

HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

# HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

**“**  
**1 in 4**  
**American**  
**Jews report**  
**that they**  
**experienced**  
**hatred in the**  
**last year.<sup>3</sup>**

**SHINE**  
**ALIGHT**  
on antisemitism

## HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

### WHAT IS SHINE A LIGHT?

In response to the **sharp rise in antisemitism in the US**<sup>4</sup> in 2021<sup>5</sup>, the **Shine A Light** initiative was formed to raise awareness about modern antisemitism through education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy. Today, Shine A Light comprises an unprecedented coalition of 65 Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, more than 60 corporations, and 26 US state governors who are committed to addressing rising antisemitism.

### WHEN IS SHINE A LIGHT 2022?

Shine A Light draws inspiration from the story of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, to champion the message that one light can dispel darkness and hate. **Shine A Light 2022** will launch in December with a month of programming, media, and events to spotlight modern antisemitism.

### WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN SHINE A LIGHT?

Do you understand what modern-day antisemitism looks like and why it persists?<sup>6</sup>

ARTICLE



As an elected official or government appointee who is committed to an inclusive and tolerant society, how are you addressing the rise in antisemitism in the US?

Please join us to learn more about modern antisemitism, how it is intertwined with other forms of hate, and how you can take steps to combat hate in your community.

**“The only way to build a culture of safety is to see racism, oppression and violence as permanently intertwined. This gives all of us a stake when fighting the twin social diseases of antisemitism and racism.”**

Shane Burley, NBC News OpEd<sup>1</sup>

# HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

## WHAT CAN GOVERNMENT DO TO HELP?

### 1 SPEAK OUT

Join states and cities across the US, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, and Fortune 500 companies, in speaking out about antisemitism the week of Chanukah 2022.

Share your commitment through:

- **Public Statements Condemning Antisemitism**
- **Supporting Shine A Light on Social Media**
- **Convening Interfaith Groups for a Day of Action**
- **Collaborating with Other Local, State or Federal Government Officials**

### 2 IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES

Develop a comprehensive plan to address antisemitism through community collaboration and ensuring a safety plan is in place.

- **Engage in conversation** with your local Jewish Community leaders to develop a strategy together.
- **Ensure safety for Jewish houses of worship and institutions** by encouraging them to apply for nonprofit security grant funding and help them secure additional government funding.
- **Designate a point person** to serve as a resource for the Jewish community within the local government.
- **Be inclusive of Jewish holidays** in all official calendars (schools, elections, etc.)

34%

2026  
incidents

2020

2717  
incidents

2021

Antisemitic incidents in the US **increased 34%** over the previous year, reaching the **highest number on record** since the ADL began tracking this in 1979.<sup>2</sup>

# HOW GOVERNMENT CAN ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM

## 3 ENCOURAGE EDUCATION AND REPORTING

Advocating for structural support through education and crime reporting are vital to addressing current antisemitic acts and preventing future antisemitism beliefs.

- **Advocate for incorporating antisemitism education and training** in local school districts' curricula and professional training for teachers and administrators.
- **Engage law enforcement** to ensure they are educated on antisemitism and what modern-day antisemitism looks like.
- **Encourage local police departments to report all religiously motivated hate crimes** to ensure greater safety for your community.

## 4 ADOPT IHRA ANTISEMITISM DEFINITION

By adopting the non-binding [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) Working Definition of Antisemitism](#), governments signal to their communities that antisemitism will not be tolerated and provide them with tools to identify it.

## JOIN US!

To get more information about participating in Shine A Light, reach out to:

[stephanie@conferenceofpresidents.org](mailto:stephanie@conferenceofpresidents.org)

**TOGETHER we can  
SHINE A LIGHT on antisemitism.**

1. [How Buffalo suspect's hateful propaganda connects Black Americans and Jews](#), NBC News OpEd
2. [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021](#), ADL
3. [2020 FBI Hate Crimes Statistics](#), FBI
4. [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021](#), ADL
5. [Officials Say Hate Crimes Against Jews Are Growing In The Aftermath Of Gaza Violence](#), NPR
6. [Why So Many People Still Don't Understand Anti-Semitism](#), The Atlantic