower*: Encourage civic participation from minority communities.

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<sup>18</sup> <http://philadelphia.adl.org/news/adl-applauds-district-attorneys-efforts-to-fight-hate-crimes-in-philadelphia/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://mayorscompact.org/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://philadelphia.adl.org/how-elected-officials-can-respond-to-hate/>

- Prevent
  - *Immunize*: Support anti-bias education in schools to challenge bigotry in the next generation.
  - *Alert*: Organize public service campaigns that promote inclusivity and challenge bias.
  - *Partner*: Invite private, public and nonprofit experts on hate and extremism to educate lawmakers and weigh-in on legislation.

## **Conclusion**

We cannot legislate, tabulate, regulate, or arrest our way to a healthier and more accepting society. The fundamental cause of religious and other bias-motivated harassment, intimidation, and violence in the United States is the persistence of racism, anti-Muslim bigotry, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry. Unfortunately, there are no quick, complete solutions to these problems.

Pennsylvania lawmakers have an essential leadership role to play in reducing anti-Semitism, bias, bullying, and prejudice in the Commonwealth. Effective responses to anti-Semitic incidents and hate violence by public officials, law enforcement authorities, educators and the wider public can play an essential role in deterring and preventing bias incidents.

We look forward to working with members of the Committee to accomplish as many of these recommendations as possible, and hope that we can be a continuing resource in addressing this important issue.

## How Elected Officials Can Respond to Hate

### STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT

- **Condemn:** Through Resolutions and statements, denounce all acts of hate whenever they occur.
- **Investigate:** Call for fully-resourced law enforcement and civil rights investigations of hate crimes.
- **Convene:** In the aftermath of incidents, organize events to support targeted communities and condemn hate.



### ADVOCATE AND LEGISLATE

- **Protect:** Pass comprehensive hate crimes, cyberhate and anti-bullying laws that protect people targeted for their immutable identity traits.
- **Streamline:** Improve hate crime reporting procedures, including hotlines and online tools.
- **Equip:** Support training for law enforcement to better report and respond to hate incidents.



### SUPPORT VICTIMS

- **Educate:** Teach community leaders and citizens how to identify and respond to bias incidents, both in the real world and online.
- **Connect:** Bring together minority communities, law enforcement, and civic leaders to build trust.
- **Empower:** Encourage civic participation from minority communities.



### PREVENT

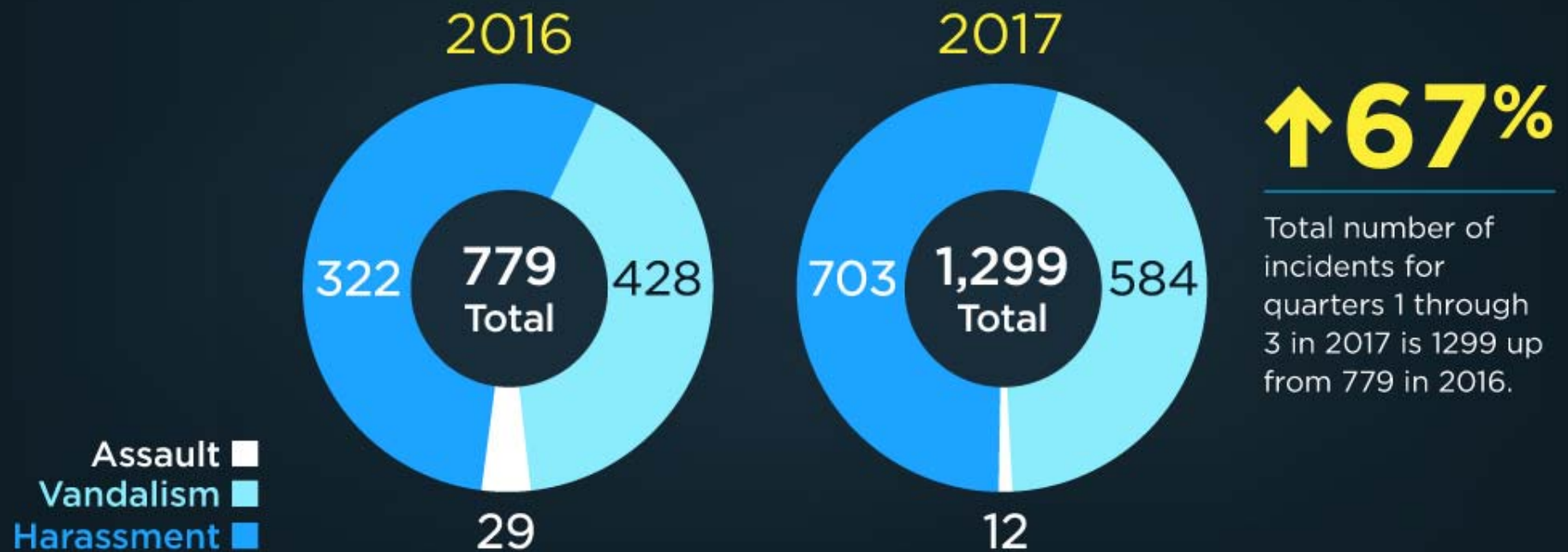
- **Immunize:** Support anti-bias education in schools to challenge bigotry in the next generation.
- **Alert:** Organize public service campaigns that promote inclusivity and challenge bias.
- **Partner:** Invite private, public and nonprofit experts on hate and extremism to educate lawmakers and weigh-in on legislation.



