



June 27, 2024

HMH Public Statement on the Danger of Ongoing Antisemitism

Antisemitism is engulfing America in a way we have not seen since the 1930s. In this time of crisis for the Jewish community, it is imperative that we heed the warnings of history. We know what happens when antisemitism is not taken seriously.

Holocaust Museum Houston's vital mission includes teaching the important lessons of the Holocaust. One critical lesson is that unchecked hate leads to violence. Since October 7, we have seen the dangerous manifestation of this lesson. Hateful words have turned into hateful actions against the Jewish community.

In the past two weeks alone, we have seen rampant antisemitism in a variety of forms, including:

- Online, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), an organization dedicated to fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate, was designated as an unreliable source by Wikipedia editors.
- In Florida, more than fifty synagogues received bomb threats in an effort to intimidate the Jewish community.
- In Seattle, the Holocaust Center for Humanity was vandalized with false accusations about the war in Gaza.
- In New York, an exhibit about the Nova Music Festival massacre on October 7 was disrupted by extremists in an attempt to silence and vilify the victims.
- In Brooklyn, a Jewish family was assaulted at an elementary school commencement because of their Jewish identity.
- In Los Angeles, Jewish worshipers attending services were attacked and physically assaulted as they attempted to exercise their first amendment right to freedom of religion.

Virulent antisemitism will continue to spread unless we take action to stop it. We have already seen perpetrators of antisemitic violence escape accountability for their actions.

History teaches us that when Jews are targeted it undermines democracy and harms all of society. Everyone has a responsibility to be an Upstander. You can take action:

- Fact-check to avoid spreading misinformation online or in person.
- [Learn about antisemitism](#) and the many ways it can manifest.
- Question antisemitism when you see or hear it, especially among your family or friends.
- Check in with your Jewish friends, neighbors, and community members. Jewish people are feeling a heightened sense of danger and need allies.

Join us in becoming an upstander and stop antisemitism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elyse Spector Kalmans".

Elyse Spector Kalmans
Board Chair
Holocaust Museum Houston

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda L. Burger".

Linda L. Burger
Interim CEO
Holocaust Museum Houston