The Abraham Global Peace Initiative National Strategy for Combatting Antisemitism
(2025)

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The Abraham Global Peace Initiative

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Executive Summary

Antisemitism is a persistent and growing threat in Canada, manifesting across societal, political, and digital spaces. This alarming reality demands urgent, unified, and systemic action. The Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) has been at the forefront of addressing this troubling trend, drawing on its expertise in human rights advocacy and its unwavering commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity. This National Strategy for Combatting Antisemitism offers a comprehensive roadmap to foster societal resilience against hate and secure a safe and inclusive future for Jewish Canadians Antisemitism in Canada has reached disturbing levels, with incidents of hate speech, vandalism, and violence targeting Jewish communities increasing significantly in recent years. From educational institutions to online platforms, antisemitic rhetoric has grown, becoming normalized and, in some cases, tolerated. Recognizing this dangerous trajectory, AGPI emphasizes that combatting antisemitism is not only a moral imperative but also essential for safeguarding human rights, democracy, and the foundational principles of an equitable society.

A cornerstone of AGPI's strategy is its advocacy for the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, a vital tool for identifying and addressing contemporary antisemitic behaviors. As a key contributor to the consultation process for [Canada's Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism](), AGPI has helped shape the national discourse on this critical issue. The handbook's case studies and guidelines provide a significant starting point for policymakers, educators, and civil society leaders to understand and confront antisemitism through actionable measures.

AGPI has championed the integration of antisemitism education into school curricula, promoting awareness about Jewish history, culture, and the impacts of antisemitism. By equipping educators with tailored resources and training, AGPI empowers schools to challenge stereotypes, combat prejudice, and foster empathy among students. Recognizing that antisemitism is not merely a historical issue but a contemporary challenge, AGPI has also developed robust support systems for victims of antisemitism, including legal aid and emotional and psychological resources. These initiatives ensure that victims have the tools and support needed to navigate the aftermath of discrimination and hate crimes, fostering resilience and justice.

In addressing systemic antisemitism, AGPI has prioritized the importance of accurate data collection, research, and monitoring. These practices are essential to understanding the prevalence and manifestations of antisemitism, enabling policymakers to craft targeted and effective interventions. Furthermore, AGPI has actively worked to combat the proliferation of online antisemitism by collaborating with technology companies, policymakers, and educators. These efforts aim to curb the spread of hate speech on social media while promoting digital respect and accountability.

A critical component of AGPI's strategy involves training law enforcement personnel to recognize and respond to antisemitic incidents effectively. By advocating for specialized education for police and other justice system stakeholders, AGPI fosters trust and ensures transparency and accountability in addressing hate crimes. These combined efforts underline AGPI's belief that combatting antisemitism is a shared societal responsibility requiring collaboration, courage, and an unwavering commitment to justice.

This National Strategy reflects AGPI's dedication to addressing antisemitism as both a human rights issue and a societal challenge. By championing education, fostering advocacy, and ensuring accountability, AGPI strives to dismantle systemic antisemitism and build a more inclusive society. With urgency and resolve, Canada can reaffirm its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity—values that are at the heart of its identity as a democratic nation. Through these efforts, AGPI aims to ensure that Jewish Canadians, and all citizens, can live free from fear, hate, and discrimination.

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Introduction

In an era demanding vigilance against hate and prejudice, antisemitism has once again emerged as a persistent and deeply rooted challenge in Canadian society. Despite Canada's reputation for multiculturalism and inclusivity, Jewish communities face unique threats requiring urgent and targeted action. From systemic failures to protect Jewish institutions to the normalization of antisemitism in education, the challenges confronting Jewish Canadians are complex and multifaceted. AGPI, as a leading human rights organization, is committed to addressing these issues through advocacy, public awareness, and inclusive educational practices.

One of the most pressing concerns is the inadequate protection for Jewish spaces, increasingly targeted by threats and acts of violence. Compounding this is resistance to adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, a vital tool for combating modern hate, often hindered by misconceptions and political pushback. Antisemitism has also become disturbingly normalized in educational spaces, where biased curricula and hostile environments discourage Jewish students from embracing their identities.

The conflation of antisemitism with other forms of hate in public discourse complicates efforts to address antisemitism effectively, often minimizing the specific challenges Jewish communities face. The politicization of symbols like the Keffiyeh has alienated Jewish Canadians and underscored the need for greater sensitivity in public and institutional spaces. Meanwhile, on university campuses, antisemitism is frequently disguised as political activism, creating hostile environments for Jewish students and staff.

The media plays a significant role in shaping public perceptions of antisemitism, yet its coverage often downplays the systemic nature of anti-Jewish hate. This fosters ignorance and undermines comprehensive solutions. Within Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives, Jewish experiences are frequently marginalized, leaving critical gaps in discussions on systemic oppression and intersectionality.

In the wake of intractable conflicts involving radical-Islamic fundamentalist groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, and others, antisemitism across Canada has reached alarming levels. Jewish schools and institutions have been targeted by bomb threats, shootings, and acts of vandalism, including arson attacks on school buses and facilities. The insufficient—or at times absent—responses from Canadian leadership have heightened a sense of vulnerability among Jewish communities.

Simultaneously, antisemitism veiled as anti-Zionism has intensified. Efforts to delegitimize Israel frequently serve as a cover for hate, with systemic pressures on Boards of Education to sever partnerships with Jewish organizations that provide anti-racism training. The rise of terms like "anti-Palestinian racism" by certain activists has further polarized discourse, undermining the legitimacy of Jewish narratives and silencing essential voices.

Recognizing these intersecting challenges, AGPI remains steadfast in its mission to advocate for policy reforms, build awareness, and foster community solidarity. Through targeted initiatives, partnerships with institutions, and ongoing public awareness campaigns, AGPI is creating a roadmap for a more inclusive and equitable Canada, where Jewish communities can thrive without fear. This report outlines eight critical challenges facing Jewish Canadians today and AGPI's strategies for addressing them, building toward a society rooted in understanding, security, and justice.

Political Background

The Pursuit of Meaningful Legislation and Policy to Combat Antisemitism in Canada
The pursuit of effective legislation and policies to combat antisemitism in Canada has faced substantial challenges, ranging from partisan politics to coordinated opposition from activist groups. Despite these obstacles, AGPI remains unwavering in its commitment to advancing frameworks that address antisemitism comprehensively. Central to this effort is advocating for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. This globally recognized definition provides a crucial foundation for identifying and addressing antisemitism in all its manifestations, while reinforcing the principles of equity and inclusivity in Canadian society.

Legislative Efforts: Opportunities and Challenges

The fight against antisemitism requires a comprehensive legislative framework at both the federal and provincial levels. Renewed efforts to pass federal hate speech legislation, such as a revised version of Bill C-36, are imperative to modernize Canada's legal response to hate speech and online incitement. Concurrently, provincial governments must bolster enforcement mechanisms for existing anti-hate laws, ensuring accountability and consistent implementation across districts.

Ontario has been at the forefront of legislative action, championing initiatives such as Bill 202, the *Standing Up Against Antisemitism in Ontario Act*. This bill underscored the dangers posed by the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which frequently disguises hostility toward Jewish and Israeli communities as political advocacy. University campuses have become hotbeds for BDS campaigns, fostering environments of alienation and intimidation for Jewish students. Despite its passage, the bill's enforcement has been inadequate, allowing these harmful activities to persist unchecked.

