



Jewish Community
Relations Council
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

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Contact: Elana Kahn, JCRC Director
(414) 390-5736, ElanaK@MilwaukeeJewish.org

or

Jeff Jones, Marketing Director
(414) 390-5783, JeffJ@MilwaukeeJewish.org

Troubling trends reflect 55% increase in reported antisemitism

MILWAUKEE — Antisemitic incidents reported in Wisconsin increased 55% from 2018 to 2019 and a 329% increase since 2015, according to a report released today by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

The [2019 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents](#) will be presented by the JCRC at a public event on Wednesday, March 4, 7 p.m. at the Harry & Rose Samson Family Jewish Community Center – Daniel M. Soref Community Hall, 6255 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Whitefish Bay.

“We are living in a time of increased boldness, brazen expressions of hate,” said JCRC Chair Ann Jacobs. “We do not have reason to believe that more people feel animosity toward Jews than before, but we know that more people are acting on their bigoted ideology. That should be a communal call to action to end the many signals in our society that encourage people to express bigotry and animosity.”

Troubling trends in the audit include:

- Harassment, threats, and assault increased by 150% (from 16 to 40 incidents)
- Hate group activity (900% increase)
- References to the Holocaust, Nazi, and Hitler (94% increase)
- Middle school activity (250% increase)
- Conspiracy theories (67% increase)
- Pejorative references to Israel and Zionism (160% increase)

Each reported incident is corroborated and reviewed before any action is taken. The audit is reviewed by the JCRC’s Antisemitism & Constitutional Law Task Force and the JCRC Board before the final approval process of the JCRC Community Council.

“The call to action should be to speak out whenever we hear bigotry; to form alliances with neighbors and particularly other marginalized groups; to advocate for other targeted groups with the understanding that there is enough compassion for multiple groups; to lift up voices of leadership that reflect the values that we embrace,” said JCRC Director Elana Kahn.

The JCRC works year-round to respond to and prevent incidents through ongoing interfaith and intercultural relations, ongoing efforts fighting bigotry against all people, and its Hours Against Hate initiative. The organization strongly encourages individuals and institutions to report all incidents, and ensures full confidentiality:

- Report online: MilwaukeeJewish.org/Antisemitism
- Email: JCRC@MilwaukeeJewish.org
- Call: 414-390-5736

“We must not let antisemitism or our response to it define us — we have to celebrate the many areas of our community that are thriving,” said Miryam Rosenzweig, President/CEO of Milwaukee Jewish Federation. “We must work together to unite, strengthen and support not only the Milwaukee Jewish community, but all communities in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin.”

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The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation envisions a just community that reflects American and Jewish values. The mission is to speak as the representative of the Jewish community on issues of public affairs and public policy by convening and mobilizing the Jewish community through education, advocacy, social justice, and support for Israel.