



February 16, 2015

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is outraged by anti-Semitic attacks locally and across the globe. We have seen a terrifying increase in attacks on Jews, synagogues, cemeteries and schools. That increase is evident here in Wisconsin, where the number of reported anti-Semitic incidents surged in 2014. Last Sabbath (Saturday), in Madison, more than 30 garage doors, driveways and vehicles were vandalized, some with explicitly anti-Semitic language and symbols. Our Wisconsin experience mirrors the precipitous rise in anti-Semitic activity in Europe and elsewhere, including the recent horrific incidents in Copenhagen and Paris.

The Madison and Milwaukee Jewish communities are working closely with law enforcement officials, as they investigate these crimes. We are thankful for their diligence and professionalism

Problems of bigotry, racism and anti-Semitism cannot, however, be solved solely by law enforcement. Solutions must take place at all levels of a community, including elected officials, media professionals, co-workers and neighbors. Hateful speech is often the precursor to vandalism, harassment, and violence. The JCRC's [Hours Against Hate](#) project can provide ideas and inspiration to counter such hateful expressions. We call on all people of goodwill to interrupt and denounce hateful speech and actions.

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