Similarly, the introduction of Bill 168, the *Combating Antisemitism Act*, in 2020 marked a critical milestone in Ontario's efforts to address antisemitism. By mandating the adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, the bill aimed to establish a clear framework for identifying and addressing anti-Jewish hate. However, resistance from some educational institutions and community organizations has hindered its full implementation. These entities often cite fears of backlash and concerns over politicizing anti-racism work, resulting in a troubling double standard where antisemitism receives less rigorous enforcement compared to other forms of hate.

At the federal level, Bill C-36, introduced in 2021, sought to address gaps in Canada's hate speech provisions by targeting online incitement to violence, including antisemitic rhetoric. AGPI strongly advocated for this legislation, recognizing the urgency of combating hate speech in digital spaces. However, the bill's failure to pass has left a significant void

in Canada's legal framework, highlighting the need for provincial and institutional measures to fill this gap.

Legislative action must not only recognize the unique challenges posed by antisemitism but also ensure robust enforcement. This requires federal and provincial governments, alongside educational and public institutions, to collaborate in creating consistent, actionable policies. AGPI continues to advocate for these measures, emphasizing that combating antisemitism is integral to safeguarding the values of equity, diversity, and inclusivity in Canada.

Advocacy for the IHRA Definition

The Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) has long championed the integration of robust anti-racism and equity policies with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. Recognized by 32 countries and endorsed by hundreds of organizations globally, this definition serves as an indispensable tool in identifying and combating contemporary forms of antisemitism. By providing clear and actionable examples, it illuminates the nuanced intersections of anti-Zionism and anti-Jewish hatred, a distinction essential for addressing hate in all its manifestations. Despite its impartiality, the IHRA definition has faced vocal opposition, particularly from groups mischaracterizing it as anti-Palestinian or politically charged. Such narratives misrepresent its intent, creating unnecessary barriers to its adoption and undermining efforts to safeguard Jewish communities. AGPI diligently counters these misconceptions, emphasizing that the IHRA definition explicitly permits legitimate criticism of Israel while clarifying when such criticism veers into antisemitism. This balance ensures it remains an effective, fair, and inclusive framework.

AGPI's work in this domain is both proactive and deeply educational. Partnering with school boards, ministries, and public institutions, AGPI engages in workshops, policy consultations, and community outreach to dispel misunderstandings and foster consensus around the IHRA definition. These initiatives are pivotal in creating a shared understanding of antisemitism as a societal issue requiring collective action.

The mandatory adoption of the IHRA definition across all publicly funded institutions—including schools, universities, and government agencies—represents a crucial step forward. Establishing a uniform standard for identifying and addressing antisemitism ensures a cohesive, effective approach to combating hate. By aligning institutional policies with this globally recognized framework, society not only protects Jewish communities but also strengthens the broader fight against racism and prejudice in all its forms.

The Role of Educational Institutions

Educational institutions hold immense power to shape societal attitudes, making them pivotal in the fight against antisemitism. However, the absence of consistent policies addressing this issue has allowed biases and misinformation to take root, undermining efforts to create inclusive learning environments. The Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) has been at the forefront of advocating for the integration of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism into equity and anti-racism frameworks across school boards and post-secondary institutions in Canada.

Challenges are especially acute in higher education, where pro-Palestinian activism often blurs the line between political advocacy and hate speech. The presence of Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns, alongside anti-Israel rhetoric manifested through on-campus encampments, poster campaigns, and waves of activists engaging in intimidation, has fostered hostile environments for Jewish students. These students frequently encounter discrimination, verbal harassment, and social ostracization, not only from peers but also, at times, from faculty. Such environments erode trust and safety within academic communities.

AGPI calls on universities to adopt proactive and comprehensive measures to combat antisemitism. These include implementing clear policies that unequivocally define and address antisemitism, providing sensitivity training for staff and students, and establishing robust reporting mechanisms to ensure hate incidents are addressed swiftly and effectively. Institutions that fail to address antisemitism within their communities must face tangible consequences, including the potential loss of public funding. Transparency in reporting and responding to hate incidents is essential to rebuilding trust and ensuring the safety of Jewish individuals on campus.

Beyond the education sector, raising public awareness about contemporary manifestations of antisemitism remains a crucial component of combating hate. AGPI has led the way in developing impactful public education campaigns, including exhibits and programs that illuminate the far-reaching consequences of antisemitism on Canadian society. These initiatives challenge harmful stereotypes, foster empathy, and encourage collective action to counter hate.

By emphasizing education, institutional accountability, and public awareness, AGPI continues to address the systemic roots of antisemitism in educational and societal contexts, promoting equity, inclusivity, and understanding for the benefit of all.

Concerns

The rise of antisemitism and the growing divisions within educational settings demand urgent attention and action. In recent years, the discourse surrounding issues of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in schools and society has increasingly become a space where voices are amplified, but sometimes, at the expense of others. Particularly in the context of the Middle East conflict and its intersectional identity, many feel their experiences are either marginalized or completely silenced. The expressions of solidarity, such as chants of "Free Palestine," highlight the complexity of navigating diverse histories and identities within mixed environments, yet these very expressions often fail to address the need for inclusive dialogue that recognizes the humanity and lived experiences, including the Jewish community and its allies who feel increasingly vulnerable to antisemitism.

As such, AGPI, we believe that addressing these complex issues requires more than just surface-level engagement or reactive measures. It demands deep reflection on how school boards, educators, corporations, politicians, and civil society, design and implement their EDI policies and practices. Specifically, AGPI is concerned with how intersecting histories are taught and understood, and how anti-racist leadership is cultivated, and how the success of EDI efforts is both measured and monitored. To create truly inclusive spaces, it is necessary to ensure that no group's identity, history, or experiences are elevated at the expense of another's. This requires not only structural change but a commitment to listening, understanding, and co-creating solutions that will safeguard the dignity and inclusion of all students.

Anti-Palestinian Racism as a tool to 3D[1] the State of Israel and the Jewish People

AGPI is deeply alarmed by the invention of and increasing use and weaponization of the term "Anti-Palestinian Racism" (APR), which we call a fabricated concept designed to

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[1] The term 3D in the context of Israel refers to Demonization, Double Standards, and Delegitimization, a framework coined by Natan Sharansky to identify when criticism of Israel crosses the line into antisemitism. These criteria are used to distinguish legitimate critique of Israeli policies from rhetoric that is rooted in hatred or bias against Jews and the Jewish state.

1. **Demonization**: This occurs when Israel is portrayed as an evil entity, using language or imagery that dehumanizes its people and leaders. It includes comparisons to Nazi Germany or accusations of genocidal intent, which are inflammatory and unfounded. Such rhetoric is aimed at stripping Israel of its moral standing and fostering hatred.
2. **Double Standards**: This refers to singling out Israel for criticism while ignoring or excusing similar or worse actions by other nations. For example, condemning Israel's self-defense measures while remaining silent about terrorism or human rights abuses in other countries reflects a biased approach.
3. **Delegitimization**: This involves denying Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state. It challenges the Jewish people's historical, legal, and cultural connection to the land of Israel, questioning their legitimacy while not applying the same scrutiny to other nations.

perpetuate antisemitism in a new guise. This term, presented under the pretense of political discourse, intentionally functions as a manipulative tool to delegitimize Israel, deny the Jewish people their sovereignty, and propagate harmful antisemitic narratives. By applying double standards to Israel—subjecting its actions to unparalleled scrutiny while ignoring the actions of other nations—APR deliberately sets out to isolate the Jewish state, undermine its legitimacy, and erase the Jewish people's profound historical, cultural, and religious connections to the land of Israel.

