

Winter Leadership Conference 2026
Being a Light Amid Growing Antisemitism
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Antisemitism has increased exponentially in recent years, particularly since October 7, 2023, when Hamas terrorists waged the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust. We will explore new forms of Antisemitism on both the political-left and the political-right, Anti-Zionist ideologies on college campuses, and ways to combat extremism and be a light and prophetic voice in a polarized world.

I. CONTEXT

On October 7th, Hamas terrorists waged the deadliest attack on Jews since the Holocaust when over 1,200 people were brutally murdered, thousands were wounded, and individuals were attacked, raped, burned, and entire families were killed.

And what made that atrocity even worse, is that it immediately kicked off a global wave of support ... not for Jews and Israel ... *but for Hamas!*

- The very next day there were already protests on college campuses praising the attack, and Jewish students and faculty immediately began to be harassed.
- Streets in cities across the globe have been filled with chants of “Death to Israel,” “Zionism = Racism,” and “Globalize the Intifada.”

Rising Antisemitism

In the subsequent months and years, Jews have been beaten in the streets, an old woman was killed in her home, a Jewish man was beaten and killed on a streetcorner near where we used to live in California, a young Jewish girl was gang-raped outside of Paris ... and the list goes on and on. All because these individuals were Jewish.

As difficult as the last couple of years have been, in reality, this new form of Antisemitism has been on the rise since 2016.

- Antisemitism has risen over 360% (and even higher on college campuses)¹
- In the months following Oct. 7th, there was an average of nearly 34 antisemitic incidents per day, putting 2023 on track to be the highest year for antisemitic acts against Jews since the ADL started tracking this data in the late 1970s.

Most of you probably even saw the report that was just released two weeks ago by the NYPD, demonstrating that in 2025, NYC Jews were targeted in hate crimes more than all other groups combined.²

¹ “U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Skyrocketed 360% in Aftermath of Attack in Israel, according to Latest ADL Data.” ADL website (accessed March 31, 2025) - <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according>

² “NYC Jews targeted in hate crimes more than all other groups combined in 2025 — NYPD,” *Times of Israel* (January 6, 2026) - <https://www.timesofisrael.com/nyc-jews-targeted-in-hate-crimes-more-than-all-other-groups-combined-in-2025-nypd/>

“Antisemitic incidents amounted to 57 percent of the total hate crimes reported to police, and represented an anti-Jewish incident every 26 hours.”

II. DEFINING THE NEW ANTISEMITISM

- a. New Antisemitism = A new form of antisemitism that often manifests as anti-Zionism.
 - i. Often packaged in progressive language, masking its antisemitism.
- b. “Old School” Antisemitism = overt and blatant hatred of Jews.
- c. To be clear: legitimate criticism of Israel is not antisemitic in and of itself.
 - i. When Criticism is Illegitimate:
 1. Demonization
 2. Double Standards
 3. Delegitimization

III. RISE OF ANTISEMITIC ATTITUDES IN AMERICA³

- a. A study conducted by the ADL Center for Antisemitism Research found that “24% of Americans endorse[d] six or more anti-Jewish tropes in 2024.”
 - i. The study also found the following trends:
 1. Anti-Jewish trope beliefs continue to increase, with younger Americans under 30 agreeing with the greatest number of anti-Jewish tropes on average.
 2. Conspiratorial thinking and social dominance orientation are key predictors of anti-Jewish belief.
 3. A significant percentage of Americans hold anti-Israel positions (but may also support a Jewish state’s right to exist).
 4. Individuals who held negative attitudes toward Israel-related policies, Israeli people, and Israel-oriented conspiracy theories were significantly more likely to believe anti-Jewish tropes.

IV. ANTISEMITISM ON THE POLITICAL-LEFT

- a. Socio-historical Context for Jewish Involvement within the Political Left
 - i. Vast majority of Jews are Democrats and lean more politically left.
 - ii. This has resulted in growing litmus tests.
- b. Antisemitism on the Left is packaged in progressive language, masking its antisemitism.
 - i. It pretends to be (and presents itself as) the opposite of what it actually is.
 - ii. Bari Weiss: “anti-Semitism that originates on the left is a far more subtle and sophisticated enterprise. It’s typically camouflaged in language familiar to Jewish tongues and ears: the language of social justice and anti-racism, of equality and liberation.”⁴
 - iii. Noah Feldman (Times Article: “The New Antisemitism”): “The core of this new antisemitism lies in the idea that Jews are not a historically oppressed people seeking self-preservation but instead oppressors: imperialists, colonialists, and even white supremacists. This view

³ <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitic-attitudes-america-2024>

⁴ Bari Weiss, *How to Fight Anti-Semitism* (New York: Crown, 2019), 92.

preserves vestiges of the trope that Jews exercise vast power. It creatively updates that narrative to contemporary circumstances and current cultural preoccupations with the nature of power and injustice.”⁵

