
**CONFRONTING HATE IN OUR COMMUNITIES:
An Education Series**

Antisemitism, Racism, and White Nationalism:
Understanding the Connections

Introduction

In her book, **How to Fight Anti-Semitism**, Weiss describes antisemitism as “an ever-morphing conspiracy theory in which Jews play the starring roles in spreading evil in the world. While racists or homophobes or misogynists see themselves as punching down, anti-Semites often perceive themselves as punching up. In the eyes of the racist the person of color is inferior. In the eyes of the misogynist, the woman is something less than human. In the eyes of the anti-Semite, the Jew is . . . everything. He is whatever the anti-Semite needs him to be. Anti-Semitism successfully turns Jews into the symbol of whatever a given civilization defines as its most sinister and threatening qualities. When you look through this dark lens, you can understand how, under communism, the Jews were the capitalists. How under Nazism, the Jews were the race contaminators. And today, when the greatest sins are racism and colonialism, Israel, the Jew among the nations, is being demonized as the last bastion of white, racist, colonialism . . . The logic of anti-Semitism is very different from the logic of xenophobia or racism. It is not just a form of hatred . . . It is a grand unified theory of everything.”

“Antisemitism is a central feature of the white power movement, with Jewish people cast as all-powerful manipulators who use Black people and other nonwhite persons to challenge white social and political dominance.” — Southern Poverty Law Center

Antisemitism “is a particular and potent form of racism so central to [white] supremacy that Black people would not win our freedom without tearing it down.” — Eric Ward, “Skin in the Game”

A new survey from the ADL looks at data on antisemitism in the U.S. since Oct. 7th.

1 in 4 respondents either have friends/family who dislike Jews

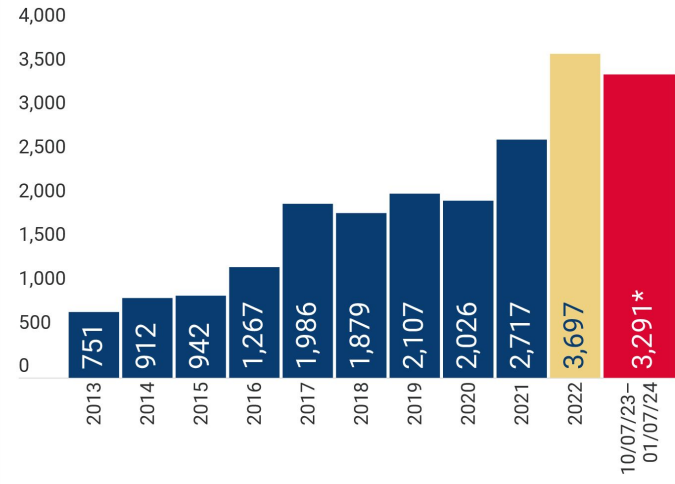
A QUARTER of respondents agreed with **6 or more anti-Jewish tropes** (out of 11 tested)

YOUNGER AMERICANS are *more likely* to endorse anti-Jewish tropes

STAND UP TO JEWISH HATE

SOURCE: ADL

Antisemitic Incidents | U.S.
Ten Year Review | 2013–January 2024



*Preliminary data



ANTISEMITISM

At UC Berkeley, a violent mob of hundreds of students attacked Jewish attendees, forcing the speaker and others to evacuate.

At least three Jewish students trying to attend the event were physically assaulted. One Jewish student was choked, another had rioters spit in their face while shouting "Jew Jew Jew", and a third was injured while trying to hold a door shut against the rioting students.

NEW YORK POST

Angry mob forces Jewish students to evacuate UC-Berkeley theater where IDF soldier was scheduled to speak

WIDE FRAME

Set the World on Fire: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism

Panelist Bios

Eric Ward is a nationally recognized expert on the relationship between authoritarian movements, hate violence, and preserving inclusive democracy. Currently the Executive Director of Western States Center and a Senior Fellow with Southern Poverty Law Center, he has tracked and responded to bigoted violence across the country for more than three decades. In his seminal article, *Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism*, Ward emphasizes that to understand the threat posed by the white nationalist movement in the United States today, we must first come to terms with the antisemitic ideology at its core.

Professor Pamela Nadell holds the Patrick Clendenen Chair in Women's and Gender History at American University where she directs the Jewish Studies Program. In 2017, she testified before Congress about antisemitism on college campuses and is currently writing a history of antisemitism in America.

Daryl Johnson is one of the foremost experts on domestic terrorism in the U.S. and a former senior analyst at the Department of Homeland Security. In 2009, Johnson wrote an internal Homeland Security report warning that right-wing extremism was on the rise in the US. When the report leaked, the backlash was immediate and Johnson's domestic terrorism unit was dissolved. In 2012, he testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on hate crimes and the threat of domestic extremism.

