



From darkness, light.

November 1, 2021

**In response to the alleged arson of a synagogue in Austin:**

Holocaust Museum Houston (HMH) unequivocally condemns the cowardly and despicable act of alleged arson at Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, October 31. The targeted attempt to destroy Austin's oldest synagogue is an extreme and violent form of antisemitism. This demonstration of hate comes on the heels of antisemitic banners that were displayed on Austin overpasses the week prior and recent neo-Nazi-led protests in front of San Antonio's Jewish Community Center that included the distribution of antisemitic propaganda fliers in surrounding neighborhoods.

HMH stands in solidarity with Austin and San Antonio's Jewish communities as well as Congregation Beth Israel and the San Antonio Jewish Community Center. Our institutions will not be intimidated.

History has proven that words and actions matter. At a time when hate crimes and antisemitism are on the rise, we fervently encourage everyone to denounce antisemitism and all hate speech, hate groups and acts of violence.

To learn more about Holocaust Museum Houston, please visit [hmh.org](http://hmh.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl Josehart".

Carl Josehart  
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly J. Zúñiga".

Kelly J. Zúñiga, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer