

APRIL  
2019

2018 ADL New York/New Jersey

# Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents

## **Our Mission:**

**To stop the defamation of the Jewish people  
and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Since 1979, ADL's Center on Extremism has tracked incidents of anti-Semitic harassment, vandalism and assault throughout the United States and has published this information in an annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents.

Anti-Semitism continues to be a serious and alarming concern in New York and New Jersey. In 2018, ADL recorded 540 total incidents between both states, with 340 in New York, and 200 in New Jersey. Northern and Central New Jersey saw 163 incidents while Southern New Jersey counties documented 37.

Incidents in New York and New Jersey accounted for 29% of the 1,879 incidents reported throughout the United States in 2018. Although both states saw a slight decrease in total reported incidents compared to 2017, a significantly higher percentage of incidents were reported relative to their respective state average over the last decade (43% in New York and 33% in New Jersey).

More than half of all counties—46 of 83—across New York and New Jersey experienced incidents of anti-Semitism in 2018.

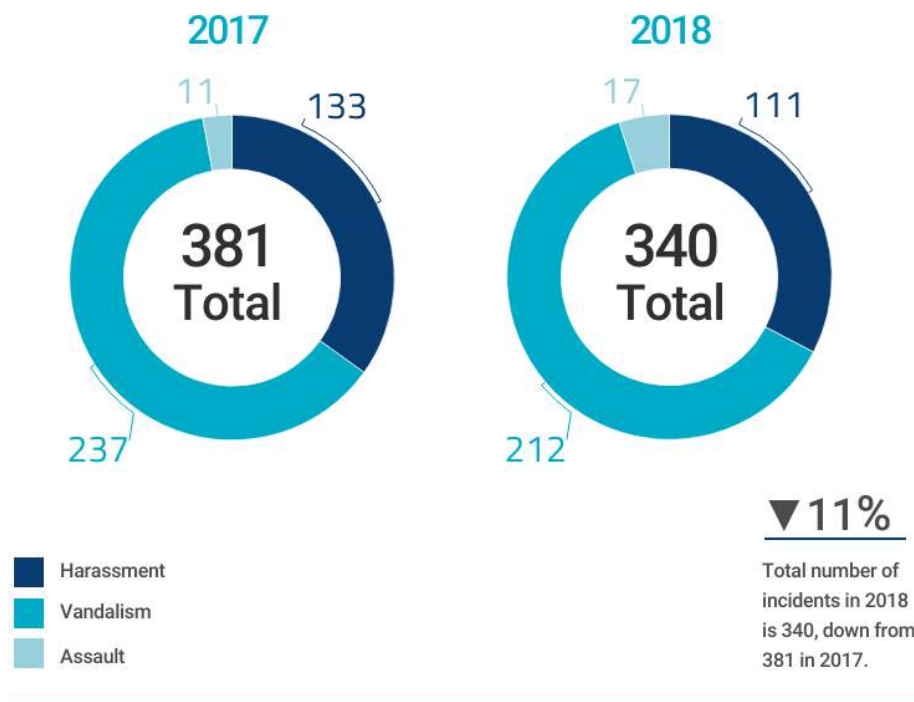
ADL's New York/New Jersey Region carries out ADL's mission to "stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all," throughout New York State and Northern and Central New Jersey. The Region, which was formed in July 2018 when the New Jersey Region merged with the New York Region, covers all of New York State and 14 counties in New Jersey. The seven southernmost counties of New Jersey are served by ADL's Philadelphia Region. The numbers in this report, unless otherwise specified, refer to the total number of anti-Semitic incidents throughout the entire states of New York and New Jersey.

# MAJOR FINDINGS

Incidents recorded by ADL are divided into three major categories: harassment (where a Jewish person or group of people feel agitated by the perceived anti-Semitic words, spoken or written, or actions of another person or group), vandalism (where property is damaged in a manner that indicates the presence of anti-Semitic animus or in a manner that attacks Jews for their religious affiliation), and assault (where people's bodies are targeted with violence accompanied by evidence of anti-Semitic animus or in a manner that attacks Jews for their religious affiliation). In 2018, New York and New Jersey documented a total of 205 incidents of harassment, 316 incidents of vandalism, and 19 incidents of assault. Unlike the national trend, New York and New Jersey saw more incidents of vandalism than harassment.

