

NEWS RELEASE

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Jewish Community Relations Council, Holocaust Education Resource Center Denounce Holocaust Imagery in Madison Protests

Milwaukee -- The Jewish Community Relations Council and the Nathan and Esther Pelz Holocaust Education Resource Center of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation call for Wisconsinites on all sides of the current budget repair bill debate to avoid the use of Nazi and Holocaust imagery.

While we understand the passions surrounding this bill and fully support the rights of all residents to express their opinions, we condemn the hyperbolic use of Nazi and Holocaust references. Such imagery denigrates the memory of the Nazis' victims.

The Nazis murdered an estimated 11 million people, including 6 million Jews. That systematic oppression, dehumanization and genocide remain part of our personal and collective memories.

"Using images from that horrific chapter in modern history is painful and inappropriate," said JCRC chair Joyce Altman. "All comparisons between political leaders and Adolf Hitler are offensive and unproductive."

We ask that protestors on all sides of political conflicts – in Madison and beyond – exercise sound judgment and ensure civility by avoiding hurtful Nazi comparisons and images.

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