# ADL

Anti-Defamation League®

# National Anti-Semitic Incidents

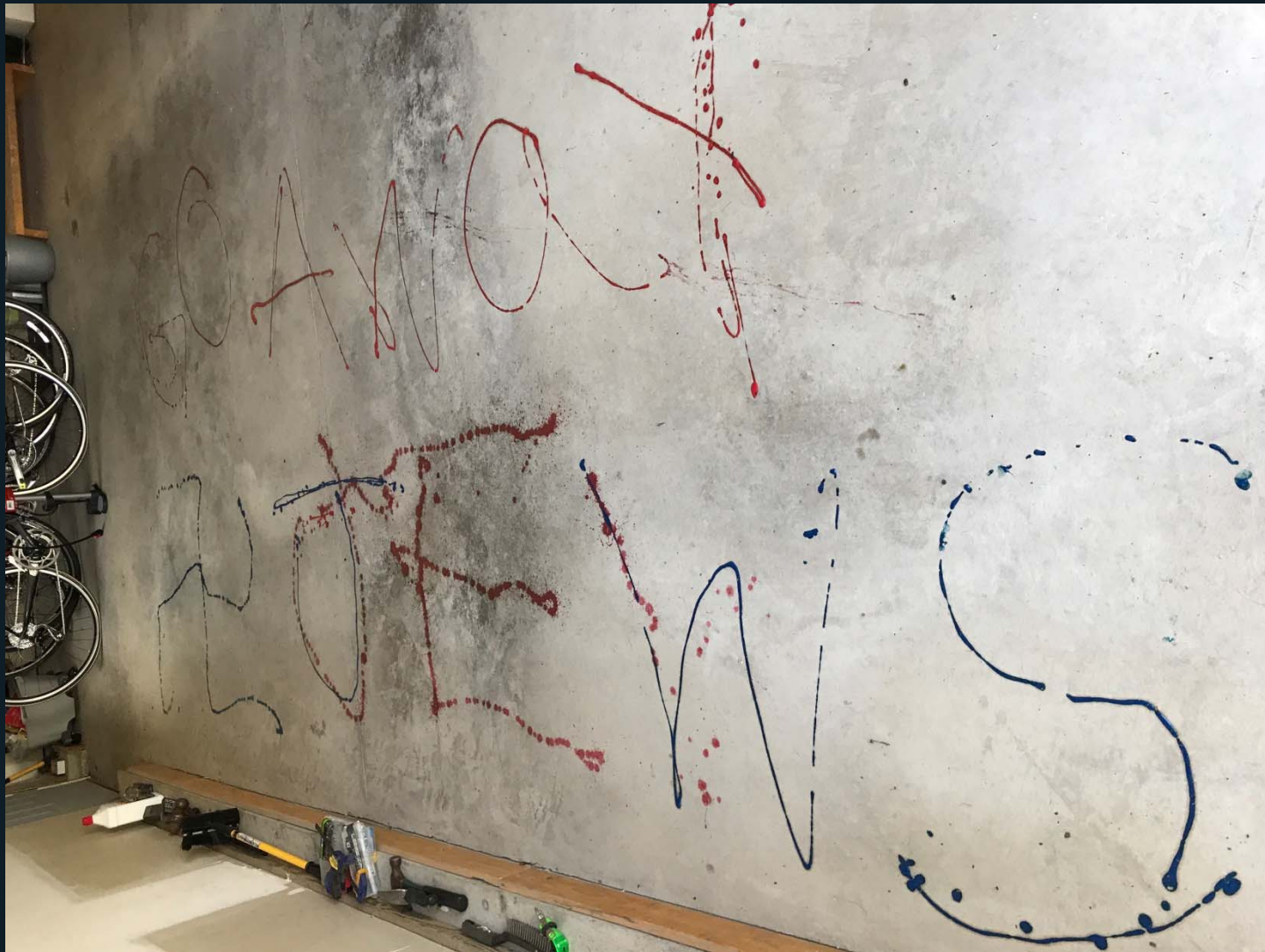




# Pennsylvania Anti-Semitic Incidents



# Selected Incidents



# Anti-Semitism Rising Across the Ideological Spectrum



# Anti-Semitism Growing Online





# Policy Recommendations





# Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia

November 28<sup>th</sup> House Democratic Policy Committee Hearing on Rise of Anti-Semitic Acts at the  
Congregations of Shaare Shamayim

## **Written Testimony of Naomi Adler**

### **President and CEO**

### **Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia**

Thank you to Representative Boyle and members of the House Democratic Policy Committee for inviting me to speak today on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia. I appreciate that the committee has taken the time to shed light on this issue and I look forward to hearing from the members and my fellow panelists.

I submit this testimony today on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, the region's only organization that mobilizes individuals to care for, convene and enrich our local and global Jewish community.

### **I. Anti-Semitism on the Rise**

There is no doubt that anti-Semitism and bigotry is on the rise here in Pennsylvania, across the United States and all over the world. As Mr. Bannett and the Anti-Defamation League have already reported, Pennsylvania is on track for a second straight year of double-digit growth in anti-Semitic incidents with 58 recorded in the first 9 months of 2017. Across the US, it's up 86% after a 34% rise in 2016. Countries across the world are reporting higher incidents of vandalism and violence towards Jews: the numbers in the UK are at a record high with a 30% increase in the first half of 2017.

These numbers indicate that Anti-Semitism is not an issue that is fading; in fact, it is heading towards a serious crisis. Incidents such as the attack in Charlottesville have a worrying trend of emboldening copy-cat acts and further empowering white supremacists and extremists. With hate groups coming out of the shadows to occupy physical spaces in our communities, it is important for committees such as this one to take action.

## **II. Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia- our experiences**

The Jewish community in the greater Philadelphia region has dealt with a series of anti-Semitic incidents this year. In January, rocks were thrown through a window shortly before Friday night Shabbat services commenced at Temple Menorah Keneseth Chai in the Northeast. In February, over 500 headstones were vandalized at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, also in the Northeast. That same month, five Jewish Community Centers and one Jewish Day School in our region were targeted in a national wave of bomb threats. This past August, a video camera captured the disturbing sight of an individual desecrating a local synagogue. And throughout the year, Jewish institutions, individuals and entire communities have dealt with racial epithets and swastika paraphernalia and defacement.