

Dear Friend,

The Jewish stories handed down through our three-thousand-year-old tradition recount instances of persecution and hatred, but also examples of resilience and survival.

Now, let me ask you to consider a current story.

It's the story of hate and anti-Semitism resurfacing in our own backyards. We saw synagogues vandalized ... cemeteries desecrated ... and throngs of white supremacists marching in our streets, waving Nazi flags alongside the Stars and Stripes.

These are just a few examples of the anti-Semitism we've recently witnessed across the United States—and the situation in some European countries is even worse.

That is the reason I am writing today to extend an invitation to stand with AJC (American Jewish Committee).

**Because it is up to each one of us to stand up against the hatred!**

Why AJC?

Since our founding in 1906, AJC has consistently advocated for the Jewish people worldwide. We have been a driving force through modern Jewish history, a powerful and respected organization that has shaped opinion and policy across the globe.

And this work is made possible only because of people like you.

AJC has a long record of achieving results precisely because we combine public advocacy with skillful diplomacy.


Here in the United States, our voice is sought out and heard at the highest levels.

Our expertise on key issues, along with our unparalleled relationships with diplomats, government officials, and religious leaders, has earned us a reputation as “the State Department of the Jewish people.”

Because only AJC has the worldwide network of offices and affiliates necessary to mobilize governments at a moment's notice and address the concrete needs of Jewish communities.

When we call a foreign minister, he or she listens because we represent the voice of countless American Jews who will not relent until the concerns of our fellow Jews are heard and heeded.

*(over, please)*





When we print a newspaper ad, it is effective because it is not just our voice talking: it is yours and those of so many other Jews who have joined together with AJC.

When we speak at global forums like the United Nations, we are heard because you speak through us.

Our power has always been based on the individual American Jew who cares enough about Israel and the Jewish future to speak out.

Today, AJC is working around the globe to respond with strength and unity in the face of an all-too-familiar evil.

And we urgently need the support and good will of like-minded individuals like you to help us advance several critical initiatives.

- **AJC first proposed the creation of a Congressional Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism.** Launched in 2015, the taskforce ensures that Congress addresses anti-Semitism worldwide.

Its members have demanded that President Trump take tangible action in response to a recent increase in hate crimes, since “a threat to the Jewish community...is a threat to us all.”

- **AJC’s Mayors United Against Anti-Semitism campaign rallied more than 570 mayors from the U.S. and Europe in an unprecedented pledge to fight bigotry against Jews.** As anti-Semitism has risen at home and abroad, mayors who signed onto our campaign have been among the first to condemn these despicable acts, demonstrating commitment and accountability.
- **AJC brought together leading Muslim and Jewish Americans in a groundbreaking, bipartisan Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council.** Working with elected officials of both political parties to reverse the escalation of religion-based hate crimes in the U.S., it is urging Senate passage of the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act to hold accountable those who threaten synagogues, mosques, and other religious institutions.

These types of threats intentionally instill fear in communities and undermine a person’s free exercise of their religious beliefs. In part due to AJC’s successful advocacy, the House of Representatives passed this bill with overwhelming support in December 2017.

- **AJC helped convince the European Union to establish a new position—Coordinator for Combating Anti-Semitism.** AJC was the only non-European organization invited to the critical EU Commission sessions that led to the creation of this post, and provided valuable input to the Commission throughout.

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Since anti-Semitism is a global problem, only a global organization can effectively address it. AJC's presence on six continents, our unrivaled access to government officials and religious leaders, and our unmatched expertise on the issue make AJC uniquely well-positioned to tackle rising hate.

Only by working together can we forcefully and resolutely confront the forces that are trying to break the spirit of our people, and triumph against them.

And that is the reason I am asking you to please accept my invitation and stand with AJC today.

To support AJC and our important fight against bigotry and anti-Semitic hatred, I ask that you take the following two actions:

First, sign and mail the enclosed petitions urging your Senators to support the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act.

And second, once you have done that, please mail a contribution to AJC in the amount of \$30, \$50, \$100, \$500, or even \$1,000 to ensure we have the resources to continue standing up to evil.

Your support of AJC brings us closer to the story we want to be telling the next generation—a story where anti-Semitism is once again the loser.

With heartfelt thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

David Harris  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. The hate we thought was waning has returned with a vengeance, as new anti-Semitic attacks are committed with alarming frequency. These attacks are intended to disrupt our lives, to make us feel weak and vulnerable. AJC will not allow this to happen.

I'm enclosing two important AJC articles recently printed in major media outlets to help expose rising anti-Semitism. AJC is determined to show our adversaries that we are proud, strong, and resilient. We will continue to beat back anti-Semitism whenever and wherever it emerges. And with your support, I know we will succeed. Thank you.



# THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

## CHARLOTTESVILLE, JEWS, AND THE AMERICAN FUTURE

AUGUST 29, 2017 | BY LAWRENCE GROSSMAN

What happened at the “Unite the Right” rally on August 12 in Charlottesville, Virginia, was both a battle in the longstanding war over Confederate memorials and, more broadly, the latest episode in the blood-soaked, centuries-old history of racism in America.

