

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's Framework to Confront and Combat Antisemitism



Even before October 7th, antisemitism has been on the rise across the country. Today, it is at an all-time high.

The ADL reported 8,873 incidents in 2023 alone, more than the last three years combined. K-12 schools experienced an unnerving 135% rise in incidents, specifically among teens.

Locally, the number of incidents is also staggering:

- Antisemitic incidents increased 362% in D.C., 223% in Virginia, and 211% in Maryland.
- D.C. stood out with the second highest levels of incidents per capita among U.S. cities – 25.75 incidents per 100,000 people in 2023.

Our Response and Impact

Since October 2023, Federation has invested more than **\$850,000** to support organizations including AJC, JCRC, ADL, and Facing History & Ourselves in their work to combat antisemitism and secure our community.

- This work is strengthening the agencies' capacity to respond immediately and in the long term:
 - AJC Washington DC Region – \$50,000 to dramatically increase the number of antisemitism awareness trainings through the retention of an outreach coordinator who will actively seek and organize training opportunities.
 - ADL – \$50,000 to help combat antisemitism in our community through antisemitism and Holocaust education, stronger community engagement partnerships, and incident response.
 - The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) – \$80,000 to (1) underwrite a second full-time position in the JCRC's Education Programs and Services department and, (2) add a second Maggid: Generations of the Holocaust cohort, doubling each year the number of second-generation survivors trained and available to share with students, educators, and civic and religious groups their parents' Shoah narratives.
 - Facing History & Ourselves – \$30,000 grant to conduct outreach with DC Public Schools (DCPS) and Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to develop consensus and an engagement plan to combat antisemitism and other forms of hatred through a curriculum intervention (Teaching Holocaust & Human Behavior) at district middle and high schools. FHAO proposes a mixed district engagement approach that includes both a bottom up and top-down outreach to leverage existing contacts with classroom teachers that are already in their network as they cultivate relationships with District leadership.
- In early 2024, Federation launched JShield, our security division. Built on years of experience, JShield is working in close partnership with other local organizations to help ensure that every community member can continue to safely engage in vibrant Jewish life. Led by Rusty Rosenthal, Federation's Executive Director of Community Security, the JShield team is helping organizations with enhanced physical security measures,

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awareness and preparedness training, and applications for funding through the Federal Nonprofit Security Grants Program.

Up Next

- Over the next three years, Federation is committed to invest at least **\$3 million** to combat antisemitism.
- In June 2024, Federation invested **\$750,000** to address antisemitism in our local community. This includes both targeted funds as well as broad organizational support:
 - **\$450,000** over the next three years for emergency capacity support for local Hillels and the JCRC as they face new and evolving challenges.
 - **\$300,000** in partnership with eight organizations to focus on grants for innovative initiatives to address hate and antisemitism impacting teens in Greater Washington. Our goal with this initiative is to empower teens and professionals to combat antisemitism and assist teens and others experiencing growing fear and social isolation, particularly those preparing for college. Additionally, the organizations were specifically chosen to provide Federation and our partners with an opportunity to learn and make strategic decisions about future investments.

Our Goals

With the help of leaders, donors, and local and national partners, Federation seeks to convene Jewish communal leadership, empower community members to address antisemitism, advocate for increased education on antisemitism, build coalitions with faith, ethnic, and other allied groups, and strengthen communal security.

More specifically, and in response to recent events, Federation is working throughout the community to address the significant challenges and needs in the community and effectively respond to the rise in antisemitism and anti-Israel activity as well as support the needs of community members to feel safe and secure.

Together, we can:

- Reduce the number of antisemitic actions and incidents of anti-Jewish harm.
- Build the capacity of teens and professionals in teen spaces to feel prepared, confident, and willing to respond to incidents of antisemitism.
- Increase a sense of connection and belonging among Jewish teens.

Thank you to our exceptional Co-Chairs, Devorah Berman and Rob Granader, and members of the Antisemitism Task Force, for their commitment to this essential work.