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia's mission is to address the communities' most critical priorities locally, and Israel and around the world. Since January, it has become clear that this wave of anti-Semitic, anti-minority and anti-immigrant attitudes is one of the highest concerns.

The vandalism at Mt. Carmel Cemetery was a watershed moment for us and the Philadelphia community at large. Just a few days after the story hit the media, over 5,000 people descended on Independence Mall for a Stand Against Hate. Over 100 members of our local inter-faith clergy stood by our side and declared that hatred and intolerance had no place in our communities and would not be allowed. Dozens of local government and city officials were with us that day, which helped signal to



those who wish to cause harm that the entire community, people of all faiths and backgrounds, were against them.

Many of these incidents, following an investigation, were determined to be kids or young adults just out to cause mischief and “meant no harm”. While the intention of a few of these acts may not have been anti-Semitic in nature, it’s important for the committee to understand the effect of each incident in this current political and social climate. It is a time when minority communities feel vulnerable and at risk and any attack, regardless of intent, has the ability to cause lasting harm and distress.

### **III. Combatting Anti-Semitism in Harrisburg**

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Jewish Coalition (PJC) and Jewish Federations across Pennsylvania, our legislative priorities this year include several initiatives that we believe will aid in our mission to combat anti-Semitism. This includes provisions in support of Israel and against the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. In the past several years, post-secondary schools and universities throughout the nation have seen an increase in anti-Semitism and Anti-Israel propaganda, rallies and speeches on their campuses. During the 2014-2015 school year, Pennsylvania colleges and universities (private and public) have experienced anti- Semitic/anti-Israel graffiti, propaganda, rallies, and “professor statements.” In response to these actions, we have continuously worked with members of the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives to introduce resolutions and legislation to “Stand in Support of Israel.”

