



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

AN EARLY WARNING SIGN: THE RISE OF ANTISEMITISM

The rise of antisemitism is an early warning sign of threats to freedom and dignity for all. In a report released by the American Jewish Committee in October 2021, nearly one out of every four Jews in the US has been the subject of antisemitism within the past year. Out of fear of antisemitism, 39% of American Jews changed their behavior within the past year. Following the recent violence in Gaza, the Anti-Defamation League received reports of a nearly 50% increase in antisemitic violence in the United States. Nearly 90% of Jews believe antisemitism is a problem in the US.

Hatred of Jews is not solely a Jewish problem. Antisemitism is a sign of an intolerant society. By ignoring it, we grant society a broader license to hate. All individuals should care about antisemitism in order to build a society that is more compassionate, educated, and committed to the value of human dignity. Making hatred of Jews socially unacceptable requires Jewish allies to be invested in creating a more compassionate and caring community.

WATCH: [Why Antisemitism Matters to Everyone](#). (1:30)

READ: [Anti-Semitism is a Symptom](#)

VIEW: [Index of Antisemitism](#)

WATCH: [Is the focus on Antisemitism overblown?](#) Unpacked. (4:20)

KRISTALLNACHT: A CASE STUDY IN SEEDS OF HATE

In 1930s Nazi Germany, antisemitism was rampant – Hitler instituted boycotts of Jewish businesses, Jewish civil servants were fired, Jewish books were destroyed, German businesses refused to serve Jews and the Nuremberg laws were passed, which only allowed Aryans to be full citizens of Germany. These discriminatory practices were primarily politically and socially punitive and non-violent. But, everything changed on the night of November 9, 1938 when the Nazis vandalized and set fire to Jewish businesses, homes, schools and synagogues:

WATCH: [Kristallnacht: The Night of Broken Glass](#) (1:15)

WATCH: [Kristallnacht: Remembering The ‘Night of Broken Glass’](#) (2:46)

WATCH: [One Short: Kristallnacht](#) (3:22)

WATCH: [The Echos of Kristallnacht](#) (10:30)

WATCH: [We were frightened for our lives](#) (3:05)

Antisemitic sentiments led to actions and policies, ultimately leading to the Holocaust and culminating in war.

ANTISEMITISM: THE GREATER ROCHESTER PERSPECTIVE

In the 2019 survey of the Rochester Jewish community ([Every Voice Counts](#)) 930 Jewish adults (39%) reported that they or a member of their household had experienced or witnessed any form of antisemitism and 75% of those who responded reported that those events occurred in the greater Rochester area.

DEEPER DIVES

WATCH: [State of the Union Part 3 - Advocating for the Jewish Community](#) (9:52) Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center. Featuring guest speakers Noa Tishby, Bari Weiss and Eve Barlow.

WATCH: [Oprah Winfrey and Elie Wiesel at Auschwitz](#) (9:59)

LISTEN: [We Share the Same Sky](#) (podcast), produced for USC Shoah Foundation. Rachael Cerrotti traced her grandmother's war story, as she traveled to Europe to find the people who saved her.

READ: [Antisemitism Posts Rarely Removed By Social Media Companies](#). National Public Radio.

WATCH: [Ever Again](#), narrated by Kevin Costner, this film explores the resurgence of violent antisemitism in Europe (2:26:00)

READ and LISTEN: [Antisemitism now, Antisemitism then](#). The Ezra Klein Show, featuring Deborah Lipstadt. (1:32:31)

WATCH ON ZOOM TONIGHT: ["The Disturbing Resilience of Antisemitism"](#) with Oren Jacobson. Zoom Event on December 1, 7 – 8:15 PM. Hosted by Levine Center To End Hate. Learn how antisemitism has survived and thrived over thousands of years and deepen your understanding about the lived realities and challenges facing the Jewish people today. [REGISTER HERE](#)

ACT

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Stand with the Jewish community against hate and antisemitism by joining us in one of these actions to show your support:

PARTICIPATE: [The Blue Light Project](#). Stand against hate and "Shine a Light on Antisemitism" by replacing a light outside of your home or business with a blue light or placing a lamp with a blue light in your window from December through April 26, 2023 (Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day). This project is a collaboration between the Jewish Federation and ROC Against Antisemitism.

The lightbulbs will be available for pick-up at the Louis S. Wolk Jewish Community Center.

The blue light bulbs have been made available through the generosity of **Kovalsky-Carr Electric Supply** and have been sourced from the electrical supply business of Holocaust Survivor, Herb Gilden. Learn about his story here: [The Starfish](#).

SPREAD THE LIGHT. Take a photo of your blue light. Post it on social media. Tag the Jewish Federation of Greater Rochester to create a community collage. #ShinealightROC #BluelightROC. You can also email your photo to info@jewishrochester.org.

DISPLAY AND SHARE: Place a menorah in your window during the 8 nights of Chanukah.