

MUNICIPAL ANTISEMITISM ACTION PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2019, the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) collaborates with mayors, city leaders, and municipal authorities to combat antisemitism through rapid and actionable solutions.

Since October 7th, the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents worldwide has further underscored the critical role of local governments in taking decisive action. In 2024, CAM's Antisemitism Research Center recorded a record 6,326 antisemitic incidents worldwide, with 2025 surpassing that number with 6,820 recorded antisemitic incidents.

In response to this global scourge of antisemitism, CAM launched the Municipal Antisemitism Action Plan, a comprehensive guide outlining meaningful steps for municipalities to combat antisemitism. This plan serves not only as a tool for cities to evaluate their policies, but as a catalyst for the implementation of proactive, impactful measures that help build hate-free communities.

By providing clear metrics and examples of best practices, CAM seeks to inform and support mayors, city councils, and local officials as they weigh how to recognize and address antisemitism in their communities.

The Municipal Antisemitism Action Plan is not intended to influence specific legislation, act, or resolution. Rather, it provides education on tools that cities can use to map and strengthen their efforts to combat antisemitism across policy, education, interfaith and cross-cultural engagement, and law enforcement responses to hate. The plan offers a clear, user-friendly roadmap that helps local governments identify gaps, build on what's working, and make their communities more resilient against hate.

We encourage mayors to share their cities' successful programs in an exchange of innovative strategies that can be adopted and put in place by other communities.

Lisa Katz, CAM's Chief Government Affairs Officer and a former mayor, is leading the engagement with mayors and municipalities, ready to assist local governments in developing better policies and programs to counter antisemitism in their communities. She can be reached at: **Lisa@CombatAntisemitism.org**.

LEGISLATION AND POLICY

The Legislation and Policy section of the Municipal Antisemitism Action Plan highlights how local governments across North America have used law and policies to address antisemitism in their communities. It is intended as an educational resource, showcasing examples of approaches and best practices other municipalities have adopted. Below are illustrative examples of positive initiatives taken by municipalities across the region:



- 1.1 Adoption of IHRA Definition and Hate Crime Legislation: Integrate the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, including its examples, into the city code, and adopt hate crime legislation that explicitly includes ethnicity and antisemitism, as defined by the IHRA definition, in the identification and investigation of potential hate crimes.
- 1.2 Enhance Penalties for Hate Crimes: Inclusion of provisions in hate crime legislation such that violation of such statute would elevate the charge to a higher level. For instance, if an assault would normally be classified as a Class C felony, adding a hate crime element would raise it to a Class B felony, which carries more severe penalties.
- 1.3 Amend Existing Racial Discrimination Policies: To the extent that a municipality has racial discrimination policies, ensure that discrimination motivated by antisemitic bias and Jew-hatred is treated in the same manner as discrimination motivated by race or ethnicity.
- 1.4 Buffer Zone Legislation: Adoption of an ordinance establishing time, place, and manner restrictions that restrict protests within proximity to sensitive areas such as schools and houses of worship.
- 1.5 Anti-BDS Policy: Adoption of a policy whereby the municipality will not do business with companies that boycott or divest from the State of Israel, Israelis, or any other discrimination based upon ethnicity or national origin.
- 1.6 Establishment of an Antisemitism Task Force / Committee: Establishment of a task force composed of individuals with diverse expertise from law enforcement, educators, residents, and Jewish community leadership to address antisemitic hate in the municipality, while encouraging awareness, education, and unity among all residents. The task force will transparently report on city progress in addressing antisemitism.
- 1.7 Anti-Masking Legislation: Adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the wearing of masks at public protests, except for demonstrable health-related safety reasons.

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

CAM's research has shown that cities that provide educational activities are able to effectively counter hate. The following examples are positive educational initiatives taken by municipalities across North America:



2.1 Partner with local institutions such as libraries, museums, community centers, and universities to host public programs on the Holocaust, Jewish American heritage, and contemporary antisemitism. Cities have hosted lectures, film series, exhibits, and moderated conversations.

2.2 Recognize International Holocaust Remembrance Day (IHRD) and Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) through official city proclamations, public events, and citywide communications that highlight educational resources for residents.

2.3 Encourage and promote professional development opportunities on antisemitism and Holocaust history for city staff and public-facing employees.

2.4 Support accurate, fact-based public education about the history of the State of Israel and the modern Middle East by co-sponsoring community forums, panel discussions, and dialogues with reputable scholars and educators, ensuring a focus on civility and learning rather than advocacy.

2.5 Use city communication channels to share vetted educational materials, event listings, and resources related to the Holocaust, Jewish American heritage, and combating antisemitism.

2.6 Establish a dedicated committee to lead public awareness campaigns to educate the community about antisemitism. This committee should also ensure that city leadership provides a prompt and effective public response to any antisemitic incidents.

2.7 Hold an annual event to commemorate the October 7th massacre and honor its victims, bringing awareness to contemporary antisemitism and violence.

2.8 Collaborate with interfaith and intercultural councils to create public programs that explore Jewish history and identity alongside other traditions, reinforcing shared values of respect, pluralism, and democratic norms. Perhaps offer a trip to the nearest Holocaust museum.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 3.1 Support programs that encourage dialogue and cooperation between diverse religious and ethnic groups, including events such as interfaith festivals, cultural exchanges, and workshops.
- 3.2 Establish a sister city relationship with a city in Israel to learn from each other and exchange cultural, educational, informational, and trade ideas.
- 3.3 Support the creation of public art, murals, or installations that celebrate your city's diversity, including Jewish heritage, and use unveiling events as opportunities for community education and positive messaging against hate.
- 3.4 Develop youth engagement initiatives that expose young people to different cultures and faiths, including age-appropriate programs on Jewish history, identity, and contemporary Jewish life.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL ACTION

- 4.1 Require annual training for police and other law enforcement personnel on antisemitism, Holocaust history, and contemporary manifestations of antisemitic hate.
- 4.2 Work with law enforcement and relevant partners to assess and, where appropriate, enhance security measures for synagogues, Jewish schools, community centers, and other Jewish institutions, especially during high-risk periods and major holidays.
- 4.3 Create and publicize simple, accessible mechanisms for reporting suspected antisemitic incidents. These systems should make it easy for residents and institutions to share information and should be coordinated with any municipal task forces or relevant departments.
- 4.4 Ensure that antisemitic incidents are taken seriously, thoroughly documented, and investigated, and that laws protecting residents from hate and bias-motivated crimes are consistently enforced.
- 4.5 Collect and share with the public and CAM's Antisemitism Research Center (ARC) aggregated data on antisemitic incidents, including frequency, type, and location.





Scan the QR code to access a comprehensive collection of legislation and best practices that you can adapt to implement the strategies outlined in the plan. This resource will be continuously updated to provide concrete, actionable examples designed to support municipalities in their efforts to combat antisemitism effectively.

