

State of Nevada



Joe Lombardo
Governor

Nevada Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust

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Since the October 7 terrorist attack perpetrated by Hamas upon Israel, we have been devastated by the unnecessary loss of life in Israel and Gaza. As the Council, we have further been horrified as Jews, Arabs, and Muslims are targeted around the world in antisemitic, anti-Arab, and Islamophobic attacks. Moreover, we have watched as people have purposefully misapplied the word “genocide.”

As the state agency established by law to educate on the Holocaust, which led to the invention of the word “[genocide](#)” and the criminalization of it, it is incumbent upon us to condemn in the strongest possible terms the attacks upon individuals for their identity. We must also condemn in the strongest possible terms the purposeful misuse of the word “genocide” for political and ideological purposes.

Genocide has a meaning; it is a defined word. Nevada in [NRS 388.887\(7\)](#) adopted the definition of the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), which in turn is the definition applied by the [United Nations](#) and [International Humanitarian Law](#). Genocide requires an ***act*** with the specific ***intent*** to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Genocide is not a singular event and the determination of it requires a careful examination of the totality of actions taken by the actors.

Misapplying genocide to fit narratives does not help anyone, but it does diminish what happened to millions of people during the Holocaust, Porajmos, Armenian, Cambodian, Darfur, Guatemalan, and Rwandan Genocides, as examples. We must remain vigilant to spot when the elements of genocide are met and stop them when present.

We applaud the desire to save innocent human life and are appalled by the loss of those lives, it is important to understand war in the context and nuance of the surrounding facts. Learning about genocide and hate is important, but it cannot be done in the vacuum of [social media](#) platforms such as TikTok and X (formerly Twitter). We encourage everyone to participate in one of our programs offered across the state to learn more about what genocide actually is.

Contact us to learn more at Nevada.Holocaust@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

The Nevada Governor's Advisory Council on Education Relating to the Holocaust