



RESOURCES FOR RABBIS AND CONGREGATIONS

Utilizing the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism

A Jewish Community Guide to Countering Antisemitism



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A special note for Rabbis: During this season of reflection and as we approach the five year anniversary of the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue — the deadliest attack against Jews on American soil — antisemitism will undoubtedly be top of mind. The U.S. National Strategy offers hope and a path forward. American Jews should be aware:

- While other nations have action plans to address antisemitism, this is the first ever comprehensive American strategy to counter it.
- Representatives from more than 40 government agencies — from Department of Justice to Department of Agriculture — met and continue to meet every other week to determine and follow through on dozens of bold and innovative ideas to address antisemitism through their own mandates. This creativity within our government and long-term commitment to address a problem is virtually unprecedented.
- The U.S. National Strategy, unlike other nations' action plans, does not just guide the work of the government, but mobilizes all sectors of American society — from celebrities to governors, from law enforcement to the media — to understand, respond to, and prevent antisemitism.

The National Strategy stands on four pillars, each of which presents opportunities for Jewish communities. *Please note that the suggestions offered below are not exhaustive. There is always more that can be done.*

Pillar 1

Increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America, and broaden appreciation of Jewish American heritage

The Strategy encourages all faith leaders to educate their communities about both antisemitism and Jewish heritage, history, and culture, as well as the core American principle that people of all faiths have equal rights to religious liberty.

□ Provide trainings on understanding antisemitism:

AJC can partner with you by offering educational trainings on recognizing, responding to, and preventing antisemitism. These trainings will enable your congregation, membership, and/or partners to speak out when antisemitism and other forms of hate occur in your communities. To inquire, contact trainings@ajc.org.

- **Ensure your members understand antisemitism:** [AJC's Translate Hate glossary](#)¹ helps identify different sources of antisemitism and expose antisemitic tropes, words, and symbols that often hide in plain sight. [AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report](#)² details data about how American Jews perceive and experience antisemitism.
- **Enlist partners.** Work with non-Jewish faith leaders in your area to bring American Jewish Committee (AJC) trainers to educate their communities about both antisemitism and Jewish heritage, history, and culture, giving them the tools and inspiration to speak up when they hear speech that is antisemitic or witness antisemitic discrimination.

□ Plan for Jewish American Heritage Month, which occurs in May. AJC offers many resources specifically designed to celebrate [Jewish American Heritage Month](#)³, including videos, podcasts, and information on Jewish contributions to our country. AJC can also help plan Jewish community events to recognize this month.

□ Acknowledge International Holocaust Remembrance Day, designated by the UN to take place annually on January 27. Rabbis and Jewish communal leaders should issue [public statements](#)⁴, encourage Holocaust education, and hold community events reaffirming the fundamental guiding lesson of the Holocaust: never again.

¹[AJC.org/TranslateHateGlossary](https://www.ajc.org/TranslateHateGlossary)

²[AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2023](https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2023)

³[AJC.org/JewishAmericanHeritageMonth](https://www.ajc.org/JewishAmericanHeritageMonth)

⁴[AJC.org/statement/InternationalHolocaustRemembranceDay](https://www.ajc.org/statement/InternationalHolocaustRemembranceDay)

Pillar 2

Improve safety and security for Jewish communities



This October will mark the fifth anniversary of the tragedy at the Tree of Life Synagogue, the deadliest antisemitic event on American soil. For the first anniversary, AJC created a [Resource Guide for Rabbis and Others](#)⁵. This Guide will be updated and expanded for the fifth anniversary, and we will share that, other resources, and plans for commemoration with you as they are finalized.

The National Strategy cites [AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2022 report](#)⁶ that says 63% of American Jews believe law enforcement is effective in responding to the Jewish community's needs, a sharp drop from 81% in 2019. The Strategy calls on Jewish institutions to build stronger ties with law enforcement and community-based violence prevention programs, to discuss antisemitism and hate crimes.

