



From darkness, light.

November 3, 2023

### **Holocaust Museum Houston Statement Regarding the Rise in Antisemitism**

On October 7th, Hamas launched a terrorist attack on Israel that killed approximately 1,400 civilians and kidnapped more than 200. Holocaust Museum Houston released a [statement](#) regarding this attack in which we noted that violence in Israel encourages antisemitism on a global scale. Unfortunately, this is exactly what has occurred.

Throughout the world, there has been an explosion of antisemitic acts. Jewish buildings in Paris have been vandalized with Stars of David reminiscent of the marking of Jewish buildings during the Holocaust. In Germany, antisemites attempted to firebomb a synagogue, in an echo of the November Pogrom in which most synagogues in Germany were burned and desecrated. In Russia, a mob stormed an airport looking for Jews after a flight arrived from Tel Aviv, calling for violence against Jews in a manner similar to [pogroms](#) of the past.

In the United States, antisemitic incidents have increased 388% since October 7th. For the Jewish community, nowhere seems safe. Jews have been harassed, attacked, threatened, and targeted in public, at synagogues, and on college campuses. Jewish institutions are under constant threat. Despite the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, many voices remain silent while others spread the same antisemitic tropes repeated throughout history.

Holocaust survivors across the country are distressed to see the familiar virulent antisemitism they thought they had left behind. Many survivors have a special connection with Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people and as a safe haven from persecution. Current events remind them, and us all, how fragile the promise "Never Again" truly is and how quickly antisemitism may rear its ugly head under the guise of "Anti-Israel" rhetoric. During this challenging time, it is imperative that we stand with the Jewish community and speak out against antisemitism.

We call for the immediate release of the hostages and for the health and safety of all innocent civilians caught in this horrendous war.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Barbara J. Herz in cursive.

Barbara J. Herz  
Board Chair

Handwritten signature of Tamara Savage in cursive.

Tamara Savage  
Interim Co-Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Kristin Albers Lamm in cursive.

Kristin Albers Lamm  
Interim Co-Executive Director