

The call of this moment

The former President of the United States hosted a Holocaust denier. A celebrity with twice the number of Twitter followers as Jewish people in the world repeatedly declared his desire to see harm come to Jews. Closer to home in Boston, Jews were targeted on the streets. According to the ADL, antisemitic incidents rose by 41% between 2021 and 2022 in Massachusetts.

It is clear: Antisemitism — hate of Jewish people — has never gone away. But it has once again become mainstream and is increasingly prevalent in our own community.

We are alarmed; we are determined.

CJP and our communal partners do not accept this increase in — or ANY — antisemitism, including the delegitimization of Israel, in our community. We have always stood against hate of all kinds; we are proud of our legacy of fighting back against unjust treatment of all people. **As Boston's largest Jewish communal institution, it is our obligation to ensure Jewish people in Greater Boston — and indeed, around the world — are able to live proudly and publicly as Jews.**

We cannot rest until Jewish people can live their lives joyfully, free to worship without fear, walk the streets without trepidation, and go online without being bombarded by hateful and dangerous comments. Let us be clear: **CJP and our partners will tirelessly work to stop Jewish hate in its tracks and ensure that our community thrives. CJP and our communal partners call on our non-Jewish friends and neighbors to amplify our concerns and raise their own voices against this rising hate.**

Boston's Jewish community stands against Jewish hate today and every day, and we will not rest until this trend is reversed. We have a plan.

A collective response

Over the past year, CJP has convened a task force of volunteers, leaders, and organizational partners to develop ideas and recommendations for where to focus CJP's and our partners' resources, energy, and impact given the challenges we face. This fall, we sought input from our community organizations at our annual convening of grantees and organizational partners. We regularly meet with local, national, and global partners — including the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC), Anti-Defamation League (ADL), American Jewish Committee (AJC), and the Jewish Federations of North America Secure Communities Network — to consult, collaborate, and plan. This work must be done through partnerships.

Building upon the task force's 16 recommendations and the regular input we receive, CJP has developed a 5-point plan — "Stop Jewish Hate Now." Our goals for this plan are simple, even as the work is hard. With our community partners, we will:

1. Raise awareness of what Jewish hate is and be unequivocal in our denunciation of it

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2. Provide practical and coordinated ways for our Jewish community to stand up and take action
3. Mobilize non-Jewish allies and people of influence in Boston to fight hate with us
4. Fight the growing normalization of Jewish hate and the demonization of Israel, most especially in educational contexts (K–12 and on college and university campuses)
5. Ensure the safety and security of our communal institutions and people within them

Stop Jewish hate now: a 5-point plan

1. Face Jewish hate: The first part of our strategy is a **public-facing awareness, education, and mobilization campaign** to fight back against antisemitism. Our goal is to be unequivocal in our denunciation of Jewish hate while also sharing the impact this virulent hate has on individual lives.

Why are we doing this?

We believe that it is imperative to be vocal and public in our denunciation of Jewish hate. We also know that words like “antisemitism” are unfamiliar to many. Accordingly, we have built a public campaign around the phrase “Face Jewish hate” so there can be no mistaking our objective.

What is our approach?

This campaign is expected to launch in early spring 2023 and will prominently feature first-person accounts from victims of Jew hatred. We believe that sharing the impact antisemitism has had on individuals will take people beyond the headlines, shine a light on its social and psychological toll, garner attention, foster empathy, and create a desire to learn more and/or take action.

While the public will see this campaign on bus shelters, billboards, and the like, we also know that this fight is largely online and so this campaign is being designed for high social media traction. The campaign requires viewers to see through the eyes of people just like themselves who have been targeted — simply because they’re Jews. In this campaign, you will see that hate takes different forms and is directed toward Jews regardless of their personal religious beliefs, attitudes towards Israel, or other “Jewish” identity markers.

As part of this campaign, we will emphasize the importance of reporting antisemitic incidents so that they can be tracked, documented, and addressed. ADL will remain our key partner in this work with their well-established incident response protocol.

When will I see this and who are we working with?