V. COMMON ACCUSATIONS ON THE POLITICAL-LEFT

- a. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks שליט (Former Chief Rabbi of Great Britain): “In the Middle Ages Jews were hated for their religion. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, they were hated for their race. Today they are hated for their nation state, Israel.”⁶
 - i. Jews don’t fit nicely into the labels that keep getting placed onto us.
 - ii. We Jews stubbornly keep resisting conformity throughout history.
- b. Common accusations and recycled tropes include (but not limited to):
 - i. Jews/Zionists are colonizers.
 - ii. Jewish/Zionist conspiracy to control the world.
 - iii. Holocaust denial or dismissal
- c. Role of Anti-Zionism in the New Antisemitism.
 - i. Attempts to delegitimize Zionism and the State of Israel
 1. The vast majority of Jews identify as Zionists
 2. Zionism is simply the idea of self-determination in our ancient homeland.
 - ii. Common accusations against Israel:
 1. Racist and apartheid state
 2. Committing ethnic cleansing
 3. Committing genocide
- d. Role of Soviet Propaganda in the New Antisemitism (“Anti-Zionism”)
 - i. Soviet need to delegitimize and Jews and Israel (as a major U.S. ally)
 - ii. Soviets were shapers of left-leaning ideologies
 - iii. Playing right into soviet propaganda
- e. Hypocrisy of only singling out Israel
 - i. In the U.N. and on the Global Stage
- f. Justification for Violence Against Jews
 - i. “Right to resist by any means necessary.”

VI. ANTISEMITISM ON THE POLITICAL-RIGHT

- a. “Old Skool” Antisemitism
 - i. Jews Have Too Much Power
 1. Protocols of the Elders of Zion
 - ii. Jews Are Disloyal
 - iii. Jews Are All Liberal Communists
 - iv. Jews are Greedy
 - v. Holocaust Denial
- b. The Great Replacement Theory⁷

⁵ Noah Feldman, “The New Antisemitism,” *Time Magazine*, Feb. 27, 2024 (accessed April 7, 2025) - <https://time.com/6763293/antisemitism/>

⁶ Weiss, *How to Fight Anti-Semitism*, 101.

⁷ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/what-is-great-replacement-theory-and-how-does-it-fuel-racist-violence>

- i. Essentially, there is a plot to displace, and diminish the influence of white people.
- ii. This view has led to such violent incidents as:
 - 1. Buffalo Supermarket Shooting (May 14, 2022) in which 10 people were killed (most were African American).
- iii. Believers of the Great Replacement Theory say this goal is being achieved both through the immigration of nonwhite people, as well as through simple demographics, with white people having lower birth rates than other populations.
- iv. Jews are often accused of being behind the replacement plan.
 - 1. White nationalists marching in the Charlottesville rally that turned deadly in 2017 chanted “You will not replace us!” and “Jews will not replace us!”
- v. A more mainstream view often expressed suggests Democrats and Jews are encouraging immigration from Latin America so more potential voters replace “traditional” Americans.
 - 1. For example, Tucker Carlson has long pushed false narratives that are more easily embraced by those concerned about a loss of political and social power.
 - a. A study of five years’ worth of Carlson’s Fox television show by The New York Times found 400 instances where he talked about Democratic politicians and others seeking to force demographic change through immigration.⁸
- c. The New Blood Libel
 - i. What is a “Blood Libel?”
 - ii. New Blood Libel:
 - 1. Israel Mistreating Christians in Gaza
 - a. A major advocate of this position is Tucker Carlson.
 - 2. Israel is harvesting the organs of Palestinians⁹
- d. Jews Are All Liberal Communists
- e. Groypers
 - i. The so-called “Groyper army” is a white supremacist group that presents its ideology as more nuanced than other groups in the white supremacist sphere. While the group and leadership’s views align with those held by the white supremacist alt right, groypers attempt to normalize their ideology by aligning themselves with “Christianity” and “traditional” values.¹⁰
 - ii. Self-named after the ‘Groyper’ toad image, which became popular as an explicitly racist-coded variation of the Pepe the Frog meme often affiliated with the ‘alt-right’, the Groypers emerged offline as a movement in 2019.¹¹
 - iii. Pepe the Frog

⁸ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/30/us/tucker-carlson-gop-republican-party.html>

⁹ <https://www.adl.org/resources/article/blood-libel-accusations-resurface-wake-oct-7>

¹⁰ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgroundunder/groyper-army-and-america-first>

¹¹ <https://www.isdglobal.org/explainers/groypers/>

1. Pepe the frog is a cartoon character originally created in 2005 by cartoonist Matt Furie.
 - a. Furie has sued organizations using the cartoon as a hate symbol.
2. A popular meme that has become a symbol of the alt-right movement as early as 2015.

