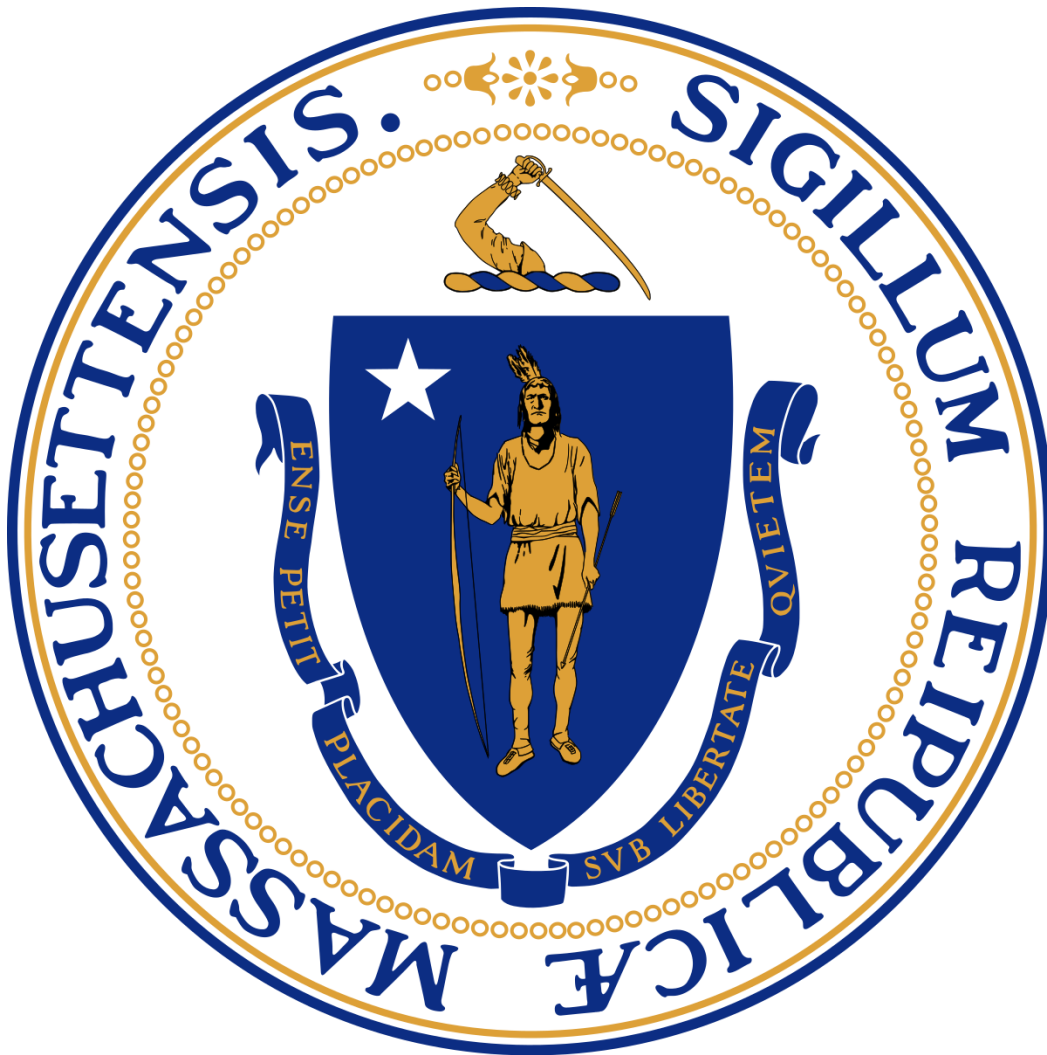


Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism



Final Report

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:

Commissioner:	Appointed/Designated By:	Vote on Final Report:
Representative Simon Cataldo, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Speaker of the House	Yea
Senator John Velis, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Senate President	*See Appendix B*
Representative Steven S. Howitt	House Minority Leader	Yea
Robert Leikind	Speaker of the House	Yea
Peggy Shukur	Speaker of the House	Yea
Jeremy Burton	Senate President	Yea
Jody Kipnis	Senate President	Yea
Rita Blanter	Senate Minority Leader	Yea
David Friedman	Governor	Yea
Dara Kaufman	Governor	Yea
Jamie Hoag	Attorney General	Yea
Constantia (Dena) Papanikolaou	Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education	Yea
Erin Hashimoto-Martell	Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	Yea
Michael Memmolo	Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination	Yea
Chief Thomas Fowler	Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association	Yea
District Attorney Paul Tucker	Massachusetts District Attorneys Association	Yea
Mayor Ruthanne Fuller	Massachusetts Municipal Association	Yea
Jill Hai	Massachusetts Municipal Association	Yea
Aaron Polansky	Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents	Yea

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I. Introduction

Section 201 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2025, established the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism in the Commonwealth (“the Commission”) to investigate and make recommendations to the General Court to combat the rise in antisemitic incidents and hate crimes in the Commonwealth.