APR fosters a dehumanizing narrative that portrays Israel as inherently oppressive, unfairly holding it uniquely accountable for complex geopolitical issues while absolving other actors of responsibility. This narrative not only purposefully targets Jews globally but also undermines their collective right to self-determination. AGPI is particularly concerned about how APR pressures the forced recognition of a Palestinian state at the expense of Jewish security, rights, and sovereignty, reinforcing a dangerous trend that bolsters antisemitic tropes and threatens the stability of Israel.

Furthermore, AGPI has witnessed firsthand the discriminatory nature of APR through targeted efforts to discredit pro-Israel perspectives, including attempts to silence tour organization's advocacy in media and public discourse. By presupposing that there is systemic racism against Palestinians where none exists, APR distorts historical truths and dismisses the legitimate Jewish narrative. AGPI asserts that APR is not merely a rhetorical device, but a fundamentally racist and discriminatory tool intended to delegitimize and defame Jewish identity itself.

Systemic Failure to Protect Jewish Institutions

Based on findings published by Statistics Canada and Police data on reported hate motivated crimes per jurisdiction, as well as provincially/territorially, and nationally, Jewish schools, synagogues, and community centers face disproportionate threats compared to other religious and cultural institutions in Canada. These threats are not merely isolated incidents but reflect an alarming normalization of anti-Jewish sentiment. Bomb scares, arson attacks, and vandalism create an atmosphere of fear that disrupts daily life and erodes the sense of safety that should be guaranteed to all Canadians. In addition to advocating for increased physical security measures, AGPI pushes for policies that mandate swift, coordinated responses to threats against Jewish institutions. This includes partnerships with municipal, provincial/territorial, and national police agencies to implement comprehensive risk assessments and secure funding for surveillance and protection measures. Furthermore, AGPI works to ensure that the perpetrators of these hate crimes face meaningful consequences to deter future attacks. Given this, engaging local communities in dialogue about the importance of safeguarding Jewish spaces remains a crucial part of fostering solidarity and mutual understanding.

Resistance to Adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

AGPI was honoured to be part of the national consultation and review process of the Canadian Handbook on the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. Given this, AGPI strongly believes that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism provides a critical framework for understanding and addressing anti-Jewish hate in its contemporary forms, including those that intersect with anti-Zionism. Despite this, many educational institutions and government bodies resist adopting the definition due to misguided and misinformed political concerns or misconceptions about its implications for free speech. This resistance undermines efforts to identify and combat antisemitism effectively, creating an additional hurdle for Canada's Jewish community to be recognized as part of Canada's marginalized peoples. As such, AGPI has intensified its advocacy to highlight the necessity of the IHRA definition as a non-binding, educational tool that does not curtail legitimate political discourse. Through workshops, public campaigns, and stakeholder consultations, AGPI works to demystify the definition and counter disinformation about its purpose. Additionally, AGPI continues to engage with policymakers to promote its integration into institutional anti-racism policies, ensuring that Jewish communities are afforded the same protections as other marginalized groups.

Normalization of Antisemitism in Educational Spaces

Educational institutions should be sanctuaries of learning and inclusion, yet antisemitism has become disturbingly normalized within these spaces. Students are exposed to biased curricula, unchecked antisemitic rhetoric and tropes, and sometimes outright hostility from peers and educators. This hostile environment discourages Jewish students from openly expressing their identities and viewpoints. AGPI advocates for mandatory professional development programs that educate teachers and administrators on recognizing and addressing both explicit and implicit antisemitism. These programs include, but are not limited to case studies, scenario-based training, and guidelines for fostering inclusive classrooms. Additionally, AGPI continues to work with educational boards to develop policies that prioritize the reporting and addressing of antisemitic incidents with transparency and accountability. So too, collaborations with Jewish organizations ensure that educational content accurately reflects Jewish history and experiences, countering disinformation and fostering a more inclusive environment for all students.

Conflation of Antisemitism with other forms of hate

Antisemitism is a unique and pressing issue that must not be conflated with other forms of hate. When antisemitism is merged with or discussed alongside other forms of hate in public discourse and policy, it often leads to a dilution of the distinct experiences of Jewish communities. Political leaders, educational stakeholders, and community members frequently address antisemitism in tandem with hate against Muslims, framing both as inseparable. While solidarity among marginalized groups is vital, these experiences are distinct and must be tackled independently to ensure effective and targeted solutions.

For Jewish Canadians, this conflation often results in the minimization of their experiences and the absence of tailored strategies to combat antisemitism. For instance, joint condemnations of hate crimes can fail to address the specific dynamics of antisemitism, leaving Jewish communities feeling unseen and unheard. AGPI is dedicated to ensuring that antisemitism is recognized as a distinct form of hatred, requiring specialized approaches to address its unique manifestations.

This commitment includes advocating for separate data collection and analysis of antisemitic incidents, ensuring that their scope and impact are fully understood. AGPI also works to integrate distinct programming within broader anti-racism initiatives, providing solutions that directly address the needs of Jewish communities. By fostering solidarity with all marginalized groups while emphasizing the specificity of antisemitism, AGPI strengthens the broader fight against hate without compromising the focus on combating anti-Jewish discrimination.

Politicization of Hate Symbols in Public Spaces

Symbols like the Keffiyeh, often used in anti-Israel movements, have become politicized in ways that alienate Jewish Canadians. While these symbols may hold cultural significance for some, their appropriation by groups advocating for Israel's destruction transforms them into emblems of hate for Jewish communities. When public figures or institutions adopt such symbols without considering their implications, it signals complicity in antisemitism and marginalizes Jewish voices. AGPI calls for greater accountability and sensitivity in the use of politically charged symbols. This includes engaging with political leaders, media, and public institutions to educate them on the impact of these actions. Additionally, AGPI advocates for policies that prevent the display of hate symbols in government and educational spaces, fostering an environment where all communities feel respected and valued.

Hostile Campus Environments

University and college campuses, traditionally spaces for open dialogue, have become hotbeds for antisemitic activism. Jewish students and faculty face intimidation, protests, and property damage, often justified under the guise of academic freedom. This creates an environment where Jewish voices are marginalized, and antisemitism is normalized. AGPI has developed a comprehensive support program for Jewish students and staff, including mental health resources, peer networks, and aided in legal support for those facing harassment. Additionally, AGPI collaborated with academic institutions to promote policies that protect free expression while preventing hate speech. Our educational campaigns targeting students, faculty, and administration will aim to dispel harmful stereotypes and promote understanding. Given this, AGPI works to hold universities accountable for addressing incidents of antisemitism promptly and effectively, ensuring that campuses remain inclusive spaces for all.

