

June 17, 2019

Elana Kahn, Director,
Jewish Community Relations Council
ElanaK@MilwaukeeJewish.org | 414-390-5736



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**

MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

Joint Statement Addressing WI Family Action's Comparison of the Pride Flag to the Nazi Flag

Diverse & Resilient and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation

One week ago, Governor Tony Evers raised the Pride flag over the Capitol in Madison to show his support of Pride month and LGBTQ+ people in Wisconsin. We were deeply moved and inspired by Governor Evers' support at a time when violence against LGBTQ+ individuals continues to rise at alarming rates.

Diverse & Resilient and the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation are disappointed and outraged about Wisconsin Family Action's comparison of the Pride flag with the Nazi flag. Such rhetoric is utterly inappropriate, offensive, and inaccurate. The Nazi flag represents the murder of millions of people, including the intentional genocide of the Jewish people in Europe that accounted for the decimation of one third of the world's Jewish population at the time. Nazis also targeted many 'suspected' LGBTQ+ individuals as part of Hitler's campaign to cleanse the world from those he deemed to be subhuman. Such comparisons go beyond hyperbole into the realm of dangerous demonization of Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ residents.

While people may disagree on policy, it is unacceptable to compare the pride flag to the ideology that was responsible for the murder of more than six million people. As challenges remain in teaching complete and accurate historical information about the Holocaust, we must avoid such irresponsible and inaccurate uses of history and its symbols.