II. Statutory Charge

Section 201 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024

(a) There shall be a special commission on combatting antisemitism in the commonwealth. The commission shall: (i) report on trends and data related to incidents of antisemitism in the commonwealth; (ii) make recommendations for the implementation of the United States national strategy to counter antisemitism; (iii) identify and evaluate existing efforts to combat antisemitism in the commonwealth; (iv) identify best practices from efforts to combat antisemitism in other states and jurisdictions; (v) evaluate the commonwealth’s hate crime statutes and whether any amendments would better protect residents from antisemitism and other similar forms of hatred; and (vi) recommend strategies, programs and legislation to combat antisemitism in the commonwealth. The commission shall submit a report of its study and recommendations to the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate and the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than November 30, 2024.¹

(b) The commission shall consist of: 3 persons appointed by the senate president, 1 of whom shall have expertise in combatting antisemitism and 1 of whom shall represent a Jewish community organization in the commonwealth; 3 persons appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall have expertise in combatting antisemitism and 1 of whom shall represent a Jewish community organization in the commonwealth; 1 member who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives; 1 member who shall be appointed by the minority leader of the senate; 2 persons appointed by the governor, 1 of whom shall have expertise in legal issues related to civil rights and civil liberties; 2 persons appointed by the Massachusetts Municipal Association, Inc.; the attorney general or a designee; the chair of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination or a designee; the commissioner of higher education or a designee; the commissioner of elementary and secondary education or a designee; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association; 1 person appointed by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association Incorporated; and 1 member appointed by the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc. The senate president

¹ On December 4, 2024, the Governor signed into law Section 129 of Chapter 248 of the Acts of 2024, An Act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2024, which, in part, extended the Special Commission’s reporting deadline to Nov. 30, 2025.

and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each designate a co-chair from their respective appointees.

Legal Disclaimer:

The Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism’s Final Report of Findings and Recommendations are not legally binding, and do not supersede, modify, or direct an interpretation of any existing federal, state, or local law. The findings and recommendations are not intended to, nor do they, create any substantive or procedural legal right, benefit or defense.

III. Commission Process

From October 29, 2024, to November 20, 2025, the Commission held 16 public meetings, spanning more than 50 hours of expert testimony, public comment, and deliberation among Commissioners. The meetings covered a wide range of topics, including K–12 education, higher education, public safety and law enforcement, and workplace and healthcare issues. Over 200 individuals provided testimony, including jurists, community leaders, clergy, researchers, educators, law enforcement officials, policymakers, business leaders, and members of the general public, reflecting the diverse perspectives of the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

On November 20, 2025, the Commission unanimously voted to approve the Commission’s Final Report of Findings and Recommendations.²

Appendix B includes a table summarizing each of the Commission’s meetings. Meeting agendas, materials, and minutes, along with full recordings of all meetings, are available on the Commission’s website.³

IV. PREFATORY STATEMENT AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES: COMBATING ANTISEMITISM AND HATE “THE MASSACHUSETTS WAY”

For centuries, Massachusetts has staked out a national leadership role in the pursuit of justice, equality under the law, and education. The Legislature and Governor’s decision in July 2024 to establish the nation’s first statutorily created commission on combating antisemitism is an extension and advancement of the Commonwealth’s role in these respects. This Commission has

² See table on page 1 for a record of commissioner votes on the Commission’s Final Report of Findings and Recommendations.

³ <https://malegislature.gov/Commissions/Detail/646/Hearings>.

been charged with examining the specific ways antisemitism has manifested within the Commonwealth and making recommendations for actions to address it.

The Commission's task emerges at a time marked by increases in the frequency and severity of antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts and around the country. Here in Massachusetts, the stabbing of Rabbi Noginsky in Brighton in 2021 and the targeting by name and address of Jewish individuals and institutions by the Mapping Project in 2022 have contributed to the fear and intimidation experienced by the Jewish community. The use of names of concentration camps by a Massachusetts high school football team in 2021, just one example of school-based antisemitism, demonstrates how antisemitism shows up in everyday activities. Following the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel in October 2023, antisemitism has manifested in new and troubling ways, particularly in K-12 schools, on college and university campuses, and in the workplace. Testimony, research, and data presented to the Commission indicate that antisemitism arises across the political spectrum and is fueled by misinformation and disinformation, particularly online.

While the Jewish community is its direct target, antisemitism undermines the safety, inclusion, and cohesion of all residents. Moreover, these general negative effects on society create indirect negative effects on Jewish people, as Jewish people generally flourish in robust democracies that protect the freedoms of all minorities. Many Massachusetts residents who have testified before the Commission harbor concerns that measures the current federal government is taking in response to antisemitism, including actions that target some of Massachusetts' most prized institutions, may backfire and fuel antisemitism. The courts have struck down various actions by the federal administration as violating the civil rights of other vulnerable groups and individuals, including immigrants. People in Massachusetts, including Jewish residents, widely recognize, and have re-learned many times throughout history, that "narrow nationalisms" never end well for Jews, and as such, threats to democracy are intrinsically threatening to the Jewish people.

Simultaneously, many Jewish residents of Massachusetts who report anti-Jewish hate describe a troubling pattern: their experiences are minimized, dismissed, or reframed. They note that the response, including by some of those in positions of authority, is that the bias and violence they experience for being Jewish is only a secondary or tertiary form of hate. They are frequently told that other groups "have it worse," or that raising concerns about antisemitism is itself politically motivated and that their pleas for help and recognition are fueling a right-wing project or authoritarianism. This dynamic leaves many Jews feeling isolated and unsupported at precisely the moment when antisemitism is escalating at historic levels, and has been documented as traumatic invalidation. Jewish people in Massachusetts have too often found that fundamental principles of social justice and anti-hate movements have not been applied to them with the same consistency or urgency as they are to other targeted communities, even during this period of escalating antisemitism.