Media's Role in Downplaying Antisemitism

Media coverage of antisemitic incidents often frames them as isolated events, ignoring the systemic nature of anti-Jewish hate. This narrative undermines public awareness and hinders efforts to address the issue comprehensively. AGPI engages with media organizations to improve reporting accuracy and emphasize the broader context of antisemitism in Canada. This includes discussions with journalists on recognizing and reporting antisemitism and developing partnerships with media outlets to amplify Jewish perspectives. In so doing, AGPI produces its own media content, including reports, articles, and multimedia campaigns, to counter disinformation and raise awareness.

Marginalization of Jewish Narratives in Equity Initiatives

Jewish experiences and histories are often excluded from Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) programs, leaving a significant gap in efforts to combat systemic oppression. This exclusion perpetuates stereotypes and ignores the unique challenges faced by Jewish communities. AGPI has continuously advocated for the inclusion of Jewish narratives within EDI frameworks, emphasizing the intersectionality of Jewish identities and the importance of addressing antisemitism alongside other forms of hate. This includes working with schools, corporations, and community organizations to develop training programs and curricula that accurately represent Jewish history and contributions. By ensuring that Jewish voices are heard and valued within broader equity initiatives, AGPI seeks to build a more inclusive society where all communities can thrive.

Symbolic Alignment with Pro-Palestinian Activism in Government Spaces

Like the fifth concern outlines above, AGPI is deeply concerned about instances where municipal, provincial/territorial, and federal government members have symbolically aligned with pro-Palestinian activism by wearing Keffiyehs and watermelon pins during council and legislative sessions. These actions, at times framed as comparable to wearing the poppy, are particularly troubling when viewed alongside a memorial to Hamas terrorist leader Yahya Sinwar that sought to appropriate the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. Such misuse trivializes the poppy's historical significance and its solemn ties to remembrance and sacrifice. These acts underscore an urgent need for accountability and education to ensure public figures understand the implications of their symbolism and actions.

These pressing concerns reflect AGPI's unwavering commitment to fostering safety, inclusion, and respect for Jewish communities. By addressing systemic challenges and advocating for education, accountability, and solidarity, AGPI seeks out and continues to aim to combat antisemitism and hate in all its forms, promoting a society where all individuals and communities are valued and protected.

The Growing Concern of Antisemitism in Canada: AGPI's Perspective

AGPI has long championed equity, diversity, and inclusivity as pillars of a just society. However, recent data and incidents indicate a stark and troubling rise in antisemitism across Canada, posing significant challenges to these ideals. The surge in antisemitic incidents, particularly since October 7, 2023, underscores the urgency of addressing this escalating crisis.

The Rise and Emboldening of Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR)

Anti-Palestinian Racism (APR) is increasingly being used as a tool to hold Israel to a double standard, delegitimize the state of Israel, and undermine the sovereignty of the Jewish people in their indigenous homeland. Far from being a genuine call for justice or equality, APR often manifests as a targeted campaign that dehumanizes Jews and Israelis while denying their historical, cultural, and legal ties to the land of Israel. This narrative seeks to strip Israel of its legitimacy and forcibly impose the recognition of a Palestinian state at the expense of Jewish self-determination, security, and identity.

APR perpetuates harmful stereotypes, framing Jews and Israelis as oppressors while portraying Palestinians solely as victims. This reductive narrative mirrors antisemitic tropes of collective Jewish responsibility, reinforcing the perception of Jewish power as illegitimate or oppressive. By subjecting Israel to disproportionate scrutiny and holding it to standards not applied to other nations, APR advances a political agenda that seeks to erase centuries of Jewish history and connection to the land of Israel. These efforts to isolate and demonize Israel in the international community are not only a rejection of Israel's right to exist but also an attack on the dignity and security of Jews globally.

Recognizing the gravity of this issue, AGPI is taking decisive action to combat APR and its implications whereby we are addressing this form of hate with education, advocacy, and proactive measures to protect Jewish rights and defend Israel's legitimacy. Moreover, AGPI is leading efforts to educate communities and decision-makers about the dangers of APR. Its internationally recognized human rights exhibits, such as *The Power of One* and *Not in My Name*, emphasize the historical, legal, and cultural foundations of Israel's sovereignty while exposing the antisemitic roots of APR. These exhibits, showcased at the United Nations, the Canadian Human Rights Museum, and other key venues, highlight how APR dehumanizes Jews and perpetuates hate under the guise of political discourse.

In addition to education, AGPI actively advocates at the highest levels of government, law enforcement, and academia. By consulting with Canadian policymakers, hosting high-profile events, and partnering with organizations such as the Ontario College of Teachers, AGPI ensures that APR is recognized and addressed as a critical component of Canada's efforts to combat antisemitism.

Furthermore, AGPI also challenges misinformation and double standards applied to Israel through media outreach and public engagement. By presenting factual narratives that affirm Israel's legitimacy and Jewish sovereignty, AGPI counters the dehumanization of Jews and Israelis while promoting coexistence and mutual respect. In so doing, AGPI empowers Jewish and pro-Israel advocates with tools and training to recognize and respond to APR, amplifying voices across Canada to ensure a unified and effective response.

Recognizing that APR is a global issue, AGPI has proudly collaborated with international partners to build coalitions against hate. By working with human rights organizations, interfaith leaders, and policymakers worldwide, AGPI fosters solidarity and ensures that Israel's right to exist is defended on the global stage. Through education, advocacy, and coalition-building, AGPI is addressing the rise of APR as a modern form of antisemitism designed to delegitimize Israel and dehumanize Jews. By taking proactive steps to counter this dangerous trend, AGPI is safeguarding Jewish rights, protecting Israel's sovereignty, and advancing the values of equity and justice in Canada and beyond.

A Startling Surge in Antisemitic Incidents

Canada has seen an unprecedented 670% increase in reported antisemitic incidents since October 7, compared to the same period the previous year. This alarming statistic, highlighted by the Ministry for Diaspora Affairs and Combatting Antisemitism, is mirrored by tangible acts of violence and hate. Jewish institutions, including schools, synagogues, and community centers, have been targeted in a series of attacks ranging from arson to shootings.

Key incidents illustrate the severity of the issue. On October 12, 2023, shots were fired into the windows of the Bais Chaya Mushka Girls Elementary School in Toronto during Yom Kippur, marking the second attack on the same institution within a year. Earlier that summer, the Leo Baeck Jewish Day School was severely damaged by an alleged arson attack (though an investigation into the act concluded that this may not have been hate related), and Schara Tzedeck Synagogue in Vancouver suffered a targeted attack. These events, among others, have left communities shaken and underscore the vulnerability of Jewish Canadians, who represent just 1.4% of the population but are the targets of 70% of religious hate crimes in the country.

The rise in antisemitism has not been limited to violent attacks on physical structures. Verbal harassment, online hate speech, and other forms of discrimination have also surged. Public demonstrations that begin as political protests against Israel's policies often devolve into hostile and threatening environments for Jewish Canadians. Slogans, chants, and placards at these events frequently cross the line into overt antisemitism, leaving Jewish individuals feeling unsafe and isolated.

