

Legislative History:

- July 21, 1995: "Statement on Public Discourse" of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations regarding the public expression of views by American Jewish groups on Israel's peace process policies.
- October 31, 1995: Expanded to be more universal and recommended by the Israel Task Force.
- November 6, 1995: Recommended by the Anti-Semitism and Constitutional Law Task Force.
- November 8, 1995: Amended and recommended by the Executive Committee.
- November 15, 1995: Approved by the Board of Directors.

Public Discourse in the Milwaukee Jewish Community

The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations believes that regardless of position or perspective, all organizational leaders, government officials, rabbis, communal leaders and concerned individuals have a stake in assuring the civility of debate and behavior. We must assure that the acts or statements of an individual or individuals are not used to demean others in the Jewish community.

Public statements have consequences. Those from all sides of the spectrum who engage in verbal violence, demeaning characterizations and other excesses violate basic Jewish tenets as well as standards of decency while endangering the interests of the community. They have been and will be rejected.

Community and unity have been cherished values by the Jewish people for millennia. It was our ability to come together despite our differences that made possible our contributions to the great achievements of recent years. From our support for Israel to our positions on federal, state and local public policy issues, the Milwaukee Jewish community needs to work as cooperatively as possible to protect and promote communal interests. We value this communality and the institutions that enable us to act collectively to achieve these goals.

We also value the diversity of our community and respect differences of view born of genuine concern. We believe that organizations and their leaders have the right to present their positions in responsible ways that uphold the fundamental principles and standards of our community. This indeed characterizes the overwhelming majority of the discourse in our community.