Anti-Semitic incidents took place in various locations across New York and New Jersey, including public areas (224), non-Jewish schools (99), private homes (75), places of business (44), college/universities (40) and Jewish institutions (38). Three anti-Semitic incidents were reported at cemeteries, one in New York and two in New Jersey.

## Anti-Semitic Incidents in **New York** are down 11% from 2017 to 2018



## Anti-Semitic Incidents in New Jersey are down 4% from 2017 to 2018



### Harassment



Of the 205 incidents of harassment reported in New York and New Jersey, 111 took place in New York, and 94 in New Jersey. The reported incidents included two bomb threats, one against a Jewish institution in Southern New Jersey and the other through a homemade explosive device found in a cemetery in Newark, New Jersey.

### Vandalism

Acts of vandalism continue to be a serious concern, with 212 incidents reported in New York and 104 in New Jersey, for a total of 316. Nearly half of these incidents (149 total - 115 in New York and 34 in New Jersey) took place in public areas, including parks, public transit, sidewalks and playgrounds, indicating that perpetrators feel emboldened to commit anti-Semitic acts in the open.

A significant number of incidents of vandalism targeted private property in New York and New Jersey. Of the 48 total such incidents, 31 were reported in New York, including 23 swastikas directed at homes, apartment buildings and vehicles. New Jersey counts for the remaining 17 incidents of vandalism against private property, which often involved swastikas found on homes, vehicles, apartment buildings and even on the campaign sign of a Jewish politician who ran for elected office. Incidents against homes and private property are particularly concerning as they leave victims vulnerable in places where they expect to feel safe and secure.

## Assault

Especially concerning, anti-Semitic assaults increased by 36% in New York and New Jersey, from 14 incidents in 2017 to 19 in 2018. Seventeen of the reported assaults took place in New York, with the remaining two in New Jersey.

For New York, this meant that assaults rose by 55% between 2017 and 2018, from 11 to 17. All reported assaults took place within the five boroughs of New York City, with the majority – 13 – occurring in Brooklyn, a longstanding hot spot for anti-Semitic activity. In New Jersey, both assaults took place in Ocean County, another area with high levels of reported anti-Semitic incidents. The severity of these anti-Semitic incidents instill deep fear in many communities.

## THEMES & TRENDS

### Incidents by state and county

#### New York

##### New York City

Manhattan: 111

Brooklyn: 93

Queens: 20

Staten Island: 9

Bronx: 5

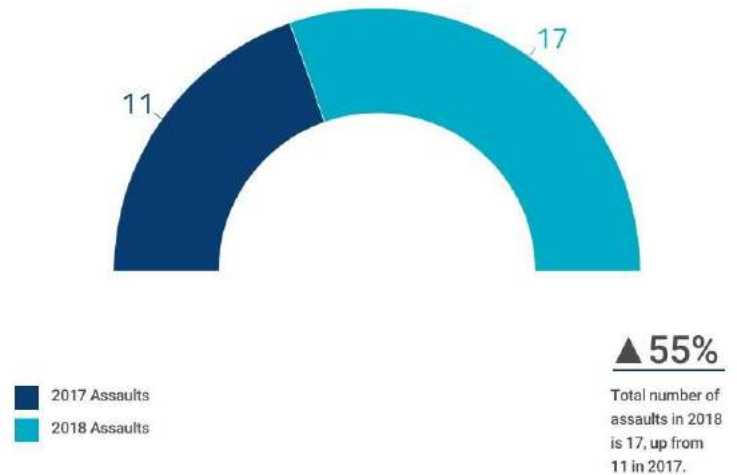
Upstate: 46

Long Island: 43

Westchester: 9

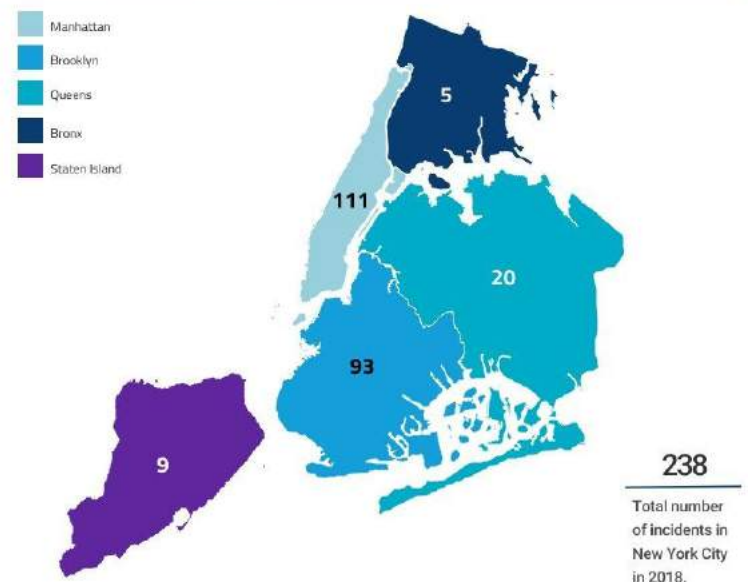
Rockland: 4

## Anti-Semitic Assaults in New York Are Up 55% from 2017 to 2018



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## Anti-Semitic Incidents: New York City 2018

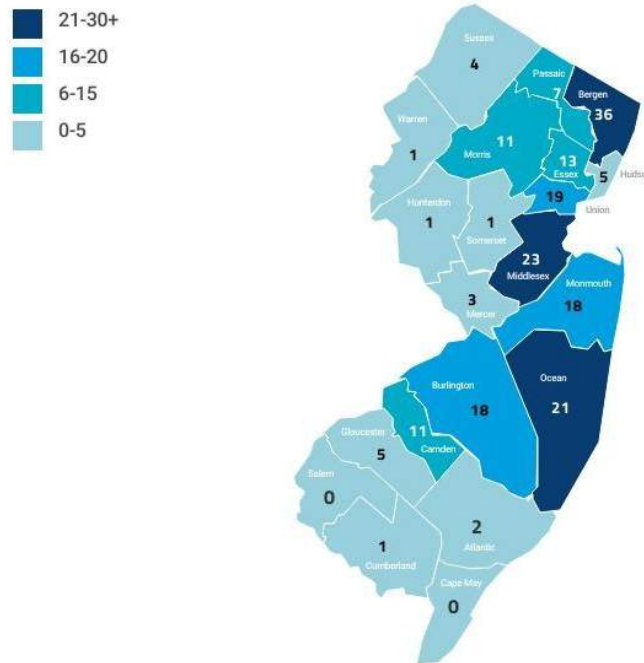


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## New Jersey

Bergen: 36  
 Middlesex: 23  
 Ocean: 21  
 Union: 19  
 Burlington: 18  
 Monmouth: 18  
 Essex: 13  
 Camden: 11  
 Morris: 11  
 Passaic: 7  
 Gloucester: 5  
 Hudson: 5  
 Sussex: 4  
 Mercer: 3  
 Atlantic: 2  
 Cumberland: 1  
 Hunterdon: 1  
 Somerset: 1  
 Warren: 1

## Anti-Semitic Incidents: New Jersey 2018 Incidents By County



**200**

Total number of incidents in New Jersey in 2018.

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## Geographic Analysis

Of the total number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in New York State, 70% took place in the five boroughs of New York City, up from 59% in 2017. Of the 238 incidents that took place specifically in New York City, 111 occurred in Manhattan (an 12% increase relative to 2017), and 93 took place in Brooklyn (a 16% increase relative to 2017). The majority of these incidents were acts of vandalism.

## Anti-Semitic Incidents in Manhattan and Brooklyn in 2017 and 2018



Nineteen of the 21 counties in New Jersey reported acts of anti-Semitism. Eight of these 21 counties saw an increase in incidents in 2018. Union County experienced a 217% increase, from 6 incidents in 2017 to 19 in 2018. Passaic County also saw a significant increase from 2 incidents in 2017 to 7 in 2018.

New York and New Jersey are home to some of the most diverse and largest Jewish populations in the United States. Several counties have experienced a higher increase in incidents relative to 2017. This disturbing trend was documented in Kings County in New York with 93 incidents, and in Bergen (36) and Ocean (21) Counties in New Jersey, with a combined total of 57 anti-Semitic incidents. Kings, Bergen and Ocean Counties have higher populations of Orthodox Jewish communities.

Thirteen of the 17 reported assaults in New York were documented in Brooklyn. There were 51 reported incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism, 27 documented incidents of harassment and two reported incidents of offensive media content or literature distribution. In comparison, a combined total of 55 anti-Semitic incidents were documented in 19 of New York's upstate counties and 35 were reported in Nassau County, on Long Island.

For Bergen and Ocean Counties in New Jersey, a combined total of 27 incidents of anti-Semitic vandalism were documented along with 28 combined incidents of harassment. Two reported incidents of assault were both documented in Ocean County.



## Incidents Post-Pittsburgh

The tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, which occurred on October 27, 2018, constituted the deadliest anti-Semitic attack on the Jewish people in U.S. history. In the immediate aftermath of this attack and continuing until the end of the year, New York and New Jersey documented an alarming 170 anti-Semitic incidents, 105 of which were reported in New York and 65 of which were reported in New Jersey.

The 65 incidents in New Jersey accounted for 33% of the total number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in 2018. In addition, incidents of vandalism and harassment in New Jersey increased by 91% (to 42 incidents), up from 22 incidents from the same time period in 2017.

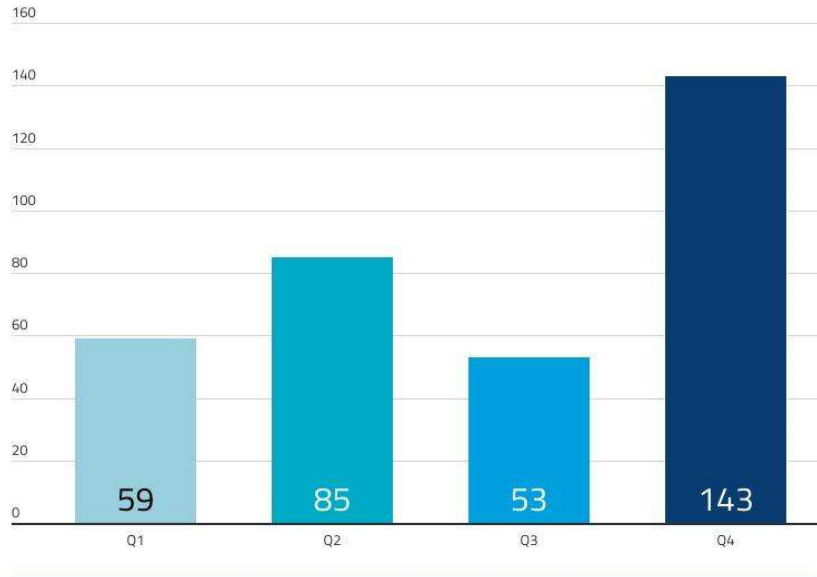
31% of all incidents in New York took place in the short period between the tragedy in Pittsburgh and the end of the year. Six of the 17 assaults reported in New York in 2018 were documented after the deadly attack. Sixty-three of the 105 reported anti-Semitic incidents were acts of vandalism with 32 documented incidents of harassment. In 2017, during the same time period, New York and New Jersey saw a total of 105 anti-Semitic incidents, with 68 documented in New York and 37 reported in New Jersey.

While fluctuations in incident reporting are difficult to assess with precision, this observable increase in documented anti-Semitic incidents could be due to several factors. Possibilities include increased reporting by the public, increased occurrence of incidents, or both—an increase in, and reporting of, these incidents in the wake of the shooting.



## 2018 Anti-Semitic Incidents in New York Breakdown by quarter

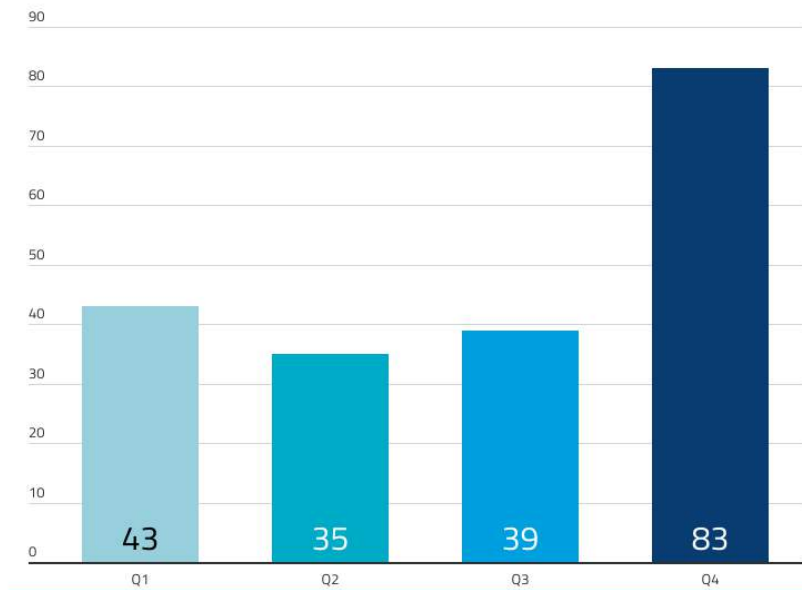
170% Increase from Q3 2018 to Q4 2018



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## 2018 Anti-Semitic Incidents in New Jersey Breakdown by quarter

113% Increase from Q3 2018 to Q4 2018



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# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## K-12 Schools

A total of 99 anti-Semitic incidents were reported in New York and New Jersey's K-12 schools in 2018. An alarming number of incidents—63—were documented in New Jersey, a significantly higher number than the 36 reported incidents in New York.

In New Jersey, 27 incidents involved harassment and 36 involved vandalism. Alarming, close to half of the incidents documented in New Jersey's K-12 schools were reported in the short period between the deadly attack in Pittsburgh and the end of the year. These incidents were ones of vandalism and harassment, including swastika graffiti on school property.

In New York, the number of anti-Semitic incidents in K-12 schools remained unchanged compared to 2017, with 36 reported incidents. Nineteen of these incidents were acts of vandalism and 17 were acts of harassment. Fourteen incidents were documented during the last quarter of 2018, demonstrating a significant increase in reported anti-Semitic incidents relative to the same period the year before, up from three in 2017.

## College & Universities

Forty incidents of anti-Semitism were reported on college campuses across New York and New Jersey in 2018. While the number of reported incidents decreased in New Jersey compared to 2017, New York witnessed a 39% increase, from 23 incidents in 2017 to 32 incidents in 2018. Eight anti-Semitic incidents were recorded in New Jersey.

The majority of incidents (28) in both states were acts of vandalism. One particularly concerning incident involved anti-Semitic vandalism targeting a Jewish professor at Columbia University's Teacher's College in the fall of 2018. In New Jersey, five of the incidents were reported at Rutgers University, where swastikas were discovered in a residence hall, classroom and campus restrooms.



## UNDERREPORTING

Underreporting continues to be a challenge in many communities, as victims of bias crimes and anti-Semitic incidents are often reluctant to come forward. At the same time, we know that there is significant underreporting of hate crimes to the FBI by local law enforcement agencies.

By way of example, in New Jersey, in 2017, both Paterson and Newark, each with populations well over 100,000, reported zero hate crimes to the FBI. In New York, in 2017, the city of Buffalo, with a population of more than 200,000, reported only eight hate crimes, none of which were anti-Semitic in nature.

ADL encourages all members of the public to report incidents of anti-Semitism to local law enforcement and directly to ADL here: [Report an Anti-Semitic, Bias or Discriminatory Incident](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
UNDERREPORTING, VISIT ADL'S  
HATE CRIME MAP AT  
[ADL.ORG/ADL-HATE-CRIME-MAP](https://www.adl.org/adl-hate-crime-map)

## WHITE SUPREMACIST ACTIVITY



White supremacist groups continued to maintain an active presence in New York and New Jersey in 2018, using propaganda and flash demonstrations to communicate their hateful messages more broadly. In 2018, ADL documented 108 white supremacist propaganda distribution incidents in New York and New Jersey, 17 of which were anti-Semitic in nature. Most of these distributions were coordinated efforts by white supremacist groups to spread and normalize anti-Semitism, recruit new members and draw attention from the media.

The most active groups in New York State in 2018 were Identity Evropa, Patriot Front, Loyal White Knights and Daily Stormer Book Clubs. In New Jersey, prevalent groups included Identity Evropa, New Jersey European Heritage Association (NJEHA), Loyal White Knights, Patriot Front and Daily Stormer. The Loyal White Knights are one of the most active Klan groups in the United States.

At a national level, 249 anti-Semitic incidents were attributable to extremist groups or individuals inspired by extremist ideologies. This is the highest level of anti-Semitic incidents with known connections to extremists or extremist groups documented by ADL since 2004.

# SELECTION OF 2018 ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

## New York

### Harassment

- Orthodox Jewish children were verbally harassed by a group of men in Brooklyn.
- Anti-Semitic flyers were distributed at Vassar College, Marist College and Dutchess Community College by the alt-right Daily Stormer Book Club.

### Vandalism

- Fires were set at seven local yeshivas and synagogues in a Hasidic community in South Williamsburg.
- A Jewish professor's office at Columbia University was defaced with swastika graffiti and the word "Yid".
- The Chabad Sukkah on the Upper East Side in Manhattan was vandalized with the words "Free Gaza" during the holiday of Sukkot.

### Assault

- A twelve-year old Hasidic boy was assaulted by a group of men in Brooklyn.
- A Jewish woman was attacked while walking down the street in Brooklyn.
- In Manhattan, a Jewish man was hit by a woman who knocked off his yarmulke.



## New Jersey

### Harassment

- A student at a middle school told another student he was Hitler and that he would put her in the gas chambers.
- Anti-Semitic and racist flyers were distributed to residential homes in Cherry Hill by the Loyal White Knights, a Klan-linked group.
- “Hitler did nothing wrong” was written on a school locker.
- Jewish worshipers outside a synagogue in Englewood were harassed by an individual in a car who shouted anti-Semitic slurs.

### Vandalism

- A homemade explosive device was found attached to a headstone in a Jewish cemetery in Newark.
- Swastikas were drawn on Jungle gym equipment at a middle school in North Arlington.

### Assault

- A Jewish university student was verbally and physically assaulted by a housemate in Jersey City.
- Jewish passersby in Lakehurst were verbally harassed and pelted with pebbles by individuals in a car.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
SPECIFIC INCIDENTS, VISIT THE  
[ADL H.E.A.T MAP.](#)



# CONCLUSION

## 2018's data demonstrates the following:

- A significant increase in assaults in New York
- High levels of anti-Semitism in K-12 schools and on campuses
- Large increases of incidents following the Pittsburgh shooting
- A rise in anti-Semitic white supremacist activity
- The deadliest attack on Jews in U.S. history in Pittsburgh, PA

Though the numbers show a slight decrease in overall incidents, anti-Semitism is unfortunately alive and well in New York and New Jersey. ADL remains committed now more than ever to stopping it in its tracks and to fighting the attitudes and actions that contribute to anti-Semitism and hate. As the [Pyramid of Hate](#) shows us, when bias attitudes, stereotyping and bullying are left unchecked, they can become normalized. This normalization can contribute to an environment in which hate flourishes, leading to more discrimination and more violence. Every act of anti-Semitism and hate must continue to be called out and denounced by elected officials, community leaders, and all communities in New York and New Jersey.

*"We are deeply troubled and concerned that anti-Semitic incidents continue to occur in our communities with far too much regularity. Even one assault or one hateful remark is one too many. In these troubling times, ADL is grateful for the continued partnerships with our law enforcement and elected officials as well as schools and community partners to ensure that New York and New Jersey are no place for hate."*

-Evan R. Bernstein, ADL NY/NJ Regional Director

# **POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

## ***Speak out against anti-Semitism and all forms of hate.***

The 2018 Audit includes the deadliest anti-Semitic incident in American history – the murder of eleven Shabbat worshipers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh by an individual inspired by white supremacist and anti-immigrant ideology. Public officials and civic leaders should use their bully pulpits to speak out against anti-Semitism and all forms of hate and extremism. These officials must support efforts to provide law enforcement officials with the tools and training they need to prevent and effectively respond to hate crimes, while providing comfort and assistance to individual victims and community members. Simply put, you cannot say it often enough: New York and New Jersey are no place for hate.

## ***Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies should improve their procedures for responding to and reporting hate crimes.***

Data drives policy. We cannot address a problem if we are not effectively tracking and measuring it. Effective responses to anti-Semitic incidents and hate violence by public officials and law enforcement authorities can play an essential role in deterring and preventing these crimes. The federal government as well as state and local officials should provide the necessary training to encourage all law enforcement agencies to more comprehensively collect and report hate crimes data to the FBI and state authorities.