Institutional Challenges and Systemic Vulnerabilities

The persistence of antisemitism in Canada reflects systemic failings in key institutions. Schools and universities, for example, have become breeding grounds for anti-Jewish rhetoric, often cloaked in the guise of anti-Zionism. Pro-Palestinian protests on campuses, while ostensibly focused on geopolitical issues, frequently devolve into antisemitic expressions, with slogans like "From the River to the Sea" and overt support for extremist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, both of which are listed on Canada's Terrorist Entities List. These incidents create hostile environments for Jewish students and stifle open dialogue.

Healthcare institutions have also been implicated, with Jewish professionals facing harassment and exclusion. Such discrimination undermines their ability to contribute fully to their workplaces and exacerbates feelings of marginalization. Despite policies meant to protect against hate and bias, many institutions lack the tools or will to address antisemitism effectively. For example, the hesitancy to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism leaves gaps in understanding and combating the multifaceted nature of this hatred.

In the political realm, insufficient condemnation of antisemitic incidents by leaders and policymakers has further emboldened perpetrators. Silence, or a lack of clear and decisive statements, sends the message that antisemitism is a lesser priority in the hierarchy of societal issues. This reluctance to act decisively creates a vacuum where hate can flourish unchecked.

Normalization of Antisemitism and Its Consequences

The normalization of antisemitism in Canada is perhaps the most insidious aspect of this crisis. Violent acts, such as the shooting at Bais Chaya Mushka or the arson at Jewish schools and synagogues, are often dismissed as isolated incidents. Yet, these acts are part of a broader pattern, one that links global tensions to local manifestations of hate. Protesting Israeli policies, while legitimate in their political discourse, frequently cross the line into anti-Jewish sentiment, creating a dangerous conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism.

This normalization extends to the rhetoric of public discourse, where antisemitic tropes are often overlooked or trivialized. Graffiti with slogans like "Free Palestine" is not only damaging to property but also serves as a psychological threat to Jewish communities. Such acts erode trust in public institutions' ability to safeguard equity and inclusivity. The digital space has also played a significant role in normalizing antisemitism. Social media platforms, despite efforts to regulate hate speech, remain fertile grounds for antisemitic rhetoric. Posts and comments demonizing Jewish people or spreading conspiracy theories about Jewish control of global systems proliferate, often reaching vast

audiences. Algorithms that amplify provocative content exacerbate the problem, creating echo chambers that reinforce hateful ideologies.

Global Dynamics Amplifying Local Hate

The Israel-Hamas conflict has amplified antisemitic sentiments in Canada, linking global geopolitical tensions to domestic hate crimes. Protests in major cities such as Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver have witnessed violence and open support for extremist ideologies, further alienating Jewish communities. Activist groups have increasingly tied anti-Israel narratives to broader revolutionary ideas, complicating the line between political criticism and hate speech. This intersectionality of ideologies demands a nuanced yet firm response to safeguard Jewish Canadians, which AGPI has been on the forefront of doing.

The impact of global tensions is not limited to ideological shifts; it also manifests in real-world violence and intimidation. The targeting of Jewish institutions and individuals in Canada is often directly linked to events in the Middle East, with perpetrators using international conflicts as justification for local acts of hate, including the calls to boycott Jewish owned businesses (e.g., Aroma Café and Café Landwer), or the occupation of Jewish named buildings (e.g., Mt Sinai Hospital and the Broffman Building in Montreal). This trend underscores the interconnectedness of global and local antisemitism and highlights the need for coordinated responses across borders.

The rise in antisemitism is not just a Jewish issue—it is a Canadian issue. It threatens the foundational values of equity, diversity, and inclusion that underpin the nation. The *Abraham Global Peace Initiative* urges all sectors of society to come together to confront this challenge. Canada's commitment to justice and human rights must be reaffirmed, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all its citizens, especially its most vulnerable communities. By addressing antisemitism head-on, we can protect not only the Jewish community but also the integrity of Canadian democracy and its core values.

Key Areas for Action: AGPI's National Strategy

AGPI has consistently championed a multi-faceted approach to combating antisemitism in Canada, addressing challenges across various sectors to foster an environment of respect, inclusion, and justice. The following key areas outline AGPI's ongoing efforts and future steps in its national strategy to combat antisemitism.

Educational Initiatives and Curriculum Integration - Promoting Antisemitism Education and Awareness

AGPI has taken a leading role in advancing antisemitism education within schools and institutions across Canada. With a firm belief that education is the foundation of meaningful societal transformation, AGPI has partnered with educational stakeholders to design and champion robust programs that address antisemitism comprehensively.

In doing so, AGPI has played a pivotal role in advocating for the integration of Holocaust education, the history and contributions of Jewish communities, and the enduring impact of antisemitism into the curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. Through the provision of tailored resources, professional development workshops, and expert guidance, AGPI has empowered hundreds of educators to introduce these essential topics effectively in their classrooms.

In addition to curricular support, AGPI has implemented school-based awareness initiatives that challenge harmful stereotypes, contextualize historical antisemitism, and underscore the value of cultural diversity. These efforts not only educate students about the realities of antisemitism but also foster empathy, respect, and a deeper appreciation for multiculturalism. By continuing to collaborate closely with educators and institutions, AGPI ensures that these programs remain impactful and sustainable, contributing to a more inclusive and informed generation.

Action Steps for Educators and Institutions

AGPI has spearheaded efforts to embed antisemitism education across diverse curricula, including history, civics, and social studies. By collaborating with school boards, provincial education ministries, and teacher training programs, AGPI has worked to ensure that Jewish history and the impact of antisemitism are integral components of educational frameworks. To support educators in this endeavor, AGPI offers professional development programs designed to enhance understanding and equip teachers with strategies to effectively address antisemitism in the classroom. These initiatives are complemented by comprehensive resources that aid in creating inclusive and respectful learning environments.

Through sustained engagement with educational stakeholders, AGPI is committed to building a system that not only confronts discrimination but also cultivates a nuanced

understanding of Jewish identity, culture, and history. These efforts aim to foster empathy, inclusion, and a stronger commitment to combating hate within Canada's educational institutions.

Support Systems for Victims of Antisemitism - Developing Resources and Legal Support for Victims

Recognizing the importance of accessible support for victims of antisemitism, AGPI has been actively involved in developing resources to assist individuals who face discrimination or violence due to their Jewish identity. AGPI has worked with legal organizations to provide information on legal rights and support mechanisms for those affected by antisemitic incidents. In collaboration with law firms and community groups, AGPI has helped to build resources, that empower victims of antisemitism to understand their rights and seek redress.

AGPI has also advocated for stronger legal protections for Jewish individuals, calling for legislative changes that ensure effective consequences for antisemitic hate crimes. As such, we continue to engage in discussions with policymakers to strengthen the legal frameworks that protect Jewish communities from hate crimes.

Data Collection, Research, and Monitoring - Improving Data Collection Practices

AGPI has consistently highlighted the importance of accurate data in understanding and addressing antisemitism in Canada. AGPI has worked with national and provincial organizations to improve the reporting and tracking of antisemitic incidents across the country. Through collaborations with law enforcement agencies, academic institutions, and civil society groups, AGPI has been involved in developing data collection systems that capture both the frequency and nature of antisemitism, ensuring that incidents are accurately documented and reported.