But for baby-boomer Jews like me, the rally, its rhetoric, and the violence that day came as a thunderbolt out of the blue, delivering an additional—and very unexpected—message: old-style anti-Semitism is back, alive, and well in America.

I grew up in post-World War II New York on the assumption that our country was different, that the Jew-hatred my Old World ancestors experienced couldn’t take root here, that the Holocaust survivors I met came from a foreign universe that had nothing to do with me. Yes, I heard and read about Americans who didn’t like Jews, like Henry Ford, Father Coughlin, and the German-American Bund, but they were long gone. Americans had defeated Hitler and negated all he stood for, most definitely including anti-Semitism. And there was proof—for all his reckless red-baiting during the early 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy studiously avoided anti-Semitism, and even the conviction and execution of the Jewish atomic spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg did not arouse a noticeable anti-Jewish reaction. What’s more, Jewish quotas in universities were a thing of the past, and an internationally recognized Jewish State of Israel had joined the family of nations. No, I was not naïve. I knew about George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of the American Nazi Party, and the Ku Klux Klan, but they were few, far away, and surely outside the American mainstream. I reached adulthood without

encountering any overt prejudice or meeting a single open anti-Semite.

As the years passed, Nazi-style racial anti-Semitism was so deeply buried in the history books that the international anti-Israel wave that began in the 1970s had to be called the “new” anti-Semitism. As the experts explained, Jew-hatred was a mutating virus: now it no longer targeted Christ-killers and usurers—all of that was backward and passé—but rather Zionists. This “new” version declared that Jews were the one people that did not merit a sovereign state. Thus was born the narrative that led to today’s BDS movement that finds such favor with many on the far left—since a Jewish state is illegitimate, boycotting, divesting from, and sanctioning Israel was the “chic” thing to do.

But while we were fighting BDS and combating anti-Zionism, the anti-Semitism of our grandparents’ and great-grandparents’ time was making a comeback. We did take it seriously, but not that personally, since it was happening miles away, on the other side of the Atlantic, where Jews were being targeted for insult, attack, and even murder in the streets of European cities, and since so many of the perpetrators were Muslims, it was hard to perceive the connection to the anti-Semitism of the past.

Charlottesville, though, brought it home—at least to me. At a rally ostensibly organized to protest plans to remove a statue of General Robert E. Lee, the hundreds of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and Klan members, many carrying banners emblazoned with swastikas and signs declaring, “Jews are



Satan's children"; making the Nazi "Sieg Heil" salute; and bellowed anti-Semitic chants having nothing to do with Lee or with statues: "Jews will not replace us," they cried, as well as "Blood and Soil," the English translation of the Nazi slogan "Blut und Boden." And who can forget the white supremacist filmed telling a reporter that he was waiting for a white leader more extreme than President Trump, one who would not "give his beautiful daughter" to a Jew?

And apropos the President, there was his baffling response—or rather dizzying series of responses—to Charlottesville, sometimes blaming those on "many sides" for the violence, at other times calling out the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and anti-Semites by name, but in a way that suggested he was reluctantly checking off the boxes to forestall expected complaints from the media.

Do these hundreds of demonstrators signify a trend that Jews should worry about? And is President Trump's reluctance to issue an unambiguously heartfelt denunciation anything more than one man's idiosyncrasy? Ominously, an ABC News/*Washington Post* survey taken soon after the rally found that 9 percent—equivalent to about 22 million people—do not consider neo-Nazi and white supremacist views unacceptable, a figure that rises to 17 percent among strong Trump supporters.

American Jews have reason to worry. And since what starts with Jews never just ends with them, so, it should be said, do all Americans.

*Lawrence Grossman is the American Jewish Committee's director of publications.*



## CONFRONTING ANTI-SEMITISM: JEWS NEED TRIFOCAL LENSES

September 4, 2017 | by David Harris

For close to two decades, we have been blowing the whistle on the rising tide of anti-Semitism. When asked the source, our answer has always been the same: Look in three directions – the far left, the far right, and the jihadists.

Too many in our hyper-politicized world, however, would prefer to shy away from this trifocal analysis. For them, it doesn't necessarily sit well ideologically, the facts be damned.

But we don't have a particular ax to grind or, if you will, a "preferred" enemy to confront. We're a Jewish front-line agency that doesn't get to pick and choose our threats because they might suit a subtle, or not-so-subtle, partisan outlook.

When neo-Nazis came out by the hundreds in Charlottesville and chanted blood-curdling diatribes evoking the Third Reich, many Jews rushed to condemn them, and rightly so. We were most assuredly among them.

Whether appropriate or not, some celebrity Jews even chose to brandish the yellow Star of David, reminiscent of what Jews in the German concentration camps and ghettos had to wear, marking them for likely extermination.

While admiring this post-Charlottesville determination to stand up as Jews, I couldn't help but wonder where some of these very same people had been in recent years when the threats and attacks were coming from elsewhere.

