



Toolkit

TempleSinai



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“Antisemitism is the canary in the coal mine of global hatred.”

Ahmed Shaheed, UN Special Reporter on Freedom of Religion

About Our Logo

We sought a logo that combats bigotry but specifically confronted antisemitism. White supremacists use H8 to mean “hate” in tattoos, logos, and playing cards.

The **(((echo)))** parenthesis is used online to identify someone as Jewish and undermines their credibility. The parenthesis is also used to imply that a term or phrase, such as **(((banker)))**, is synonymous with Jews.

HALT
(((H8)))



Here’s an example from the ADL website:

Another **(((rabbi)))** celebrates the deconstruction of the white race. It’s time to wake up!
#White Genocide



What Can I Do?

- ✓ LEARN
- ✓ SHARE FACTS
- ✓ SPEAK OUT

In order to effectively address antisemitism, it's crucial that we educate ourselves and those around us. The following pages contain information that may assist you in speaking out and informing others.





Antisemitism Is Growing In The United States

- Between 2020-2021, anti-Jewish hate crimes in American cities rose 58.7%
- In 2022, reported antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high at 3697, up 36% from the previous year.
- In 2021, there were 51 physical assaults on mostly Orthodox Jews in New York state, the highest ever reported. Nationally there is a surge that sees 2,717 antisemitic incidents across the US, including 88 assaults, an increase of 167% from the year before.
- According to the FBI, 60.1% of the religiously motivated hate crimes in 2019 in the US were against Jews. In 2020, 76% were against Jews.
- White Supremacist activity rose more than twelvefold from 2017-2021. In 2022, there were more than 6,750 distinct incidents of distributed antisemitic or racist fliers, banners, ads, etc, the highest year on record.
- Between 2021-2022, incidents of white supremacist propoganda in New England rose 96%.

Highlights Of Recent Antisemitic Events In The US

2018

OCTOBER - A terrorist opens fire at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA during Sabbath morning services, killing 11 and wounding 6. Including several Holocaust survivors.

2019

DECEMBER - A man with a knife burst into the home of Rabbi Chaim Rottenberg in Monsey, NY, stabbing five people as they were about to light Hanukkah candles.

DECEMBER - A gunman targeted a Jewish deli in Jersey City, NJ, killing four.

SEPTEMBER - White supremacists march in Charlottesville, VA chanting "Jews will not replace us!" referring to the antisemitic lie that Jews are the cause of the increase of people of color in the US. The same marchers trap Jews in their Reform Temple during Friday Night prayers. They had to be escorted out the back exit by armed police.

APRIL - A terrorist opens fire at the Chabad of Poway, CA, killing one and injuring 3.

2022

OCTOBER - Kanye West repeatedly tweeted profoundly antisemitic comments to his 36 million followers, including saying he would “go death con 3 ON JEWISH PEOPLE.”

FEBRUARY - Whoopie Goldberg dismissed the notion that the Holocaust was racially motivated, contending that it was a conflict between two groups of white people. However, she overlooked the fact that during that time, both Germans and many Americans did not consider Jews to be part of the white race.

JANUARY - A terrorist enters a Reform Temple in Colleyville Texas during Sabbath morning services and held four worshippers including Rabbi Charlie Cytron-Walker hostage for six hours.

Jewish Perceptions of Antisemitism

82% percent of Jews report believing antisemitism has gotten worse or much worse during the past five years. (AJC Annual Survey)

63% of Jews experienced or witnessed antisemitism over the past five years,

59% felt Jews were less safe in the U.S. today than they were a decade ago

49% expressed fear of a violent attack at a synagogue. (ADL 2021 Audit)



Antisemitism In Vermont



Although not as severe as neighboring states, Vermont has experienced several incidents of antisemitism that have caused heightened anxiety within the local Jewish community.