In so doing, AGPI has been actively involved in research initiatives aimed at understanding the social, cultural, and political factors that contribute to antisemitism. By gathering data on the experiences of Jewish individuals in Canada, AGPI is better equipped to advocate for effective policy changes and allocate resources where they are most needed.

Developing Evidence-Based Policy

AGPI's advocacy for evidence-based policy development has led to partnerships with academic institutions and government bodies to conduct comprehensive research on antisemitism in Canada. We are actively involved in studies that examine the prevalence of antisemitic incidents, the effectiveness of current policies, and the impact of hate speech on Jewish communities. Through our research efforts, AGPI contributes valuable insights that guide the development of targeted, evidence-driven policies designed to combat antisemitism at the national and provincial levels. We continue to advocate for the use of

data to inform policymaking, ensuring that all interventions are tailored to the real-world experiences of Jewish Canadians.

Media Literacy and Combatting Online Antisemitism - Addressing Social Media's Role in Spreading Hate

As online platforms have become powerful tools for communication, AGPI has recognized the urgent need to address the role of social media in the spread of antisemitism. AGPI has been at the forefront of advocating for stronger regulation of social media platforms to ensure that they take responsibility for the content shared on their sites. In so doing, AGPI has actively engaged with policymakers, tech companies, and advocacy groups to press for legislation that holds online platforms accountable for the proliferation of antisemitic hate speech.

Law Enforcement Training and Accountability - Specialized Training for Police and Law Enforcement

The Abraham Global Peace Initiative (AGPI) has significantly expanded its collaboration with police and public safety officials to address the alarming rise in antisemitism. Recognizing the critical role of law enforcement in combating hate crimes, AGPI has been at the forefront of advocating for specialized training programs tailored to the unique challenges posed by antisemitic incidents.

Building on partnerships with police departments and organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), AGPI has developed and implemented comprehensive training initiatives for officers and public safety personnel. These programs are designed to enhance cultural competence and provide practical tools for identifying, investigating, and responding to antisemitic hate crimes effectively. Topics covered include legal frameworks for addressing hate crimes, the historical and contemporary contexts of antisemitism, and best practices for community engagement and support.

AGPI's enhanced collaboration with law enforcement reflects its commitment to ensuring that public safety officials are well-equipped to protect Jewish communities and respond swiftly to incidents of hate. By fostering greater awareness and equipping officers with actionable knowledge, AGPI is helping to strengthen the broader network of accountability and protection necessary to combat antisemitism and ensure community safety.

Next Steps

Addressing antisemitism in today's climate demands a nuanced approach that recognizes the complexity of human rights and the reality of competing rights. It is AGPIs commitment: to empower individuals to share their experiences while fostering an understanding of the diverse and sometimes conflicting narratives of oppression. By equipping educators, institutions, and communities with the tools to navigate these complexities, we ensure that discussions are informed, respectful, and free from hate. At AGPI, our strategy affirms that hate speech and antisemitism have no place in our society, and it underscores the importance of education in promoting empathy, inclusion, and mutual understanding.

In this spirit, AGPI asserts that while hate is not endemic to any one group, effectively combating it begins with recognizing that each form of hate is unique to the community experiencing it. As highlighted in Statistics Canada's hate crime reports and similar data from law enforcement, Jewish Canadians consistently remain the most targeted ethnocultural or religious group for hate crimes in the country.

This concerning reality has been further exacerbated by the issues raised earlier in this document, including:

- Systemic erasure of Jewish perspectives in anti-racism education.
- Rising incidents of antisemitism fueled by misinformation and anti-Zionist rhetoric.
- Concerning displays by public officials symbolically aligning with problematic narratives.
- Growing tensions in schools due to inadequately addressed incidents of anti-Jewish hate.

AGPI firmly believes that these challenges call for a robust, multifaceted approach. While partnerships with parliamentarians are critical to addressing today's issues, education remains the cornerstone for fostering a culture of tolerance, dialogue, and peace. As schools continue to de-stream courses and increase representation, it is essential that all groups' experiences, including those of Jewish communities, are uniquely understood and appropriately integrated into educational frameworks.

Recognizing the duty of all Canadian employers to ensure their employees' safety and the imperative to create safe spaces for Jewish students, staff, and allies, AGPI proposes the following actionable steps:

1. Collaborate with Educational Bodies to Address Antisemitism: Boards must partner with the Ministry of Education, unions, and professional councils such as the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), Ontario Principals' Council (OPC), and Ontario Teachers' Federation (OTF) to develop comprehensive curricular resources that address antisemitism, anti-Zionism, and anti-Jewish hate. This collaboration should

aim to create age-appropriate, nuanced materials that empower educators to teach about Jewish history, culture, and the impacts of systemic discrimination. Specific modules could include:

- Understanding antisemitism historically and in contemporary contexts.
- Exploring Jewish contributions to Canadian society and global culture.
- Analyzing hate movements and their evolution, such as the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, through critical thinking frameworks.

2. Develop Professional Advisories to Prevent Political Indoctrination: Teachers play a pivotal role in shaping young minds, and it is essential to provide them with clear guidance on maintaining a balanced and inclusive classroom. Boards and their respective provincial and local unions and affinity groups should create advisories that outline best practices for discussing contentious political topics without endorsing specific movements or ideologies. These advisories should address:

- The risks of grooming students for activism or political advancement.
- Ethical approaches to teaching about conflict, ensuring multiple perspectives are explored with respect and sensitivity.
- Strategies for fostering critical inquiry over political bias.

3. Establish Guidelines for Protests and Activism in Schools: With increasing student-led protests and activism, boards must implement guidelines to navigate these events while respecting Charter rights. Guidelines should include:

- Protocols for addressing activism tied to antisemitic or anti-Zionist rhetoric.
- Clear expectations for staff participation in activism, ensuring professionalism and neutrality.
- Strategies for supporting students who feel targeted, outed, doxed, or excluded during protests.

4. Adopt and Train Staff on the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism: The IHRA working definition of antisemitism provides a critical lens for identifying and addressing anti-Jewish hate. Boards must integrate this definition into equity policies, professional development programs, and training for all staff. Training sessions should cover:

- Recognizing subtle forms of antisemitism, including those disguised as anti-Zionism.
- Addressing antisemitic incidents within the classroom and broader school environment.
- Building confidence in staff to intervene and dismantle hate effectively.

5. Prohibit BDS Campaigns in Schools: Boards must adopt a zero-tolerance policy for BDS activities on school premises. Such campaigns often foster a divisive and hostile climate for Jewish students and staff. Policies should:

- Clearly define BDS as a movement that perpetuates double standards and fosters discrimination.
- Outline consequences for promoting or hosting BDS events in school spaces.
- Provide educational alternatives that promote dialogue and understanding rather than polarization.

6. Appoint a Central Administrator to Address Antisemitism: To ensure accountability, boards and government should create a dedicated administrative role responsible for addressing anti-Jewish hate as part of their "inclusion" strategy. This administrator would:
   - Investigate reports of antisemitism and support affected students and staff.
   - Collaborate with advocacy groups to co-develop programming that reduces marginalization.
   - Monitor trends in antisemitic incidents and recommend policy adjustments.