Adding to the complexity of the challenge, the diversity of opinions and political ideologies among Massachusetts Jews, which is a hallmark and strength of Jewish society, has caused ideological fractures among Jews with divergent opinions about how to address antisemitism. Perhaps chief among those differences is starkly contrasting relationships to, and opinions about, Israel — including the modern State of Israel, and the Jewish people’s connection to the land of Israel before there was a State. The available data shows that most Jewish Americans,⁴ including many Massachusetts residents who have testified before this Special Commission, feel their relationship with Israel is an important part of their religious, ancestral, personal, and/or spiritual identity, and is grounded in religious texts, personal ties, and/or family traditions.⁵ Among Jewish people who view Israel and Zionism as part of their Jewish identity, there is a wide range of opinions as to the actions of the current Israeli government.

Testimony before the Commission from Jewish students, educators, academics, and professionals confirms that Jewish people in Massachusetts have been excluded, harassed, and, on occasion, physically attacked due to their actual or presumed support of Jewish self-determination in Israel. The Commission recognizes the deep pain that these experiences have caused to those who have come forward, and it unreservedly acknowledges this mistreatment as part of the problem of antisemitism this body is charged with addressing.

⁴ See John Gramlich & Alan Cooperman, Pew Research Center, *Most Jewish Americans have long-standing connections to Israel*, (Oct. 13, 2023), available at <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/10/13/most-jewish-americans-have-long-standing-connections-to-israel/> (82% of Jewish adults in the United States said caring about Israel is an essential or important part of what being Jewish means to them); American Jewish Committee (AJC), *AJC’s 2024 Survey of American Jewish Opinion*, available at <https://www.ajc.org/news/survey2024> (finding that 81% of American Jews “say that caring about Israel is very (51%) or somewhat (30%) important to what being Jewish means to them”); Berman Jewish DataBank, *Israel-Hamas War Sentiment Survey 3: March 2024*, available at <https://www.jewishdatabank.org/databank/search-results/study/1232> (79% of American Jews had an emotional attachment to Israel, and 90% believe Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state); Benson Strategy Group, *JFNA Community Understanding Survey*, (Nov. 7, 2023), available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fcdn.fedweb.org%2Ffed-42%2F%2F2023%252520Israel%252520Hamas%252520War%252520Sentiment%252520Survey%2525201%252520-%252520Public%252520Release%2525202.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK> (finding 76% of the general population and 91% of American Jews say that Israel has the right to exist as a Jewish state); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Andrea Silbert at 2:51:40).

⁵ See *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Oren Jacobson, CEO of Project Shema at 00:42:50); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Robert Mayer at 01:59:30).

It is also true that some Jewish people in Massachusetts who have testified before or contacted the Commission believe that their Judaism requires them to oppose not only the actions of Israel's government but also Zionism itself. Some Massachusetts residents have expressed concern and fear that they will be labeled as antisemitic by their government for expressing these sincerely held views.

The Commission reaffirms in the strongest possible terms that all Jewish people are equally deserving of protection under the law, including their right to free speech. Antisemitism threatens all Jews, regardless of ideology. The Commonwealth's response must be rooted in shared security, mutual respect, and a collective commitment to stand against hate in every form.

In this context, the Commission has endeavored to chart "the Massachusetts Way" for combating antisemitism in the Commonwealth, anchored in its statutory charge, informed by the testimony and data presented to the Commission, and grounded in Massachusetts values and principles. What follows is a set of findings and recommendations that, together, form a set of best practices for the use and benefit of state and local government officials and staff, community leaders, and all residents of the Commonwealth who seek to stamp out this ancient and shape-shifting form of hate. The Massachusetts Way reflects our belief that combating antisemitism must combine strong civil rights protections, civic education, and moral responsibility. Like all Special Commission recommendations, these recommendations are not legally binding, but are intended to serve as a guide for public officials and community partners who share the goal of ensuring Massachusetts remains a truly inclusive and safe place for all people.

Implementation of these recommendations will depend upon the commitment of both state and non-state actors, including school districts, higher education institutions, employers, and municipalities. Many of these entities are represented on the Commission itself. The Commission's diverse composition underscores the shared responsibility for addressing antisemitism across sectors. The legislators serving on the Commission will continue to monitor progress and consider future legislation as appropriate to advance these recommendations.

With this background, the Commission's findings and recommendations are rooted in the following principles:

1. Discrimination, harassment, bias, and hate towards Jewish people and Israeli-Americans must be taken seriously – just as seriously as we take discrimination, harassment, bias, and hate against any other group or nationality. We must listen to and respect those who report experiencing antisemitism and avoid minimizing, dismissing, or questioning the legitimacy of their experiences. Antisemitism is not a lesser or secondary form of hate. Efforts to treat it as such are historically unfounded, harmful to Jewish individuals, and antagonistic to the broader pursuit of promoting inclusion and equality under the law for all people.