Vermont Synagogues

The practice of hiring armed guards, installing bullet-resistant windows and film, implementing costly security systems, and even adding crash barriers, as per the recommendations of the Federal government, FBI, and local law enforcement has become a common occurrence.

In Our Schools

In a Burlington-area middle school last year, a social studies teacher told the class that the Jews were to blame for bringing the Holocaust on themselves

Swastikas have been carved on the walls and desks of Jewish students, and in one lunchroom, kids threw coins at a Jewish student and screamed, “dance for your money, Jew.”

The committee appointed by the Vermont Legislature to develop an Ethnic Studies Curriculum for public schools has repeatedly refused to include Jewish American experiences in the curriculum, despite repeated requests from the Jewish community.

The US Department of Education is currently investigating the University of Vermont for its inaction towards instances of antisemitism on campus. One such incident involved a student organization for sexual assault survivors that equated supporting Israel with sexual assault and expelled Jewish members who refused to deny Israel’s right to exist.

In Our Politics

In 2020, a member of the City of Burlington brought a proposal to “boycott, divest from and sanction Israel” the week before Rosh Hashanah. It was drafted by the Committee on Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging without speaking to any leaders of the local Jewish community.



Understanding Antisemitism

As the world's oldest conspiracy theory, antisemitism is not based on reason or facts. To identify and combat it, it's important to understand its distinct workings and the falsehoods it perpetuates. The following pages offer insights to aid in this endeavor.

- Antisemitism is the world's oldest and most malleable conspiracy theory in which Jews, a tiny majority of the world's population, are blamed for the world's largest and most intractable problems. It has very little to do with actual Jews.
- Antisemitism attributes superhuman powers to a small community that has been the victim of centuries of oppression and genocide. US Congress Person Marjorie Taylor Greene claiming that Jews control secret space lasers is just one recent manifestation; the idea that Israel controls the US is another.
- Claiming Jews control the world, control the banks, control Hollywood, or control the American government is an old antisemitic lie, one that is repeated today, as in Congress Person Ilhan Omar claiming "Israel hypnotizes the world" or that "it's all about the Benjamin's baby" are examples.
- Antisemitism simultaneously "punches" up and down, accusing Jews of being brilliant masterminds behind every war and catastrophe, people who control the world, and at the same time accuse Jews of being insects, vermin, parasitic, subhuman, and dirty.



- Denying the Holocaust was primarily aimed at Jews as a racial category, denies Jewish history and experience and is antisemitic.
- Antisemitism functions primarily as a tool for political organization and is particularly valuable in forging coalitions among otherwise competing groups.
- It is used politically to unite factions by posing a larger threat and a united cause by accusing Jews of being the root cause of whatever dangers/problems are seen as primary, be it racism, globalism, colonialism, or “white genocide.”
- Antisemitism is unique in that it often comes from opposite political sides simultaneously. For example, from the right, Jews are accused as agents of “globalism,” socialism, and secularism, while from the left, Jews are called colonialists, capitalists, hyperwhite, and servants of the 1%.
- Dividing “good ones” from “bad ones” is a common tactic in many forms of bigotry. It is particularly common today with antisemitism on the progressive left, where “bad Jews” support Israel and “good Jews” denounce it. That means that 80% of American Jews are ‘bad.’
- Assuming Jews are ‘white’ denies the diversity of the Jewish world, ignores the history of racism against Jews, and imposes American racial categories and history on situations that are radically different. Around 15% of American Jews are people of color.
- Claiming that Jews are actually imposters and not the ‘real Jews’ is deeply antisemitic and has been going on for 1000’s of years.





- The notorious antisemitic forgery, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, was distributed widely in America in the 1900s by Henry Ford and is still widely distributed in many parts of the world, including Russia, Turkey, and the Middle East.
- David Baddiel’s book Jews Don’t Count points out that on the left, when listing social justice ills like racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia, Jew-hatred is very often left off the list of concerns.
- Dara Horn distinguishes between “Purim Antisemites” on the right who openly say they hate Jews and want them dead, and “Hanukkah Antisemites” on the left who say they love Jews as long as those Jews give up being actively Jewish and let go of their particularism.