#### **What we have achieved:**

- The PJC and Jewish Federations throughout Pennsylvania work with the ADL to annually introduce “No Place for Hate Resolutions” encouraging tolerance in our schools in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (introduced by Representative Dan Frankel (D-

Allegheny)) and Senate (introduced by Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh)). Resolutions are all passed unanimously.

- Resolutions were introduced and passed unanimously in both the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (introduced by Representative Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia)) and Senate (introduced by Senator Scott Wagner (R-York)) condemning the bomb threats against Jewish facilities and vandalism of the Jewish cemeteries in Pennsylvania.
- In response to a wave of incidents of anti-Semitism in Pennsylvania's public schools, Jewish Federations and the PJC supported House Bill 229 (HB 229) now Act 26 of 2015. This legislation addresses the issue of cyber-bullying in our schools and children.
- Representative Baker (R-Tioga) introduced HB 2107 which prohibits procurement contracts with companies who perform a BDS. HB 2107 passed the House, Senate and was signed into law. It is now known as Act 163 of 2016
- A memorandum of understanding between Israel and Pennsylvania, signed in November, will bring a new chapter of business development between the two regions. The Consul General of Israel in New York signed the memorandum on November 6 along with Pennsylvania Secretary of Community and Economic Development Dennis Davin and Ambassador Dani Dayan.

#### **What we're working on**

- The PJC and Jewish Federations of Pennsylvania are working with Representative Seth Grove (R-York) and Representative Jared Solomon (D-Philadelphia) to introduce bi-partisan legislation encouraging Cultural Awareness on our schools. This legislation will model after the success of Act 70 of 2014 (Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Violations) which will work with the Department of Education to develop guidelines, free resources for course support, and free training to teachers to teach cultural awareness and tolerance successfully to Pennsylvania

students. This legislation is currently being circulated for co-sponsorships and should be formally introduced next month.

- **BDS Opposition** –Representative Miccarelli (R-Delaware) has also introduced HB 1986 (prohibiting procurement contracts with companies who perform a BDS) and HB 1987 (prohibiting state investments with companies who perform a BDS). There are also current talks about developing and introducing legislation prohibiting the state of Pennsylvania from entering into procurement contractors or invest in (via pension boards) companies who have enacted a BDS against Israel.

### **III. Combatting Anti-Semitism in local communities:**

In a fractured society, communicating across the aisle is never easy. As a non-partisan organization, our building and our community centers are a safe space for people to assemble and discuss some of our most challenging issues. Our mission is to carry the light for Philadelphia by embracing three key roles: community convener, fundraiser and grant maker.

To accomplish this, we invest in the Jewish community by raising vital funds and addressing critical priorities, and leading region-wide conversations and actions on policies, strategies and collective priorities. We amplify diverse Jewish voices by creating an atmosphere where all community members can have a seat at the table for open dialogue and by forming a vibrant network enabling us to ensure the safety and strength of Jews everywhere. And, we strengthen Jewish values and traditions by providing an inclusive environment and valuable resources to all Jews in our region.

Moving forward, we believe the best way to combat bigotry and hatred is to make sure that every member of our society is not only included, but feels included. In the Jewish community we don't

always agree on the questions most important to our way of life. But by keeping our focus on respect and service to one another, we can do more to embrace each other, even if we may not follow or understand our different journeys in life. By working with our interfaith partners and other local service providers, we make our community safer while diminishing hatred and prejudice.

## **V. Conclusion**

We can never expect to fully eradicate anti-Semitism from our society. But with education, community services, philanthropy and government leadership, there is much we can do on a local level to reduce anti-Semitic activities. I look forward to continuing to work with this committee, as well as all of our representatives in Harrisburg, to combat this issue.