To be absolutely, unmistakably clear, there is a real danger emanating from the far right.

For some time, we had thought it was more ominous in Europe, where, unlike here, extremists were also organizing under the banners of political parties, such as the Golden Dawn in Greece, Jobbik in Hungary, and the National Front in France. They have been seeking to gain influence through the ballot box, in addition to their activities in cyberspace and on the streets.

In some cases, they lionize 20<sup>th</sup> century fascists, call for registries of Jews, disparage or even deny the Holocaust, and rant about Jewish power and influence.

It turns out that they have a fair number of kindred spirits in the U.S., who march in the streets declaring that "Jews will not replace us" and pining for "blood and soil," the English translation of the Nazi belief in "Blut und Boden."

But the danger doesn't begin and end here. Nor, therefore, should our concern and outrage.

For one thing, the far left also poses daunting challenges.

Many in this camp seem to have a problem with one country on earth – and it just happens to be the only Jewish-majority nation around, with a Jewish population, it might be noted, of just over six million people, many of whom were themselves targets of the far right (and the far left and jihadists) in the past century.



No other nation awakens the far left's misguided passion in the way that Israel does. Only democratic Israel is constantly in their crosshairs.

They don't organize BDS campaigns, flotillas, flytillas, apartheid weeks, or disruptive protests about the true human-rights abusers, just Israel, as it seeks to defend itself against those who openly proclaim their intent to destroy it.

In the same vein, they celebrate self-determination for the Palestinians, but would deny it for the Jews.

Is this obsessive, relentless attempt to challenge the Jewish people's national aspirations not a form of anti-Semitism? Of course it is, and has been acknowledged as such by the UN Secretary-General, the President of France, and many other astute leaders.

And when was the last time, for example, that anyone saw a protest by these self-professed human rights campaigners of the far left, whether on an American campus or elsewhere, about mass murder in Syria; Islamic State's genocide against the Yazidis; the Venezuelan government's wholesale destruction of a country; concentration camps housing hundreds of thousands of inmates in North Korea; the British Labor Party's recurring examples of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, beginning at the very top of the party leadership; or Iran's serial violations of the human rights of women, gays, and religious minorities?

Their blatant selectivity and hypocrisy speak volumes.

But bifocal lenses aren't sufficient, either. Trifocals are needed.

Of late, the greatest physical threat to Jews has come from jihadists.

Consider the fact that every fatal attack against Jews in Europe in recent years has been carried out by Islamic extremists.

From the kosher supermarket in Paris to a Jewish school in Toulouse, from the Jewish Museum in Brussels to the synagogue in Copenhagen, from the murders of Ilan Halimi and Sarah Halimi in Paris to the Israelis (and Bulgarian) killed in Burgas, they were all perpetrated by jihadists.

Add to that the genocidal ambitions of Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas, incendiary Salafist teachings in many madrassas, and the ubiquitous anti-Semitism in important segments of the Arab media.

So, by all means, let's express our utter revulsion when Nazis march in Charlottesville, and let's speak up when the occupant of the Oval Office stunningly fails to provide moral clarity in confronting such an unfolding drama.

But, equally, the same Jewish outrage needs to be manifested when the leader of a country, Iran, seeks a world without Israel, when Hezbollah's top cleric calls for the mass murder of Jews, when Jewish children are shot to death in front of a Jewish school for the simple fact that they are Jews, and when groups on American campuses single out Israel, alone among 193 UN member states, for delegitimization and disappearance.

Oh, and as if things weren't already complicated enough, we also must not lose sight of the seemingly bizarre alliances that emerge, such as between the far left and Islamic extremists regarding Israel and Zionism, or the far right and Islamic extremists on Holocaust denial and demonization of Jews.

In other words, it's a time for those who genuinely care about anti-Semitism to open their eyes wide – and not allow ideological or partisan thinking to narrow the field of vision.



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When Hate Rises  
We Must Rise

Petitions for Signature Enclosed



# Anti-Semitism is a scourge that must be confronted and defeated.

I support AJC in the battle against rising hate with a gift of:

☐ \$1,000    ☐ \$500    ☐ \$250    ☐ \$100    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$30    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Please make your check payable to AJC or you can contribute online at [ajc.org/actnow](http://ajc.org/actnow).

To charge your gift, see reverse side.

Please sign the petitions to the right, place a stamp on the reverse, and send to your Senators, urging them to support the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act.

Dear Senator [REDACTED]

Hate crimes against religious institutions are on the rise in the United States. That is why I am writing to urge you to support S.994, the Protecting Religiously Affiliated Institutions Act, which will hold accountable those who threaten synagogues, mosques, and other religious institutions. Threats against religious institutions intentionally instill fear in communities and undermine a person's free exercise of their religious beliefs. Enactment of this legislation will send a signal of zero tolerance for hate crimes against people of faith.

Respectfully,

Signature [REDACTED]

Dear Senator [REDACTED]

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Respectfully,

Signature [REDACTED]



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