□ Facilitate coordination with law enforcement:

Rabbis can ask their mayors and/or local law enforcement to establish a liaison to serve as a central coordinator for relationships with the local Jewish community or interfaith associations to be a central point of contact on security needs.

□ Convene coalitions: Coalitions are crucial to fighting hate of any form. Jewish communal organizations and synagogues can play a leading role as convenors of partners from local businesses, organizations, civil society leaders, interfaith and intergroup, and other stakeholders to discuss antisemitism and hate crimes in your communities.

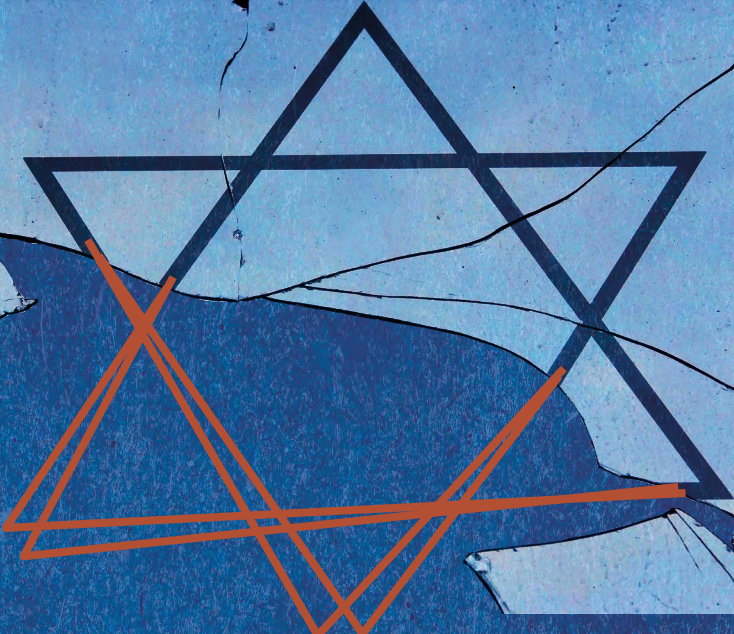
The Strategy calls on local and community leaders, law enforcement, and Jewish communities to collaborate on efforts to improve hate crime incident reporting, increase trust, and raise awareness about what constitutes a hate crime. As the National Strategy outlines, "Through these relationships, Jewish communities can avail themselves of federal training, technical assistance, and resources to bolster their security. Federal resources only reach as far as local actors' ability to utilize them."

□ Improve hate crime reporting: You and your congregants can work with AJC to engage in advocacy with local governments and law enforcement to intensify efforts to improve state and national hate crime reporting.

□ Improve security to protect minority communities: In Fiscal Year 2023, the Department of Homeland Security's Nonprofit Security Grant Program will provide \$305 million to train staff and protect minority-affiliated institutions and houses of worship. Raise awareness of these grants with eligible partners and urge participation.

⁵[AJC.org/RabbinicAntisemitismResource](https://www.ajc.org/RabbinicAntisemitismResource)

⁶[AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2022](https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2022)



Pillar 3

*Reverse the
normalization
of antisemitism
and counter
antisemitic
discrimination*

A majority of American Jews (62%) noticed antisemitism online in 2023, according to AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2023 Report. Similarly, of the 39% of U.S. adults that saw antisemitism in the past year, 68% saw it online or on social media.

□ **Report antisemitism online:** We can all play a role in reducing online hate. Don't be silent when you see an instance of antisemitism or other forms of hatred on social media. Report it to the platform directly; AJC's [Translate Hate](#)⁷ includes instructions.

The Strategy notes that in schools and on college campuses, Jewish students, educators, and administrators have been derided, ostracized, and sometimes discriminated against because of their actual or perceived views on Israel. All students, educators, and administrators should feel safe and free from violence, harassment and intimidation.