The campaign is expected to launch in early spring 2023. The campaign has been developed in consultation with key community partners and will feature personal stories from Jewish people in Boston.

2. Empower our Jewish community: The campaign will direct people to a communal resource hub: a webpage with curated resources, educational tools, and opportunities to act so that community members are motivated and equipped to stand up and fight back. This hub will also provide resources and skill-building opportunities to empower families to address issues of antisemitism in schools more effectively.

Why are we doing this?

This resource page is a direct response to the question we get the most at CJP: “What do I do when I

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see or experience antisemitism?” and “How do I fight back online?” We see our role as coordinating information and presenting it in a way that is easily digestible.

We also know that one of our main purposes for educating more people about Jewish hate is to inspire them to take action, both in their own lives and at a broader, more systemic level. This resource hub will enable people to do both, including links to “How to stand up to antisemitism” videos, toolkits for talking about Israel, and relevant opportunities to contact elected officials to ensure fair and just treatment of Jews and Israel in public life. It will also be a central place for time-sensitive calls to action, especially in the aftermath of an incident.

What is our approach?

Our goal is for a visitor to empathize with the people featured in our public-facing campaign, learn about the impact Jewish hate has had on their lives, and to commit to doing more to fight back. The resource page will include ways to stand up against Jewish hate, and it will also serve as a coordinating hub for communal opportunities that arise (attend a vigil, write to an elected official, join a synagogue at a march, etc.).

When will I see this?

You can see the beginnings of this work on the already launched: [Antisemitism Initiative | Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston \(cjp.org\)](#) and [Antisemitism Resources and How to Fight Jewish hate \(jewishboston.com\)](#) pages. We will continue to add to the resource hub when we launch the forward-facing campaign.

3. Build allyship: A key component of our strategy is building stronger relationships with non-Jewish influential people, such that they stand up and publicly speak out about antisemitism, and work to ensure policies are free of discrimination towards Jews and Israel.

Why are we doing this?

We do not accept that fighting back against hate of Jews is the Jewish community’s responsibility alone. Our goal is to greatly increase the number of non-Jewish leaders in Boston who publicly denounce antisemitism regularly, who proactively partner with the Jewish community to end this hate, and who influence political and educational leaders to ensure policies are unbiased against Jews and Israel.

What is our approach?

In order to build these relationships, we are working with JCRC to identify influential leaders in civic Boston— religious leaders, political influencers, social media influencers — with a particular focus on leaders within Communities of Color. With our partners leading the way, we are outlining specific and tangible steps that will lead to a greater number of allies speaking up to stop Jewish hate and we will hold ourselves accountable to quantifiable increases in allies who actively speak out.

We are also partnering with national organizations to bring proven programs to Boston to work on building these civic relationships. And finally, we are particularly focusing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work in corporations and universities throughout Greater Boston through the expansion of the ADL’s work in this area. We hope that all three of these tactics create a synergy between public discourse, private companies, universities, and influential leaders all shutting Jewish hate out of Boston.

When will I see this and who are we working with?

We have felt a particular urgency around being more public in our denunciation of Jewish hate. Given the increase in public awareness of antisemitism, it is imperative to move forward quickly with these

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strategies at a time when any civic leader would be hard-pressed to deny their importance. To date, we have partnered with ADL on a conference in October 2022 to address some of these issues, and we're now working toward broader community action. As such, we are convening our partner organizations urgently to speed up this work and will expect to start seeing results in winter 2023. Our key partners in this work include JCRC, ADL, and AJC, with support from IAC and others.

4. Inform and educate the next generation: This component of our strategy is focused on young people, specifically children in grades K–12 through campus-age students. We're giving young people the tools they need when faced with Jewish hate and to engage in constructive dialogue, and working to ensure fair and equal treatment of Jews and Israel through the educational system.

Why are we doing this?