7. Implement a Litmus Test for Board and/or Political(ly)-Produced Content: All content disseminated must be scrutinized to ensure it does not perpetuate harmful biases or double standards. A litmus test should evaluate whether content:
   - Delegitimizes Jewish claims of indigeneity or the State of Israel.
   - Employs antisemitic tropes or biases to demonize Jewish communities.
   - Promotes double standards that uniquely target Jewish voices.

8. Develop and Mandate Education on Jewish Persecution: Political and professional bodies must require comprehensive education on the history of Jewish persecution, including pre-Holocaust, Holocaust, and post-Holocaust eras to understand users, constituents, and clientele. This curriculum should emphasize:
   - The mechanisms of systematic hate, from misinformation to genocide.
   - The role of propaganda and slogans in normalizing discrimination.
   - The connection between historical antisemitism and contemporary hate movements.

9. Establish Restorative Justice Practices: When antisemitic incidents occur, restorative justice practices must prioritize healing for Jewish students, staff and allies while fostering accountability. Respective bodies should:
   - Train mediators in antisemitism-specific contexts to facilitate meaningful dialogues.
   - Create pathways for offenders to engage in education and reflection about their actions.
   - Monitor the long-term effectiveness of restorative practices to ensure systemic change.

10. Regularly Consult Jewish Communities and Other Stakeholders: Ongoing mechanisms must be initiated between Jews, families, educators, allies, and advocacy groups.

This collaboration ensures that policies and practices remain relevant and responsive to the community's needs. This must include:

- Forming advisory committees that include diverse Jewish voices.
- Hosting annual forums to discuss emerging challenges and successes.
- Using feedback to continuously refine anti-racism and EDI initiatives.

11. Enhance Data Collection and Accountability: Data must be systematically collected and analyzed to understand and contextualize antisemitic incidents to identify trends and measure progress. This includes:

- Conducting climate surveys that specifically address Jewish experiences.
- Publishing transparent annual reports on antisemitism.
- Using data to inform targeted interventions and resource allocation.

12. Develop Interfaith and Intercultural Programs: To promote understanding and reduce tensions, boards should introduce programs that bring individuals of different backgrounds together to explore shared values and histories. These programs should:

- Encourage dialogue between Jewish and non-Jewish voices.
- Include workshops on combating stereotypes and building allyship.
- Highlight positive contributions of diverse communities to Canadian society.

13. Monitor and Address Union Involvement in Anti-Zionist Agendas: Given concerns about union-led BDS campaigns, these activities must not influence social, professional, and political environments. This includes:

- Monitoring union-driven narratives that may marginalize Jewish staff or students.
- Advocating for professional standards that separate personal politics from classroom practices.

Articulating Narratives of Intersecting Histories

At the heart of any equitable, diverse, and inclusive (EDI) strategy lies the professed goal of recognizing and addressing the histories and lived experiences of marginalized communities. Yet, in practice, EDI has increasingly become a tool weaponized against Jews, distorted by ideological agendas that perpetuate harmful stereotypes and antisemitic narratives. These frameworks have allowed anti-Zionism—a movement rooted in erasing Jewish sovereignty and denying their indigenous ties to Judea—to masquerade as social justice. Instead of fostering inclusion, EDI initiatives have enabled the vilification of Jewish identity, painting Jews as oppressors, colonizers, and occupiers of "stolen land," all while cloaking this hatred in the language of equity.

This fundamental distortion exposes the glaring hypocrisy at the core of many EDI efforts. While they claim to fight systemic discrimination, they deliberately ignore or misrepresent Zionism as what it truly is: an anti-colonial movement and the rightful expression of Jewish self-determination. This failure to acknowledge Jewish indigeneity and their historic connection to the land of Israel discredits any EDI program purporting to address racism and inequity. Worse still, these frameworks actively exclude Jewish communities, perpetuating a double standard where so-called "safe spaces" systematically marginalize Jews under the guise of fostering inclusivity.

The result is an alarming trend: EDI initiatives that silence Jewish voices, deny their diversity, and render them invisible within broader discussions of oppression. By refusing to treat antisemitism with the same seriousness afforded to other forms of hate, EDI reinforces a toxic hierarchy of victimhood. It diminishes the Jewish experience, erases their unique struggles, and allows deeply entrenched biases to flourish unchecked. What is being marketed as a tool for equity has instead become a vehicle for antisemitism, amplifying anti-Jewish prejudice while dismissing or even justifying hostility toward Jews and their homeland.

The broader failure of EDI to integrate Jewish narratives is both deliberate and destructive. By omitting the true history of Zionism and failing to confront anti-Zionism as a modern iteration of antisemitism, EDI initiatives enable a distorted understanding of history that pits marginalized groups against one another. This approach perpetuates harmful "us versus them" narratives and deepens divisions, rather than building solidarity. Even more troubling, these frameworks advance a discriminatory agenda under the false pretense of promoting justice, equity, and inclusion.

AGPI calls out this failure with urgency and resolve. The exclusion of Jewish history and identity from EDI efforts is a grave injustice that not only marginalizes Jews but undermines the credibility of these frameworks entirely. EDI programs that fail to recognize Zionism as an act of decolonization—and instead weaponize it to delegitimize Jewish sovereignty—are inherently inequitable and biased.

Through initiatives like The Power of One and Not in My Name, AGPI fights to reclaim the narrative, providing educators with the tools to teach an accurate and intersectional history. We advocate for true inclusivity—one that acknowledges Jewish indigeneity, combats antisemitism in all its forms, and ensures that no group is left out of the fight for equity. Without this, EDI remains a hollow promise, serving only to perpetuate hate while betraying its foundational principles.

Establishing Roles to Lead Anti-Racist Organizational Change

Another critical aspect of advancing EDI efforts is establishing dedicated leadership roles to guide and implement anti-racist change mixed institutions. Many institutions have made

efforts to address racism through committees or task forces, but there remains a significant gap in the effectiveness of these structures. Leadership roles dedicated to anti-racist organizational change are often underfunded or lack the necessary authority to effect systemic transformation. In some cases, these roles are relegated to HR reps, diversity or inclusion officers without sufficient power, accountability, or resources to drive substantial change across the organization. The implication of this is that the absence of strong, empowered leadership results in fragmented efforts to tackle racism within schools, leaving gaps in accountability, follow-through, and long-term impact. Furthermore, without clear leadership, the commitment to anti-racist work often lacks the necessary cohesion and integration across different levels of the organization, from school leadership to classroom practice.

Given this, AGPI advocates for the creation of clearly defined, well-supported leadership roles at every level. These roles should be equipped with the training, resources, and authority necessary to drive anti-racist change. Additionally, AGPI calls for leadership accountability, ensuring that leaders are consistently evaluated on their commitment to advancing anti-racist work. By establishing these leadership positions and supporting them with clear mandates and sufficient resources, AGPI believes that all institutions will be better equipped to create sustainable, meaningful change that addresses systemic racism.

Measuring and Monitoring EDI Program Success through Data and Stakeholder Consultation

Finally, a crucial aspect of advancing EDI efforts is measuring and monitoring the success of these programs. Many boards have implemented EDI initiatives, but there is often a lack of robust mechanisms for evaluating their impact. It is not enough to simply introduce new policies or programs; each must actively collect data, consult with stakeholders, and use this information to assess and refine their efforts. Without data-driven insights, institutions risk continuing initiatives that are not effectively meeting the needs of students, educators, families, communities, and allies.

