

#WERESOLVE

COMBATTING ANTISEMITISM

RESOURCE PACKET



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ANTISEMITISM

WHAT & WHY?

Philo defines antisemitism as any unjust word or deed aimed at the Jewish people. It may include the denial of Jewish identity, equality or security. It may also include refusing the Jewish nation a rightful place in the community of nations or challenging the Jewish right to live at peace in their homeland.

Antisemitism is a hatred of the Jewish people. But this hatred often has less to do with the Jews than with the ideas that the Jews brought into the world: biblical morality, human responsibility, and divine election. Antisemites may come from different backgrounds, but most of them resent the power of these Judeo-Christian principles over human societies.

WHY SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE?

Antisemitism is still a major threat to the Jewish people:

- A recent CNN poll found that in Europe, nearly one in five people said that antisemitism in their countries was a response to the everyday behavior of Jewish people.
- In the same poll, 40% of people said Jews were at risk of racist violence in their countries.
- The ADL found that 2017 saw a nearly 60% surge in reported antisemitic incidents from the previous year; the largest single-year increase since the organization began tracking incidents in 1979.
- According to an FBI report, in 2017 the majority (58%) of religiously motivated hate-crimes in the US were directed against Jews, who make up only 2% of the American population.

Antisemitism is also a threat to Christians, since Jesus is Jewish and Christianity comes from Judaism. Antisemites often group Jews and Christians together, as a 2018 report by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom suggests.

Antisemitism is a threat to all minorities. Hatred of the Jews never ends with the Jews, and antisemites often turn their bigotry on other religious and ethnic groups as well.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Go to our [website](#) and sign our resolution on antisemitism. Then share the link with your friends and family on social media.

Download the resource packet and bring it as a gift to your priest or pastor. Indicate that you're willing to help educate your church on the threat of antisemitism to Jews and Christians alike.

Call or email your local Jewish synagogue or community center and tell them that you stand with them against antisemitism.

FACT SHEET

- In the largest survey of Jewish people ever conducted worldwide, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights found that, a large majority of respondents (85%) consider antisemitism and racism to be the most pressing problems across the EU Member States surveyed.
- In a 2015 study, 42% of French Jews surveyed said that they had suffered insults or aggressive acts at the hands of Muslims.
- An exclusive CNN poll in Europe found that:
 - 42% of Hungarians think Jews have too much influence in finance and business across the world.
 - Almost one in five (18%) agree that most antisemitism in their country is a response to the "everyday behavior of Jewish people."
 - In Poland, 50% of people think that Jews use the Holocaust to advance their position.
- More than a quarter of French people have a somewhat or significantly unfavorable impression of Jews as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian issue.
- Only half (54%) of adults agree Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish state.
- Antisemitic acts in France increased by 69% in the first nine months of 2018.
- The ADL found that 2017 saw a nearly 60% surge in reported antisemitic incidents from the previous year; the largest single-year increase since the organization began tracking incidents in 1979.
- Jewish people bear the brunt of religious bias in America, even though just 2% of US residents are Jewish.
- According to FBI statistics, hate crimes motivated by religious bias accounted for 1,679 offenses reported by law enforcement in 2017. A breakdown of the bias motivation of religious-biased offenses showed:
 - 58.1% were anti-Jewish
 - Hate crime incidents targeting Jews and Jewish institutions in the US spiked about 37% between 2016 and 2017
- According to an ADL report from 2014, approximately 1 out of every 4 people in the world harbor antisemitic attitudes.
- 74% of those surveyed in the Middle East are antisemitic.
- In 2017, an antisemitic event occurred in every US state.

CHRISTIANS RESOLVED AGAINST ANTISEMITISM

Today, when antisemitism is rising here and around the world, I pledge to stand in solidarity with the Jewish people, against those who would unjustly attack them.

Antisemitism is not only painting swastikas on community centers or killing worshippers in synagogues. Antisemitism is any unjust word or deed aimed at the Jewish people. It may include denying Jewish identity, Jewish equality, or Jewish security; holding Jews to a standard that isn't applied to anyone else; refusing the Jewish nation a rightful place in the community of nations; or challenging the Jewish right to live at peace in their homeland.

Hostility toward Jews is an assault on America and Western principles because our civilization is founded on the spiritual and ethical vision of the Hebrew Bible. An attack on Jews is also ultimately an attack on Christians, because at the heart of our faith stands a Jew, and a Jewish vision coming to fulfillment.

Antisemitism may start with the Jews, but it never ends there. Those who hate Jews will always find new groups and ideas to target. Now is the time to act, and to promote the values of respect and tolerance that are essential for a thriving, pluralistic society.

I HEREBY PLEDGE TO CONFRONT ANTISEMITISM WHEREVER I SEE IT.

I hereby pledge to confront antisemitism wherever I see it. More importantly, I commit to educating myself, my family and my community about the monumental contributions that the Jewish people have made to our society and Christian faith. I will work to build relationships with Jews and let them know that I stand with them in these difficult times. I will educate fellow Christians and others about the dangers posed by antisemitism. My Christian faith demands that I confront hatred of all kinds, and especially hatred of the very people who first taught the world that all people possess the right to life, freedom and equality.

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TAKE ACTION WITH THE PHILOS PROJECT

1. Write an article about antisemitism in your church or denomination newsletter.
2. Publish the Antisemitism Backgrounder in your home church newsletter.
3. Email the Antisemitism Backgrounder and petition to your church list.
4. Host a church roundtable discussion on antisemitism, including the history of Christian hostility against the Jews as well as Christian opposition to.
5. Post this Combatting Antisemitism Resource Packet on your church website.
6. Encourage your priest or pastor to announce our #WeResolve campaign and perhaps even deliver a sermon on antisemitism in Christianity.
7. Share the link to our Antisemitism Intro video with your church and community.
8. Host an event on Jewish-Christian relations. Contact us at info@philosproject.org if you're interested in hosting this.
9. Support Philos efforts on promoting Jewish-Christian relations by donating [here](#).
10. Organize a "march against antisemitism" in your town.
11. Organize a church trip to visit your local Holocaust museum.
12. Plan an event for Holocaust Remembrance Day (January 27).
13. Organize a church trip to Israel. Email us at info@philosproject.org to ask for help.

"ANTISEMITISM IS RISING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THIS YEAR THE PHILOS PROJECT IS TAKING A STAND. OUR CHRISTIANITY DEMANDS THAT WE CONFRONT HATRED OF EVERY KIND, BUT ESPECIALLY HATRED OF THE VERY PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT OUR FAITH TO THE WORLD.

HUMAN DIGNITY, TRUTH, FREEDOM, JUSTICE -- THESE ARE THE HEBRAIC VALUES THAT LIE AT THE HEART OF OUR WORK. JOIN US THIS YEAR AS WE PROMOTE THOSE VALUES ON BEHALF OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE AND ALL THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD."

-ROBERT NICHOLSON

RESOURCES

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