2. Antisemitism must be recognized as a distinct and rapidly increasing form of hate that requires specific and focused action. At the same time, antisemitism must be addressed as part of broader efforts to combat all forms of hate. This Commission believes that the people of Massachusetts possess the capacity to hold both truths concurrently.
3. Antisemitism is a serious problem across the political spectrum in Massachusetts and the United States today. It is real, escalating, and harmful, whether it takes the form of neo-Nazi, white supremacist hate, or pro-Hamas, radical hate. Massachusetts must condemn and combat all forms of antisemitism, without selectively ignoring some based on political convenience. The Commission notes with approval the words of Deborah Lipstadt, former Biden Administration White House Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism:

Those who place themselves at the right end of the political spectrum see antisemitism on the left. And they see it clearly and accurately. Those on the left end of the spectrum see the threat of antisemitism on the right. And they see it clearly and accurately. What each of them fail to see is the antisemitism right next to them, that which is expressed by people with whom they share many other ideas, beliefs, and political stances. If you can only see it on the opposite side of the political transom, then I have to question whether your battle is with antisemitism or with your political opponents.⁶

4. Measures to combat antisemitism and hatred of Jewish people must respect and protect the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment and the principles of due process. Nothing in the Commission's recommendations should be interpreted or used to censor anyone, discipline or punish protected speech, or prevent anyone from engaging in constitutionally protected speech, including, but not limited to, advocacy for Palestinians, Israelis, or any other group.
5. The First Amendment does not give license to harass, bully, discriminate, or commit hate crimes. Likewise, it does not permit expression that violates reasonable viewpoint-neutral time, place, and manner rules or disrupts a school environment. People have robust First Amendment rights to engage in political advocacy in all

⁶ See Deborah Lipstadt, Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, *From Right to Left and in Between: Jew-Hatred Across the Political Divide* (Feb. 21, 2024), available at <https://bisa.bbk.ac.uk/event/from-right-to-left-and-in-between-jew-hatred-across-the-political-divide/>.

sorts of ways, including in public protests, through traditional and social media, and otherwise. However, there are well-established limits to the First Amendment. The First Amendment allows government entities to set reasonable content-neutral time, place, and manner limits on expression.

6. Some speech is “lawful but awful.” The First Amendment does not protect hateful, offensive speech from being criticized and labeled as such, including by government or school officials. Part of combating antisemitism is recognizing such offensive speech and responding by speaking out against it without imposing censorship or punishment. Condemning hateful rhetoric, even when lawful, is a moral obligation of leadership. Silence in the face of hate normalizes it. Massachusetts must model what it means to confront hate, not just legally, but ethically.
7. In the current local and global context since the horrific October 7 Hamas terrorist attacks, expressions reasonably understood as supporting, celebrating, or promoting violence against Jews must be recognized and condemned as hateful and antisemitic. There are all kinds of ways to support peace in the Middle East, object to the actions of any government (including the United States government), and advocate for the rights of Palestinians, as well as Israelis and others. However, especially after October 7, a significant portion of the Jewish and Israeli-American community find it offensive, intimidating, and frightening when people use phrases that have an association with terrorism, violence, and explicit calls for the elimination of Jews or the modern State of Israel (i.e., “Globalize the Intifada,” “There is only one solution, Intifada revolution,” “Death to the IDF,” etc.), when people deny Hamas terrorist activity, or when people label Hamas terrorism as “justified resistance.” Irrespective of intent, the impact of those words matters. Like with other vulnerable minorities, the way that many or most Jewish people interpret and experience these calls is intrinsically relevant in a conversation about antisemitism.
8. Massachusetts must combat antisemitism in a way that distinguishes between good-faith criticism of the actions and policies of Israel’s government, on the one hand, and advocacy that condones or supports the elimination of Jews and the State of Israel. Some individuals (including Jewish and non-Jewish people) have fundamental concerns or objections regarding Israel, but they do not endorse or promote violence. Our approach to combating antisemitism must create space for good-faith dialogue on complex topics, in the spirit of genuine inclusion.
9. Education remains our strongest tool to counter ignorance and hate. Schools, community institutions, and workplaces must be equipped not only to recognize antisemitism but to teach about its historical roots and contemporary manifestations.

The goal is not only awareness, but the courage and confidence to speak and act against hate in all its forms.

10. **Antisemitism is a hatred of Jews for being Jewish.** In recent decades, advocates, academics, and governments have developed definitions, examples, and frameworks that serve as valuable tools to raise awareness and increase understanding of antisemitism, as well as encourage conversation. While these definitions, examples, and frameworks can be helpful educational tools, the Commission believes they lack the specificity and narrow tailoring that is appropriate for use in law or any regulatory enforcement regime. The definitions have also become a lightning rod and litmus test used by some to raise fears, engender animosity, and create division. Like with any definition, example set, or framework, definitions of antisemitism can be misunderstood or misused in ways that mislabels something as antisemitism which is not. That concern is not a reason to abandon their use.

Consistent with the Commonwealth’s 2022 proclamation endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Association’s working definition of antisemitism as a non-legally binding definition that can be used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism,⁷ the Commission joins the last four U.S. Presidential Administrations, the U.S. White House National Strategy, 35 other states plus the District of Columbia, and 46 member states of the United Nations, in embracing the non-legally binding IHRA definition of antisemitism and its examples as the “most prominent”⁸ of these educational tools.