## **Combating Anti-Semitism · ZIONIST AFFAIRS | JULY 2017**

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., deplores the rise in threats and acts of violence perpetrated against Jewish institutions, synagogues and Jewish individuals around the world. The United States is witnessing an alarming uptick in anti-Semitic incidents, varying from graffiti, hate speech and digital harassment, to bomb threats and Jewish cemetery desecrations. Additionally, white nationalist groups have increased membership and activity, receiving greater attention from the political mainstream. Many of these groups include outspoken neo- Nazis and anti-Semites. In Europe, anti-Semitic political parties—such as Jobbik in Hungary, Front National in France, Golden Dawn in Greece, Law and Justice Party in Poland, and Svoboda in Ukraine—have caused great concern for local Jewish communities. According to a study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, many European Jews reported a rise in anti-Semitism in their countries and avoid wearing kippot or other Jewish symbols in public because they fear for their personal safety. Throughout the Muslim world, political and religious leaders frequently use anti-Semitic vitriol in statements, schools use anti-Semitic curricula, and state sponsored production and distribution of anti-Semitic materials. Hadassah calls on all governments and religious leaders to end practices of incitement and hatred in all forms. Hadassah commends the UN Secretary General's vow to be on the front lines in the fight against anti-Semitism, and encourages all UN bodies to join that effort. Hadassah calls on all nations and international bodies to establish or intensify their efforts to track, investigate and prosecute those responsible for anti-Semitic hate crimes. Hadassah also urges political and religious leaders to denounce in the strongest possible terms all anti-Semitic attacks, statements, and propaganda—especially from leaders and communities within their own

country or faith. Hadassah calls on the United States government to:

- Use its resources and influence to urge international leaders to act upon the issue of global anti-Semitism.
- Appoint a new Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism and ensure funding to support the vital work of the State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.
- Enact additional legislation to improve anti-Semitism awareness, education and training.
- Promote collaboration and provide robust funding for the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other government agencies to combat domestic anti-Semitism in all forms.
- Expand congressional efforts, including the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism, to lead initiatives promoting tolerance worldwide, and serve as a platform to educate policymakers on this growing issue. Ensure that hate crimes and threats are punished to the fullest extent of the law and strengthen penalties for threats against houses of worship, educational institutions and community centers. In the face of anti-Semitism, Holocaust and tolerance education is as important as ever. Hadassah urges educators and policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to promote holocaust education—passing new federal guidelines for instruction and investing in teacher training, new and innovative curricula, and other funding and supplementary support.

Testimony of Chuck Feldman, President, Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center

My name is Chuck Feldman and I am privileged to be the President of the Holocaust Awareness Museum and Education Center. Founded by Yaakov and Sheila Riz in 1961 we are one of the oldest Holocaust Centers in America. As a prisoner for 5 years in the Gulag, Yaakov made a promise to God that if he survived he would tell the world about the Holocaust and especially educate young people about the dangers of hatred and intolerance. He fulfilled his promise and when he passed away in 1985 we made a promise to Yaakov to continue his mission. And we have.

Unfortunately hate never takes a vacation--well, neither do we. As the video explained we provide hundreds of survivor and liberator presentations every year reaching tens of thousands of young people. Our in-person reach extends as far north as Scranton and as far west as Altoona. And now with the establishment of a Skype center at our KleinLife home, we reach across the entire Commonwealth and the globe. In the 2016-17 school year, our organization provided 277 school presentations, reaching over 34,000 students from right here in our backyard of Northeast Philadelphia to Pittsburgh to Australia.

Our two dozen survivors accompanied by trained facilitators present life changing lessons for young people. The personal testimony from someone who lived through Nazi Germany, lost family and friends, barely escaped with their life, impacts a student in a way that a textbook cannot. The questions and reactions of students confirm over and over how valuable are the lessons we teach about learning to not accept bigotry and hatred. Don't be a bystander, be an upstander is our message. Stand up against intolerance and bullying.

It is unfortunate that the survivors' mission, our organization's mission, to teach the lessons of the Holocaust and of our common humanity continue to be necessary. I have often wondered whether the rise of hatred and anti-Semitism throughout the world had begun to affect the morale of Holocaust survivors. Despite living through unthinkable horrors, our survivor volunteers are very positive individuals. Until recently I had heard little from them about "it happening again" and here. No longer. Many have expressed deep concerns and for good reason. According to FBI statistics, there were over 6,000 reported hate crimes in the United States in 2016 alone.

Our facilitators often point out to student audiences that almost all of us belong to a minority group and while the haters might come for one group first, they will come for another group next. Along with the 6 million Jews who died in the camps and other places, 5 million non-Jews were murdered, including hundreds of Priests, homosexuals, Roma, mentally impaired, and political opponents.

We at the Holocaust Awareness Museum have two messages for the legislators here today. First of all, thank you for exploring this vital issue and second we are available to present programs to schools in your districts and throughout the entire Commonwealth. We look forward to hearing from you.