Antisemitism is primarily utilized as a political organizing tool, often by attributing the primary source of perceived dangers or problems to the Jewish community.



Israel, Zionism and Antisemitism



The creation of Israel, the sole Jewish state in the world, was a response to centuries of antisemitic violence and the atrocities of the Nazi regime. However, defensive wars have led to the occupation of lands previously belonging to Jordan that is now claimed by the Palestinian people, causing conflict, terrorism, and occupation. Understandably, opinions regarding the proper resolution of this issue vary greatly, leading to heated debates. While criticism of Israeli policies is valid, it becomes antisemitic when it involves denying Israel's right to exist, demonizing Jews or Israelis as a group, calling for the annihilation of Israel, or holding Israel to a different standard than other nations. Here are some key points to consider:

- Today, half of the world's Jews live in Israel.
- Return to sovereignty in Israel has been a central theme in Jewish prayers for over 2,000 years.
- Zionism is the movement for Jewish self-determination in the Jewish ancestral homeland. Being Zionist does not mean one supports the policies of the Israeli government.
- 80% of US Jews believe caring about Israel is an important or essential part of their Jewish identity. (Pew).



Examples of Antisemitic Slurs



- Using offensive words like Kike, Yid, Hymie, Shylock, or other similar degrading terms.
- Saying things like “Jew them down.”
- Implying that Jews only care about money, are all dishonest in business, or control the banks.
- Generalizations like: “you know how Jews are,” or “you can’t trust Jews” or “Jews are all.....”
- Saying or implying that Jews have much more power than they do, such as “Jews control Hollywood”, “Jews control the media,” or “Jews control America.”
- Claiming Jews are behind crises like COVID.
- Suggesting there is a secret council of powerful Jews that control and exploit the world.
- Erasing Jewish history by minimizing the Holocaust, or claiming that Jews have no connection to the land of Israel.
- Suggesting that some other groups of people are “the real Jews” and that people who call themselves Jews are imposters.



Strategies To Confront Antisemitism



- Join **Temple Sinai HALT(((H8)))** campaign for visibility, education, and allyship.
- Learn more about antisemitism, its history, and its current forms so that you can recognize it. One great option is to go to the ADL’s Antisemitism Uncovered. Just type [antisemitism.adl.org](https://www.adl.org/antisemitism) into your browser.
- Since antisemites might not share their bigoted ideas when Jews are around, it is very important for non-Jews to become allies and speak up. We need you!
- When you hear someone say something that you think is antisemitic,
 - say something like “Not true about Jews, I know.”
 - Ask the person to clarify what they mean, and if they mean all Jews are the same, or
 - Point out that making generalizations about an entire group of people is wrong, and harmful, and that lots of other people have the same qualities, or
 - Let them know they are using old, discredited lies about Jews and that it is offensive.
- Report antisemitic incidents to the ADL by typing “ADL Report Incident” into your search engine and clicking on the result that [includes adl.org](https://www.adl.org/).



Wear A Kippah To Work

Passover

April 5-12

As part of our ^{Temple} Sinai **HALT(((H8)))** campaign we are asking people of all faiths to consider wearing a kippah to work or school during Passover, April 5-12.

A Kippah, or yarmulke, is a small skullcap that many Jews wear during prayer. Temple Sinai has made 100 kippot with the ^{Temple} Sinai **HALT(((H8)))** logo embroidered on them.

We hope you will consider taking one and wearing it for a week or a day so that people ask you why and you can let them know it is about increasing awareness of antisemitism and being an ally to the local Jewish community.

If they ask you more, you have this TOOLKIT and our ^{Temple} Sinai **HALT(((H8)))** website to help you.



TempleSinai



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