Educators and other actors charged with implementing these recommendations should be informed of and by IHRA’s definition and its examples. Those consulting IHRA should pay special attention to its provision that “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitism,” and should understand that its examples should not be taken as *per se* antisemitism. IHRA—like all definitions—should not be employed to limit First Amendment rights or in a manner that denies due process. Additionally, the Commission, like the authors of the National Strategy, “welcomes and appreciates the Nexus Document

⁷ See Governor Charlie Baker, Proclamation endorsing the working definition of antisemitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), (Feb. 18, 2021), available at [google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjHpLGRzsyQAxUzGFkFHQVVMRQQFnoECBgQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mass.gov%2Fdoc%2Fantisemitism-proclamation%2Fdownload&usq=AOvVaw3tnE3WeYsyjvk_ANbPNZTi&opi=89978449](https://www.mass.gov/doc/antisemitism-proclamation/download&usq=AOvVaw3tnE3WeYsyjvk_ANbPNZTi&opi=89978449).

⁸ See The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 13, (May, 2023), available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>.

and notes other such efforts.”⁹ While not expressly mentioned by the National Strategy, some other definitional tools used by groups and residents in Massachusetts include the Jerusalem Definition,¹⁰ the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (which also supports the IHRA definition),¹¹ and Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism.¹² To quote the National Strategy: “The focus [of this report] is on actions to counter antisemitism.”¹³

V. DATA AND REPORTS THAT INFORM THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission is committed to a data-driven approach in its efforts to combat antisemitism. To this end, the Commission has conducted an extensive review of multiple data sources that both individually and collectively indicate a clear and troubling rise in antisemitic incidents, crimes, and attitudes. The data reviewed by the Commission aligns closely with the anecdotal evidence and personal testimony shared by numerous speakers who appeared before it. As the Commission has witnessed in its meetings, behind each data point is a lived experience: a student unsafe on campus, a family afraid to attend synagogue, a neighbor targeted online. Our response must match not only the scale of the numbers but the depth of their human impact.

Key sources informing the Commission’s analysis include the FBI Hate Crime Statistics Report, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) Hate Crimes Report, and the Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024—all of which document a sharp increase in antisemitic crimes and incidents following October 7, 2023.¹⁴ Further, research from organizations such as the Blue Square Alliance Against Hate

⁹ See The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 13, (May, 2023), *available at*, <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>; see The Nexus Project, *The Nexus Document*, *available at*, <https://nexusproject.us/nexus-resources/the-nexus-document/>.

¹⁰ See The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, *available at*, <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org>.

¹¹ See United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, *What is Antisemitism?*, *available at* <https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/what-is-antisemitism>

¹² See Concord Against Antisemitism, *Frequently Asked Questions*, *available at*, <https://www.concordagainstantisemitism.org/about>.

¹³ See The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 13, (May, 2023), *available at*, <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>.

¹⁴ See FBI Crime Data Explorer, *available at*, <https://www.concordagainstantisemitism.org/faq>, <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime> (showing a 36% spike in reported antisemitic hate crime incidents immediately following October 7, 2023, and sustained, elevated levels of such incidents throughout 2024 compared with pre-October 7, 2023, levels); Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, *Hate Crime 2024 Massachusetts*, *available at* https://ma.beyond2020.com/ma_tops/report/hate-crime_1/massachusetts/2024 (showing that 2024 marked the first year on record in which

(formerly Foundation to Combat Antisemitism or FCAS), the American Jewish Committee (AJC), the Jewish Federations of North America, and others highlight a rise in antisemitic attitudes and a surge in antisemitic content and engagement across online platforms.¹⁵ In addition to the above named sources, the Commission based its findings and recommendations on reports and surveys conducted by academics and researchers, all of which corroborated the escalation of antisemitism.¹⁶

While the Commission is the first legislatively created body of its kind dedicated specifically to combating antisemitism, it is not the first to recognize or respond to its alarming rise. To that end, the Commission gives significant weight to reports documenting antisemitism, such as the

Massachusetts reported more hate-crime incidents targeting Jews than any other group). The data collected by EOPSS shows that 84.4% of religious bias hate crimes were anti-Jewish, an increase of nearly 10% when compared to 2023 data. *See also* Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024*, available at, https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024?gclid=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=10844164222&gbraid=0AAAAADtja53cELSosMw-WpUfzYRbseRxi&gclid=CjwKCAjwuePGBhBZEiwAIGCVS48SyY1RBuAEKej9nlzV0sbPzrYO258aNc6Qp6hl7tsLXQk4N5X-WhoCYP0QAvD_BwE, (listing 9,354 antisemitic incidents nationwide—the highest number in the ADL’s 46 years of tracking—marking a 5% rise from 2023, 344% over five years and 893% over ten years).

