

Westchester Clergy Antisemitism Statement

We, the undersigned, are a coalition of Westchester clergy all united in our determination to speak out against antisemitism and denounce this hateful scourge that has spread with terrifying speed since Hamas's massacre of innocent victims on October 7th.

We write this open letter because we see how antisemitism has taken hold among students and faculty on college campuses; how it has divided children from one another in our schools, leaving Jewish children hurting and scared; how it has seeped into the workplace and our civic institutions, poisoning discourse among adults in our society, and how it has been given room to flourish on social media, where factual information is in short supply and sensational messages are amplified, both by hateful individuals and groups and by the algorithms that drive traffic online.

We denounce antisemitism in all its forms. We write these words to remind the world that where antisemitism is allowed to persist, violence against Jews and other minorities is usually not far behind, and the dramatic uptick in hate crimes against Jews and Muslims must be noted as consistent with this claim. Antisemitism informs the core tenets of the Hamas charter, which call for the extermination of Jews and the world's only Jewish state. Antisemitism lies at the heart of the noxious slogan, "From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free," implicitly calling for a removal of Israel from the map of the Middle East, where Israel's boundaries are the River (Jordan) and the Sea (Mediterranean).

Antisemitism has too easily seeped into the talking points and rhetoric of activist organizations, and the alienating, litmus testing, and forcible exclusion of Jewish voices from such causes betrays their sacred call.

Antisemitism remains the world's most pernicious lie: a conspiracy theory about Jews that continues to mutate as the world turns, but which inevitably leads to the dehumanization of Jews and other historically vulnerable minorities.

Antisemitism must be confronted, challenged, and stopped. We commit ourselves to this work and call upon you to join us.



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Signators as of December 6, 2023