

Resolution Condemning Antisemitism

WHEREAS, Jewish people in Washington, like all people, deserve to live in peace and security, with the right to learn, work, play, pray, rest, and protest without facing intimidation, violence, or threats to their lives, and to do so with dignity and the freedom to pursue happiness;

WHEREAS all forms of bigotry, violence, and oppression serve to divide our communities and weaken our efforts to achieve collective safety, justice, and true multi-ethnic, multi-racial democracy here and everywhere;

Whereas, antisemitism—the discrimination, hatred, or prejudice against Jewish individuals as Jews and Jewish institutions and communities as Jewish—is a serious issue in our state and across the nation;

Whereas, threats and intimidation targeting Jewish people and institutions have dramatically increased in Washington State over the last 18 months (1);

Whereas, those who espouse antisemitic beliefs, call for violence against Jewish people, and spread dangerous stereotypes, conspiracy theories and tropes are emboldened in the current political climate;

Whereas, Jewish people and people of conscience in Washington hold diverse beliefs and opinions regarding the state of Israel's policy and actions (2);

Whereas, The equation of antisemitism with anti-Zionism, or criticism of the Israeli government or its policies, has been instrumentalized as a pretense for attacks on the First Amendment rights of free speech and protest, including against members of Washington's Jewish communities;

Whereas, threatening or attacking those that peacefully protest and advocate for Palestinian rights, including Jews, does nothing to make the Jewish community safer, and in fact, distracts from and undermines the ability to confront actual antisemitism where it exists;

Whereas, it is essential to safeguard the rights to peaceful protest and advocacy for human rights, Palestinian rights, Jewish safety, and other political causes.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Washington Human Rights Commission reaffirms its commitment to free speech, assembly, and protest as enshrined in the US Constitution, inclusive of criticism of the policies of the US government and its allies;

Be It Further Resolved, that the Washington Human Rights Commission affirms that criticism of Israeli policies, opposition to Zionism, or advocacy for Palestinian rights do not inherently constitute antisemitism;

Be It Finally Resolved, that the Washington Human Rights Commission unequivocally condemns all forms of antisemitism and expresses unwavering support for the safety, well-being, and rights of Jewish people in the state, as it does for all Washington residents, as per RCW Chapter 49.60, which ensures protections against unfair practices in employment, real estate, public accommodations, credit, insurance, and whistleblower complaints.

Now, Be It Further Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to:

Governor Bob Ferguson
Attorney General Nick Brown
The Washington State Congressional Delegation
Washington State Legislators
Superintendent Chris Reykdal
The Washington State Board of Education, and
Other interested stakeholders.

Submitted to the Washington Human Rights Commission by Washington Jewish Scholars and Community Leaders March 27, 2025.

Sources

1. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>
2. <https://diasporaalliance.co/>