We cannot accept that our children are growing up in a world where most Americans do not know about the Holocaust, cannot find Israel on a map, and assume that Jewish hate is a culturally appropriate and acceptable part of contemporary culture. These growing trends are dangerous for us all, but our young people are particularly susceptible, and we cannot let them fall prey to these ideas. We worry that being Jewish will feel too hard and we are at risk of a whole generation of Jewish young people associating Judaism with danger rather than fulfillment.

What is our approach?

Within this work, we have four key areas of focus: educational policy and curricula for ages K–12; local funding for teen-focused organizations to provide tools for individual responses to antisemitism and anti-Zionism; funding to empower parents and guardians with tools and strategies to address antisemitism in K–12 schools; and finally, strengthening national partnerships to fill gaps on campus. Specifically, we are:

- Funding a director of education outreach and partnerships at JCRC to ensure protections around antisemitism and Israel education during upcoming MA statewide- and district-by-district-level efforts to develop Ethnic Studies curricula
- Funding the development of a contemporary curricula for studying antisemitism to be rolled out in public schools — understanding this is a long-term strategy
- Funding to empower parents and guardians with language, skills, and strategy to effectively advocate for antisemitism awareness and response in K–12 schools
- Outreach to educators and school administrators (public and private) on best practices in incident response and prevention, along with grounding of what antisemitism is and how it occurs in a school setting
- Partnering with national programs (like Hillel's Campus Climate Initiative) and building relationships with university administrators to fill gaps on campus immediately and to more effectively address antisemitism and anti-Israel speech
- Providing funding to local organizations serving teens to give them practical tips and resources to fight back against Jewish hate in their own lives and engage in constructive dialogue in schools and on campus

When will I see this and who are we working with?

We made initial grants to local partners this past spring and are now working to bring national partners

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into the Greater Boston area in spring 2023. Our primary partners are local teen organizations and Hillel International, as well as the ADL. As we engage school districts and develop school curricula, we will include Facing History and JCRC as key partners, along with the aforementioned organizations. ADL will be involved in developing and deploying tools and strategies for parents in K–12 schools, to address antisemitism and with campus administrations.

5. Strengthen communal security: Finally, a cornerstone of our plan is the growth of our **Communal Security Initiative (CSI)**, where we are doubling our capacity to serve the safety needs of our community.

Why are we doing this?

At CJP, the safety of our community members is our top priority. We will work tirelessly for a world free of antisemitism and anti-Zionism. But we are not naïve — we are not living in that world now. We are proud to have one of the first and most robust Communal Security Initiatives in the country and we know we have a strong model that works but needs to grow. To enhance that work, we will also provide additional recommendations and guidance to law enforcement on recognizing and responding to antisemitic activities, including extremist activities.

What is our approach?

This year, we have partnered with Jewish Federations of North America on “Live Secure,” a national effort to strengthen the safety and security of our community. This partnership will help us raise increased resources for expansion of CSI.

CJP’s CSI has developed robust ways to serve more organizations, prioritizing institutions serving children. Expansion will include physical security upgrades, access to ongoing security supports, cybersecurity, and training. We believe Jewish life and practice should be joyful and welcoming and we will do everything in our power to ensure our community feels safe and secure engaging in all that Jewish life has to offer.

Philanthropy alone cannot meet the need here. An important component of this strategy involves using government funding for nonprofit security grants at both the federal and state level, which JCRC has been instrumental in securing. For many years, JCRC has been successful at advocating and securing state funds and at working to support JFNA’s federal delegation. This partnership will remain core to our work.

We are also enhancing relationships with law enforcement who are often called on to respond to incidents of Jew hatred in the community by providing resources and training on recognizing and responding to antisemitism is an essential component of this strategy.

When will I see this?

We are launching our fundraising for Live Secure in January 2023 and believe we will be able to begin our expansion of CSI in summer 2023, ramping up quickly with new grants and trainings for our communal ecosystem immediately. In 2022, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts allocated \$8 million to nonprofit security grants, an exponential increase, up from \$1.5 million in 2021.

With ADL, we expect to design and provide law enforcement with guidance and training on antisemitism and its impact on the community.

If you or an institution you are involved in need support, [please contact our team](#).