VII. ANTI-ZIONISM AND ANTISEMITISM ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- a. Campus Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism is intertwined with Antisemitism on the Political-Left.
- b. Jews have experienced various forms of discrimination on college campuses throughout U.S. history.
 - i. Between early 20th century until the 1960's, quotas were placed on Jewish admission.
 - ii. In the early 21st century there has been a steady resurgence of Antisemitism.
- c. Since October 7th (2023), Antisemitism has exponentially exploded.
 - i. Widespread campus protests
 - ii. Jews have been harassed by students and faculty on campus in classrooms.
 - iii. Jews have been physically assaulted and property vandalized.
 - iv. "The 2023-2024 ADL annual report on anti-Israel activism on U.S. campuses tallied 2,637 anti-Israel incidents of assault, vandalism, harassment, protests/actions and divestment resolutions between June 1, 2023, and May 31, 2024, a staggering 628% increase in those categories compared to the same period in 2022-2023. This marks the highest number ever documented by ADL."¹²
 - v. Hillel International (International Jewish Campus Organization):
 1. 1,854 Antisemitic incidents on campus during the 2023-2024 academic year.
 2. 1,537 Antisemitic incidents on campus tracked during 2024-2025 academic year. Updated April 21, 2025.
- d. Origins of Campus Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism
 - i. BDS Movement
 1. Founded by Omar Barghouti
 - a. Born in Qatar to a Palestinian family, grew up in Egypt.
 - b. In early 1990s he married an Israeli-Arab woman, and moved to Acre, and holds Israeli permanent residency status.
 - c. Studied at Tel Aviv University.
 2. BDS = a "Master Plan" to discredit Israel and Israeli academics on college campuses.
 - ii. Anti-Zionism = The erasure of Israel's legitimacy, its founding, and experience; and the ultimate denial of its right to exist.
 1. Often it is combined with "old-skool" anti-Semitism.

¹² <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/anti-israel-activism-us-campuses-2023-2024>

- iii. Qatari and Foreign Funding of Universities
 - 1. ISGAP = “the existence of substantial Middle Eastern funding (primarily from Qatar) to US universities that had not been reported to the Department of Education (DoED), as required by law. In fact, ISGAP’s research uncovered billions of dollars of unreported funds, which, in turn, led to the launch of a federal government investigation in 2019.”¹³
- iv. Application of certain modern theories to the modern State of Israel:
 - 1. Post-colonial theory
 - a. Problematic lens of reducing everything into “Oppressor vs. Oppressed”
 - 2. Political Activism
- v. Red-Green Alliance
 - 1. The New Progressive-Islamist Alliance¹⁴
- e. Campus Protests
 - i. Accusations:
 - 1. Israel is an Apartheid State
 - 2. Committing Genocide in Gaza
 - ii. Imagery
 - 1. Red Hands
 - iii. Support and Justification for Terrorism
 - 1. “Resistance is not terrorism”
 - 2. “Resistance by any means necessary”

VIII. BEING A LIGHT AND A PROPHETIC VOICE

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear,
but of love, power, and a sound mind.
(2 Timothy 1:7)*

Seven ways you can make a difference:

1. Reach out and meet with local pastors.
 - a. Help them understand they can speak out against antisemitism without having to wade into politics regarding the State of Israel.
 - b. Many pastors are afraid and ill-equipped to address these issues.
2. Reach out to your local Christian radio station and speak with the manager, specifically share your concerns and ask if they would be open to an interview on the issue.
3. In your sermons, specifically address verses and passages within Scripture that are often weaponized against Jews.
4. Equip and mobilize the Gentiles in our congregations to serve as ambassadors for the Jewish people.
5. Find out what is happening locally and get involved:
 - a. Local antisemitism task force within the Jewish Federation.

¹³ <https://isgap.org/follow-the-money/>

¹⁴ <https://providencemag.com/2023/11/the-new-red-green-alliance-1/>

- b. Local ADL chapter
- c. Attend events at your local JCC
- 6. Reach out to local rabbis, or your local Board of Rabbis, to share your concerns:
 - a. “I realize we have had our differences, but rising antisemitism affects all of us ... whether you like it or not, we’re in this together.”
- 7. Pray!
 - a. Pray against growing antisemitism
 - b. Pray for a spirit of peace, healing, conviction, and reconciliation.

כִּי אִם־הִחַרְשׁ תִּחְרִישׁ בְּעַת הַזֹּאת הַנֶּחַ וְהִצְלָה יַעֲמֹד לְיְהוּדִים מִמְּקוֹם אֲחֵר
וְאֵת וּבֵית־אָבִיךָ תֵּאבְדוּ וּמִי יוֹדֵעַ אִם־לַעֲתָהּ כָּזֹאת הִגַּעְתָּ לְמַלְכוּת:

On the contrary, if you keep silent in this crisis, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from another quarter, while you and your father's house will perish. And who knows, perhaps you have attained your royal position for just such a crisis.”

(Esther 4:14, JPS)