¹⁵ *See* Blue Square Alliance Against Hate, *BSA Study: Jewish Hate Has Escalated In The US—But Could Be Slowing*, available at, <https://www.bluesquarealliance.org/research/survey-finds-jewish-hate-rising/>, (indicating that 26 million more Americans are now leaning toward antisemitic hate as compared to 18 months ago). The December 2024 survey showed a modest slowing of negative trends, yet the prevalence of antisemitic beliefs remains elevated when compared with 2023. *See also* American Jewish Committee, *The State of Antisemitism in America 2024: Comparing American Jews and the General Public*, available at, <https://www.ajc.org/AntisemitismReport2024/Comparison>, (91% of American Jews and 59% of the general public think that antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years and 93% of American Jews and 72% of the general public see antisemitism as a problem in the U.S.). *See also* Jewish Federations of North America and Anti-Defamation League Center for Antisemitism Research, *Portrait of Antisemitic Experience in the U.S., 2024-2025*, available at, <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/portrait-antisemitic-experiences-us-2024-2025>, (finding that over half of Jewish Americans have experienced a form of antisemitism in the past 12 months).

¹⁶ *See* Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, Sasha Volodarsky & Leonard Saxe, *Antisemitism on Campus: Understanding Hostility to Jews and Israel* (Aug. 2024), Cohen Ctr. for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis Univ., available at <https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/antisemitism/antisemitism-on-campus.html>; Eitan Hersh & Dahlia Lyss, *A Year of Campus Conflict and Growth: An Over-Time Study of the Impact of the Israel-Hamas War on U.S. College Students* (Sept. 3, 2024), Jim Joseph Found., <https://jimjosephfoundation.org/learning-resources/a-year-of-campus-conflict-and-growth-an-over-time-study-of-the-impact-of-the-israel-hamas-war-on-u-s-college-students>.

Harvard Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias,¹⁷ and builds upon the findings and recommendations of the May 2023 White House National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism.¹⁸

No single data set or report forms the foundation for the following findings or recommendations. Rather, a broad range of reports and studies from a broad range of authors and organizations were reviewed—alongside over 50 hours of public testimony and over a thousand pages of written submissions, sent through and to the Commission’s publicly available feedback form and email address—to provide a comprehensive picture of the state of antisemitism in the Commonwealth. Taken together, the aggregated data points unmistakably in one direction: antisemitism has risen significantly since October 7, 2023, and remains an urgent challenge that demands coordinated action.

VI. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

K-12 EDUCATION FINDINGS

1. Antisemitism in Massachusetts K-12 public schools is a pervasive and escalating problem, with a large number of reported incidents of hate, bullying, harassment, and discrimination experienced by families and teachers. There has been a stark escalation of incidents in recent years, especially after the Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. Many Jewish students in Massachusetts schools are scared to publicly display their Judaism or let others know they are Jewish for fear of disparate treatment or bullying.¹⁹

¹⁷ See Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 138, (Apr. 29, 2025) (noting substantial majority of students the Task Force met with expressed some level of discomfort with their place in the Harvard community.) The Task Force’s Final Report indicates that the qualitative assessment is corroborated with the quantitative survey data. *Id.*

¹⁸ See The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 2, (May, 2023), *available at*, <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf> (noting that “antisemitism is rising, both at home and abroad”).

¹⁹ See Anti-Defamation League, *Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 2024* (Apr. 22, 2025), *available at* <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2024>; see also *First Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 29, 2024) (statement of Melissa Garlick, Associate Vice President, CJP’s Center for Combating Antisemitism at 1:42:35); *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven, Chair of Mass. Board of Elementary and Secondary Education at 2:58:08); *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Molly Parr, First VP Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts at 2:56:20).

2. Antisemitism is a distinct type of hate that takes various forms and manifests in a variety of ways in Massachusetts K-12 schools.²⁰ These include, but are not limited to: swastika graffiti; Holocaust jokes, distortion, or denial; harassment or discrimination based on Jewish identity, perceived relationship to Israel, or actual Israeli citizenship; and harassment directed towards Jewish individuals while using the term “Zionist” as a replacement slur for “Jew” or “Jewish.”²¹
3. Antisemitic incidents and the more pervasive climate of antisemitism are causing serious harm to the mental health of Jewish and/or Israeli students and families.²²
4. Antisemitic incidents and hate crimes in the Massachusetts K-12 school environment are likely to be significantly underreported. Many school districts and schools do not provide teachers and staff with clear instructions as to when and how they should report potential hate or bias incidents of all types, including antisemitic incidents. There is also an absence of consistent, comprehensive, high-quality training for school professionals on how to respond when allegations of bias-based conduct occur in K-12 settings, including in private, parochial, and charter schools. The Commonwealth lacks a centralized mechanism for compiling and tracking such incidents. Many victims of antisemitic incidents do not report cases due to fear of retaliation and harassment or the sense that reporting an incident will not lead to any response by the school.²³ When reporting processes lack transparency, victims are further discouraged from coming forward, and schools lose critical opportunities to learn from incidents and improve their ability to prevent them in the future.²⁴
5. Since October 7, 2023, antisemitic speech and harassment in Massachusetts K-12 settings has had a particularly serious impact on Israeli-American students, families, and teachers,

²⁰ See *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Amy Wallk at 0:59:05); *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Ariella Rosen at 3:45:10).

²¹ See Facing History and Ourselves, *Explainer: Antisemitism and Its Impacts*, available at https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/202402/Explainer_Antisemitism_and_Its_Impacts_1.pdf.

²² See *Second Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Jessica Goldberg, School Counselor at 2:39:34); *Third Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern at 2:33:40); *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven at 2:59:00).