R. Derek Black was raised in one of the leading families of the American white nationalist movement. His father founded the first online white power community in 1994, Stormfront. From an early age, Derek participated in national media interviews, gave talks around the country, established Stormfront's internet radio network in the early 2000s, and ran a daily radio program in support of his family's ideology. He ultimately condemned his family's ideology in 2013 and has spoken out since 2016 against the reality of white supremacist political activism.

DIALOGUE GUIDELINES AND COMMITMENTS

- Communicate honestly and respectfully
- Use I-Statements
- Be aware of your speaking time and that of others
- Don't ask anyone to speak for any group
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
- Listen beyond what you already know
- Respect confidentiality
- Check assumptions
- Expand your comfort zone to include the discomfort required of new learning
- Find commonalities while recognizing different backgrounds and life experiences

DIALOGUE IS MORE THAN A CONVERSATION

- Dialogue is a focused conversation with the goal of increasing understanding and addressing problems
- Dialogue is different from debate, therefore is not focused on proving one person's viewpoint as legitimate over the other
- Dialogue is equally interested in the relationship(s) between the participants as it is in the topic or theme being explored
- Ultimately, real dialogue presupposes an openness to modify deeply held convictions

Excerpt from The Art of Dialogue, Patricia Romney, 2005



Tonight's Agenda

- Introduction
- Tonight's video, *Set the World on Fire: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism*
- Guidelines for Dialogue

What are we doing tonight:

- Video segments 1-3
 - Followed by Small Group Reflection and Discussion Questions
- Closing Whole Group Discussion and Action Steps
- Resources

1.A



1. B



REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out most for me from the information and viewpoints presented? Why?
 2. What questions came up for me after listening?
 3. Does this perspective change or add to my understanding of the connection between racism and antisemitism?
-

2.A



2. B



2. C



REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What information presented here was new to me? Was anything particularly surprising? What stood out most to me?
 2. How does this information change or enhance my understanding of antisemitism?
 3. What questions came up for me when listening?
-

3.A



3. B



3. C



REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What resonated most for me out of what I heard in these clips?
Why?
 2. What questions came up for me?
 3. How do I think I, as well as we as a community, might better recognize antisemitism, and its connections to racism and White Nationalism in our own spaces?
 4. How do I think I, or the communities I am part of, might participate in building relationships across lines of difference?
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CLOSING REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How might the perspectives presented today change or inspire how I might choose to do anti-racist or anti-hate work?
 2. What are action steps communities I am part of (e.g. churches, civic groups, schools) could take to combat hate and bias in our town?
 3. What are action steps Holliston could take to combat hate and bias in our town?
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ACTION STEPS: APPLYING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

What can I do?

- At the personal level?
 - In my neighborhood and community?
 - In my place of employment; where I volunteer?
 - To impact policies and practices in my “sphere of influence”?
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Session Survey:

(Survey responses are anonymous)

QR CODE



Link Code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LTJDJDT>

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Full Video of *Set the World on Fire: How Antisemitism Fuels White Nationalism*

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/exploring-hate/2021/10/07/set-the-world-on-fire-how-antisemitism-fuels-white-nationalism-reading-list/>

“Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism” by Eric Ward

<https://politicalresearch.org/2017/06/29/skin-in-the-game-how-antisemitism-animates-white-nationalism>

“Antisemitism,” Southern Poverty Law Center

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/antisemitism>

“How the Great Replacement Theory Has Fueled Racist Violence,” by Nik Popli, Time Magazine

<https://time.com/6177282/great-replacement-theory-buffalo-racist-attacks/>

Antisemitism Uncovered: A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era, Anti-Defamation League

<https://antisemitism.adl.org>

Teaching Materials on Antisemitism and Racism

<https://www.ushmm.org/teach/teaching-materials/antisemitism-racism>

Antisemitism in History: Racial Antisemitism, 1875–1945

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/antisemitism-in-history-racial-antisemitism-18751945>



FURTHER RESOURCES:

Antisemitism and the Intersection of Antisemitism and Racism

<https://evolve.reconstructingjudaism.org/antisemitism-race-intersections/>

Facing Hate: Antisemitism, Race, and White Supremacy

<https://www.facinghistory.org/learning-events/facing-hate-antisemitism-race-white-supremacy>

How Anti-Semitism Is Tied To White Nationalism

<https://www.npr.org/2018/10/30/662253632/how-anti-semitism-is-tied-to-white-nationalism>

U.S. Antisemitic Incidents Skyrocketed 360% in Aftermath of Attack in Israel, according to Latest ADL Data (ADL)

https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/us-antisemitic-incidents-skyrocketed-360-aftermath-attack-israel-according?utm_campaign=asbrief2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=whole&utm_content=e20240111

Not On My Campus (ADL - Counter Antisemitism)

https://notoleranceforantisemitism.adl.org/?utm_campaign=asbrief2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=whole&utm_content=e20240125

The Upstander Project

<https://upstanderproject.org/>

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(Survey responses are anonymous)

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