□ **Meet with leadership:** Synagogues and organizations can bring together Jewish educators, teachers, and parents to meet with school administrators or superintendents to raise awareness of antisemitism and ensure that there are clear and transparent mechanisms for students to report hate incidents.

□ **Engage Jewish youth:** The Strategy calls on Jewish student groups in K-12 schools and colleges to be a part of developing materials for their schools on how to identify and combat antisemitism.

□ **Utilize AJC resources:** The resources in AJC's ever-growing [Campus Library](#)⁸ can help Jewish students and parents be the best advocates for themselves and the Jewish people in the classroom and beyond.

⁷AJC.org/TranslateHate

⁸AJC.org/CampusLibrary

Pillar 4

Build cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate



92% of American adults say that antisemitism affects society as a whole; everyone is responsible for combating it. [In this video⁹](#), American Jews and allies reflect on the importance of everyone taking a stand against anti-Jewish hate, noting that “if it happens to one of us, it happens to all of us.”

Since 79% of Americans who know someone who is Jewish say antisemitism is a problem in the U.S. today, compared with 64% who do not know anyone who is Jewish, building personal connections between Jews and Americans of other faiths is critical and needs to begin early.

□ **Improve education:** The importance of education in the fight against hatred cannot be overstated. For coalition partners, learning about Jewish history and the societal problem of antisemitism can help develop a deeper understanding of Jews, their values, their fears, and the need for non-Jewish bystanders to not stay quiet in the face of Jewish attacks. AJC has [developed resources¹⁰](#) to help everyone better understand the Jewish religion, culture, and practices.

□ **Build personal connections:** Rabbis can consider tapping into local interfaith clergy councils that facilitate interfaith programming and fuel community activism. The Strategy encourages youth groups from a diverse range of religious communities to develop and incorporate multi-faith social activities, service events, and educational programming into their curricula.

The National Strategy calls on Jewish institutions to build strong ties to states and localities to collaborate with nongovernmental partners to support solidarity-building.

□ **Celebrate each other’s cultures:** Seek out opportunities to engage with partners within diverse communities during Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and so on; and ask them to help the Jewish community celebrate [Jewish American Heritage Month¹¹](#).

□ **Raise awareness of important holidays:** Jewish leaders play an important role in proactively creating awareness of religious cultures, practices, and needed accommodations of religious observances. This is especially critical for ensuring that official calendars for public schools and elections consider the major holidays of religious groups of all faith communities.

□ **Make interfaith and intergroup connections:** Your nearest [AJC Regional Office¹²](#) can help you connect with exemplary cross-community partnerships, such as AJC’s Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council (MJAC) and Latino Jewish Leadership Council, and coalitions, such as AJC’s Hindu-Jewish coalitions, Black-Jewish coalitions, and Christian-Jewish coalitions.

⁹[AJC.org/WhereTheresHope](#)

¹⁰[AJC.org/Culture](#)

¹¹[AJC.org/JewishAmericanHeritageMonth](#)

¹²[AJC.org/regionaloffices](#)

[AJC's Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#)¹³ is excited to work with all stakeholders, including Rabbis, congregations, and other Jewish communal partners, in this important work.

If you have questions, need further information, or wish to partner more closely with AJC and the work of our Task Force, please reach out to your nearest [AJC Regional Office](#)¹⁴ or contact AJC's Rabbinic Outreach Team: Rabbi David Levy at levyd@ajc.org or Karla Bonné at bonnek@ajc.org.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. With headquarters in New York and more than 75 offices, institutes, and international Jewish community partnerships worldwide, AJC's mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world.

Following the historic unveiling of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism by the White House, AJC CEO Ted Deutch announced the creation of the AJC Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. AJC's Task Force is designed to ensure the execution of the National Strategy, which includes dozens of AJC's recommendations closely resembling [AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America](#), in a meaningful and timely manner. For more information on AJC's Task Force visit [AJC.org/NationalStrategyNews](https://ajc.org/NationalStrategyNews).