We must encourage victims and bystanders to report all anti-Semitic incidents and vandalism to ADL and to local police. If we expect law enforcement officials and community members to take these incidents seriously, we must take them seriously.

## ***Promote anti-bias, bullying prevention and civics education programs in elementary and secondary schools.***

Laws addressing hate violence are important, but they have limits. We must recognize that it is not possible to legislate or regulate racism, anti-Semitism and bigotry out of existence. Congress, the Department of Education, state legislatures and mayors should increase funding to promote an inclusive school climate, and for anti-bias education and hate crime prevention. Schools should be directed to implement properly crafted anti-bullying, cyberbullying and harassment education and training initiatives.



In addition, every elementary and secondary school in New York and New Jersey should promote activities that celebrate our nation's diversity and inclusivity – and regularly integrate anti-bias and anti-hate content in their curricula and extra-curricular activities.

### ***College & universities, enact the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act.***

Anti-Semitism is disturbingly pervasive and is moving into the mainstream. In recent years, hostility towards Jewish students and Israel, and anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses have attracted considerable national attention. Congress should pass the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, which is designed to help the Department of Education and Department of Justice effectively determine whether an investigation of an incident of anti-Semitism is warranted under their statutory anti-discrimination enforcement authority.

College and university administrators, faculty and staff must receive the necessary training to effectively respond to anti-Semitic incidents, hate crimes, and extremism on campus. Campus officials have a moral obligation to speak out against hate. Colleges and universities must build institutions for learning which work towards inclusion and equity while also ensuring an open and expressive marketplace for ideas.

### ***Strengthen laws against perpetrators of online hate.***

Hate and harassment have moved from the physical world to online, but our laws have not kept up. Policymakers should work to fill the gaps in addressing the impact of technological advances. This includes addressing the offline consequences of online hate, pursuing genuine dialogue with the technology sector to better counter extremism online and working with technology companies to find solutions to emerging challenges.

### ***Improve social media and technology company openness and responsiveness.***

Tech and social media companies should improve their own terms of service related to hate and extremism, enforce them more effectively and proactively remove extremist content. Tech and social media companies must allow independent, interdisciplinary external audits of hate to help come up with and implement rigorous frameworks for tracking the proliferation, type, impact, effectiveness of responses to anti-Semitism and other forms of hate and disclose data to the public that is now either not tracked or not made public.

## **HOW ADL IS RESPONDING**

ADL has a comprehensive approach to addressing anti-Semitic incidents and behavior, including educating youth to prevent these activities and working with law enforcement to apprehend the perpetrators. ADL partners with law enforcement to raise awareness of extremist threats and trains law enforcement professionals to recognize and disrupt potential threats. ADL likewise provides education and training every day to students, reaching young people at a time when they are most vulnerable to bullying and social pressures. ADL's No Place for Hate and Words to Action programs teach understanding and promote inclusivity in schools and on campuses, respectively.


ADL's New York/New Jersey Region and Philadelphia Region (which covers the seven southernmost counties in New Jersey) work steadfastly to fight anti-Semitism and all forms of hate throughout New York and New Jersey.

In New York, ADL trained 1,320 law enforcement officials last year and reached over 6,400 individuals and over 300 schools through our educational programming in 2018.

In New Jersey, ADL trained 275 law enforcement officials and reached nearly 1,000 individuals through our educational programming in 2018.

## **ABOUT THE AUDIT**

The ADL Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents includes both criminal and non-criminal acts of harassment and intimidation, including distribution of hate propaganda, threats, and slurs. Compiled using information provided by victims, law enforcement, and community leaders, and evaluated by ADL's professional staff, the Audit provides a regular snapshot of one specific aspect of a nationwide problem while identifying possible trends or changes in the types of activity reported. This information assists ADL in developing and enhancing its programs to counter and prevent the spread of anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry.



ADL is a leading anti-hate organization that was founded in 1913 in response to an escalating climate of anti-Semitism and bigotry. Today, ADL is the first call when acts of anti-Semitism occur and continues to fight all forms of hate. A global leader in exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education and fighting hate online, ADL's ultimate goal is a world in which no group or individual suffers from bias, discrimination or hate.

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For more information about ADL NY/NJ, please visit [nynj.adl.org](http://nynj.adl.org).

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