²³ See *First Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 29, 2024) (statement of Peggy Shukur, Vice President of the East Division of ADL at 1:15:22). It is noted that student privacy concerns or reputational harm to a school district may hinder reporting of antisemitic and other types of bias-related incidents.

²⁴ See *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Andrea Silbert at 02:58:57).

as well as Jewish students, families, and teachers who have not lived in Israel but who have a personal or religious connection to the State of Israel.²⁵

6. Programs for students, staff, and educators on combating hate and bias often neglect to include antisemitism as a form of bias and, as a consequence, fail to address it as a legitimate issue.²⁶ This is true even in school districts that have a demonstrated pattern of antisemitic incidents. Education about antisemitism must not only convey information but also cultivate moral courage, empowering students to recognize prejudice, speak up, and act responsibly.
7. There is a lack of understanding and sensitivity among some K-12 educators and administrators in Massachusetts as to what forms of speech and expression constitute antisemitism and should therefore be subject to or prohibited under school codes of conduct and anti-harassment, anti-discrimination, and anti-bullying policies.²⁷ This issue is compounded by the lack of resources and training for teachers on ways to identify early warning signs of hate and bias and on creating nurturing and inclusive classroom environments.²⁸
8. There is a hesitancy in many schools across the Commonwealth to address antisemitism, both proactively through education and reactively when it occurs, that stems from a variety of factors. These include a lack of understanding and sensitivity around what types of speech are harmful to Jewish students and staff, including the impact of such speech, a perception that proactive education is only necessary in communities with prominent Jewish populations, and a lack of familiarity with the programs and resources available to support efforts to combat antisemitism.²⁹
9. There is inconsistency in responses from districts when antisemitic incidents or concerns of antisemitism are raised and best practices for Massachusetts schools are not widely

²⁵ See *Third Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern at 2:48:32); *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Debbie Coltin, Executive Director of Lappin Foundation at 2:48:17); *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Amy Wallk at 0:49:27).

²⁶ See *Third Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern at 2:52:57).

²⁷ See *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Superintendent Peter Light at 0:26:14).

²⁸ See *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director, Parents for Peace at 0:12:05); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Andrea Silbert at 02:59:03).

²⁹ See Anti-Defamation League, *Antisemitism in Schools and Support for Holocaust Education* (Dec. 23, 2024), available at <https://www.adl.org/resources/report/antisemitism-schools-and-support-holocaust-education>.

available. As a result, some districts respond ineffectively, and others fail to respond at all.³⁰

10. Massachusetts public school students have reported being exposed to content and curriculum that contains inaccurate, decontextualized, and harmful material regarding Israel and the Jewish people. Massachusetts public school educators have reported that similar problematic content or resources have been endorsed or promoted through the Massachusetts Teachers Association and professional development opportunities.³¹
11. The Commonwealth, through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), has limited visibility into the curricular materials and programs utilized by individual districts to teach about antisemitism and Jewish history. As a result, neither DESE nor this Commission knows what curriculum materials each local district and school uses to address antisemitism and the history of the Jewish people.³²
12. In 2018, DESE published a revised content standard relating to Israel, Palestine, and conflict in the Middle East.³³ DESE recently publicized, and is currently accepting public feedback on, its Antisemitism and Societal Bias Prevention Curriculum and Professional Development Rubric, to establish basic standards relating to classroom education on the topic of antisemitism itself.³⁴ However, there are significant limitations on DESE's authority to require a school district to use or cease using particular curricula and

³⁰ See *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Superintendent Peter Light at 0:28:09); *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Maddie Katzen, UMass Lowell student at 0:49:50); *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Rabbi Noach Kosofsky at 1:57:56).

³¹ See Massachusetts Teachers Association, *MTA resources on Israel and Occupied Palestine*, available at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gLzllkhtAD1ki-UHbrfBcHM2IgzVDxn7/view?usp=sharing>; see also *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven, BESE chair at 3:02:47, 3:03:47); Sobey, Rick, "Stunned Massachusetts Educators, ADL Call for MassCUE Apology after 'Hateful' Anti-Israel and Holocaust Rhetoric at Conference," *Boston Herald* (Dec. 20, 2024), available at <https://www.bostonherald.com/2024/12/20/stunned-massachusetts-educators-adl-call-for-masscue-apology-after-hateful-anti-israel-and-holocaust-rhetoric-at-conference/>.

³² See *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven, BESE chair at 3:00:42, 3:01:23).

³³ See Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *History and Social Science Curriculum Framework: Grades PreKindergarten to 12, Content Standards 6.T3e, 6.T3g, and WHII.T5* (2018), available at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/frameworks/hss/2018-12.pdf>.

³⁴ See Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Antisemitism and Societal Bias Prevention Curriculum and Professional Development Rubric* (Oct. 17, 2025), available at https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwja6YatosWQAxXxk4kEHT0JOciQFnoECBkQAw&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doe.mass.edu%2Fsfss%2Fsafety%2Fdraft-rubric.pdf&usg=AOvVaw0_r4dueQpFikw-24gm_Zwv&opi=89978449.

classroom materials.³⁵ There are also limits on DESE’s ability to address or investigate reports of antisemitism that are reported to it.