Without proper monitoring and evaluation, each may struggle to identify gaps or weaknesses in their various EDI efforts, resulting in stagnation or even regression. Furthermore, the failure to meaningfully consult with stakeholders—especially marginalized communities—can lead to misguided strategies that do not align with the lived experiences of those affected by discrimination.

Given this, AGPI encourages the development of comprehensive data collection and monitoring systems to assess the impact of their EDI programs. This includes regular surveys, focus groups, and other forms of feedback. These insights should be used to continuously refine and improve EDI policies and practices, ensuring that they are responsive and effective. AGPI also emphasizes the importance of transparent reporting,

where data on the success of EDI efforts is shared with stakeholders to build trust and accountability.

Moreover, AGPI calls for a more reflective, strategic approach to advancing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in education. Addressing the intersecting histories of marginalized communities, establishing strong leadership roles for anti-racist change, and ensuring comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of EDI programs are essential to creating truly inclusive and equitable learning environments. Through our resources, advocacy, and commitment to promoting social justice, AGPI seeks to support all institutions in achieving these critical goals, ensuring that all stakeholders can learn and grow in spaces that honor their identities and histories.

In conversations with Jewish students, educators, families, and allies, AGPI has consistently heard that antisemitism is more pervasive than previously acknowledged. Jewish students in particular, deserve to learn in environments free of fear and discrimination, where they can fully express their identities. While schools in Canada may not resolve the Middle East conflict, they have a responsibility to foster dialogue that respects the unique identities and histories of all communities.

As an organization committed to advancing human rights, AGPI remains ready to provide support, guidance, and expertise to educational boards across Canada to address these pressing issues. Through these next steps, we can ensure that Jewish students and staff, alongside all marginalized groups, can thrive in an environment of respect, safety, and inclusion.

Conclusion

Education plays a critical role in shaping societies, not only by fostering understanding and dialogue but also by instilling core values that strengthen the fabric of democracy. The imperative of education is to prepare citizens to navigate complex moral, cultural, and political landscapes while adhering to the principles that define Canadian identity: freedom, democracy, equity, and respect for human rights. In this light, peacebuilding, peacemaking, and peacekeeping in education cannot remain neutral endeavors. They require deliberate choices—choices that firmly uphold Canadian democratic values and reject ideologies that threaten these principles.

The pursuit of inclusivity and dialogue in education is laudable, but it must be approached with discernment. The assertion that no voice should be silenced or marginalized requires a more critical examination. While education and politics should embrace diverse voices, this inclusivity cannot extend to those that perpetuate hate, violence, or division. Ideologies and entities, such as Hamas, which is globally recognized as a terrorist organization, have no place in our educational or political discourse. To provide space for such perspectives under the guise of fostering dialogue undermines the very foundations of inclusivity and peace that education seeks to promote.

It is not enough to declare that peace in education and politics is not a zero-sum game. On the contrary, when it comes to values, there are clear lines that must be drawn. Choosing to uphold Canadian democratic values, which include rejecting hate, antisemitism, and terrorism, is not a partisan act but a moral imperative. It is about affirming the dignity and safety of all individuals and ensuring that education fosters environments free from fear, division, and harm.

To tolerate intolerant narratives is to erode the principles of democracy itself. The chants of "Free Palestine" or "Globalize the Intifada" echoing in school halls and city streets, often accompanied by antisemitic rhetoric and imagery, illustrate the danger of allowing such narratives to take root. While advocacy for a people is legitimate and must be addressed with sensitivity, aligning with or amplifying pro-Hamas rhetoric—a stance that fundamentally opposes peace and democracy—is unacceptable. Such alignment not only undermines Canadian values but also creates hostile environments for Jewish students and communities, fostering fear and division instead of understanding and inclusion.

Silencing hateful narratives is not an act of censorship; it is a necessary step to protect the integrity of educational, political, and all social spaces. True inclusion does not mean creating platforms for voices that advocate violence, division, or hate but ensuring that all students feel safe, respected, and valued. Educational and political environments must prioritize critical engagement with diverse perspectives, but only those that align with the principles of human rights, peace, and democracy.

As educators, policymakers, and global citizens, it is our responsibility to guide members of society toward discerning these differences. By teaching to critically evaluate ideologies and aligning with principles that uphold human dignity, we ensure that education and politics remain forces for societal good.

Moreover, Canadian education and politics should reaffirm its commitment to multiculturalism while safeguarding against ideologies that threaten safety and equity. Multiculturalism does not mean moral relativism; it is not an invitation to tolerate beliefs or practices that undermine democracy, human rights, or the safety of any community. Instead, it is a call to celebrate diversity within the framework of shared values that unite us as a nation.

As an organization, we cannot agree to hateful narratives that threaten the safety of the Jewish community. Voices that propagate hate, violence, or division must be confronted and marginalized—not as an act of exclusion but as a safeguard for inclusion. As Canadians, we must make it clear that there is no room for narratives that undermine democracy, propagate antisemitism, or glorify terrorism. Choosing sides in this context is not only necessary but foundational to maintaining the integrity of our education system and society at large.

At the heart of this work is the recognition that Canadian values—freedom, democracy, equity, and human rights—are not negotiable. They are the bedrock upon which our education and political systems must stand. Upholding these values ensures that every student and every citizen is a responsible, engaged citizens who contribute to building a just and inclusive society. By aligning this framework with these principles, we not only combat antisemitism but also reaffirm our commitment to creating a future where peace, equity, and dignity are realities for all.

Furthermore, Canada must resist the drift away from its core principles. Over decades, it has built a strong foundation of opposing hate and fostering inclusion, rooted in the struggles against antisemitism, racism, and all forms of discrimination. These principles have guided us through challenges and must continue to do so. Allowing the infiltration of ideologies that oppose these values threatens to dismantle the progress we have made and undermines the inclusive future we seek to build.

We must also recognize that the normalization of hate and intolerance in Canada could have dire consequences. If antisemitism becomes tolerated within schools, it risks being institutionalized in other social arenas, including politics and public discourse. This would create a ripple effect, perpetuating cycles of division, prejudice, and violence that harm not only Jewish communities but all marginalized groups. The erosion of democratic principles weakens the very fabric of society, transforming it into a space where bigotry is normalized, and justice is compromised.

Therefore, addressing antisemitism is not only critical for the Jewish community but essential for the preservation of safe, equitable, and inclusive environments for all. Education must be a tool for empowerment, not exclusion, for peace, not division. It must reject hate in all its forms while fostering critical engagement with perspectives that align with the principles of human dignity, democracy, and equity.

Through education, advocacy, and dialogue, AGPI aims to ensure that future generations inherit a world where intolerance is not tolerated, where inclusion is not a mere aspiration but a lived reality, and where Canadian values serve as a guiding light for all.

Ultimately, education is the first step and must be used to cultivate citizens who uphold the core principles of democracy, freedom, and equality. This requires choices—choices that reject hate, embrace dignity, and affirm our shared commitment to a just and inclusive future for all. It is only by standing firm in these principles that we can ensure education fulfills its highest purpose: building a society that cherishes its diversity while safeguarding the values that unite us as Canadians.