13. In 2023-2024, DESE conducted a genocide education survey in part to monitor compliance with the Commonwealth’s Genocide Education Mandate. The survey demonstrated a need for greater visibility into the implementation of the mandate across the Commonwealth, and suggested poor adherence to the law by school districts. DESE sent the survey to 187 of the Commonwealth’s 389 districts. 58% of districts responded to the survey. Of the districts that responded, 76% provide genocide education through required courses, not only electives. Of those districts providing required genocide education courses, 89% teach about the Holocaust as part of that curriculum and 11% do not teach about the Holocaust.³⁶
14. Students are increasingly exposed to neo-Nazi, pro-Hamas, and other extreme ideologies through social media and other online platforms, often without critical context. This exposure fosters the spread of hateful conspiracy theories and antisemitic beliefs, and may be causally linked to a rise in Nazi-related and/or terrorist sympathizing graffiti, gestures, and speech by students in K-12 settings.³⁷

K-12 EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) should establish an Advisory Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education within the next six months to ensure

³⁵ See *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Dr. Russell Johnston, Acting Commissioner of DESE at 2:06:40). Notwithstanding the limitation upon DESE, it is noted that state regulations require schools, through their curricula, to “encourage civil rights of all individuals,” and must review instructional and educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit, on the basis of [protected status].” 603 C.M.R. § 26.05.

³⁶ See Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Genocide Education in Massachusetts Middle & High Schools: A Statewide Landscape Analysis & 2023-2024 School Year Grant Outcomes Report* (2024), available at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/2024/10-genocide-education.pdf>; *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Alice Nderitu at 02:26:40) (commenting on the necessity of Holocaust education).

³⁷ See *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (April 7, 2025) (statement of Eric Olshan, Former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania at 0:46:30); see also *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Ben Popp, ADL Center on Extremism at 0:17:22); see also *Eighth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Adam Katz, President, Blue Square Alliance Against Hate at 2:09:35).

timely support for schools in the implementation of the Genocide Education Mandate and to track its implementation.³⁸ As part of its charge, the Advisory Council should:

- a. assess the demand for and adequacy of Genocide Education Trust funding to ensure effective implementation of the mandate, including teacher training, instructional materials, and community engagement efforts.
 - b. ensure that age-appropriate curriculum and resources are developed and made available for all grade levels, including younger students in elementary school, to build foundational understanding.
2. In accordance with existing legislative requirements, DESE should make available model curricula and best practices/resources around teaching antisemitism and Jewish history in schools, including through enhancements to its Frameworks. Initial model resources should be published within one year, with annual review and updates as needed thereafter. This may include Jewish history, positive Jewish contributions to America, Jewish diversity, and manifestations of contemporary antisemitism.³⁹
 3. DESE should provide resources that are appropriate for classroom instruction at various grade levels to teach about Ancient Israel, Palestine, the modern State of Israel, and related conflicts in the Middle East that align and relate to the Content Standards for History and Social Science, specifically, Standards 6.T3e, 6.T3g, and WHII.T5. Schools should address antisemitism, extremism, and antisemitic myths/tropes⁴⁰ as part of a broader focus on digital literacy, civics, and the critical evaluation of misinformation and disinformation.⁴¹

³⁸ For a full list of BESE Advisory Councils, see <https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/councils/>; see also *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven, BESE chair at 3:14:44, 3:17:13); *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (April 7, 2025) (statement of Eric Olshan, Former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania at 1:13:45).

³⁹ See U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 17, (May 2, 2023), available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>; see also *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Jodie Gordon at 0:22:16); *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Dr. Nicole Collins at 3:57:50).

⁴⁰ For examples of common antisemitic myths/tropes, see Facing History & Ourselves, “Antisemitic Tropes” (Nov. 3, 2022), available at https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/202211/Handout_%20Antisemitic%20Tropes.pdf; American Jewish Committee, *Translate Hate Glossary*, available at <https://www.ajc.org/translatehateglossary>.

⁴¹ For examples of resources addressing antisemitic myths/tropes in online spaces, see Facing History and Ourselves, *Confronting Online Antisemitism*, available at <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/confronting-online-antisemitism>; ADL,

4. Public school districts should institute mandatory anti-bias education for school committees and all K-12 faculty and administrators that includes antisemitism. The mandatory anti-bias education should include antisemitism education and training aligned with a DESE-developed rubric.⁴² Training should be ongoing and interactive, emphasizing real-world scenarios Jewish students face, rather than one-time or purely online sessions. Schools should also partner with community and nonprofit organizations to provide training for K–12 faculty and administrators on identifying early warning signs of hate-based behaviors and on creating safe, inclusive, and supportive classroom environments.⁴³ In addition, DESE should provide statewide guidance on developing consistent, comprehensive, high-quality training for school districts to implement. Every school district should have at least one professional trained in responding to allegations of bias-based conduct that occur in K-12 settings, including in private, parochial, and charter schools.

5. Schools and districts should work with community organizations to create and implement programming for Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM)⁴⁴ each May to promote awareness and appreciation of Jewish contributions to American society, and to treat JAHM in an equivalent fashion to other history, identity, and heritage months recognized by the schools throughout the year. Districts should be prepared to implement JAHM programming by May of the upcoming school year. Schools are encouraged to partner

Antisemitism Uncovered, available at <https://antisemitism.adl.org/>; see also *Third Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Matt Williams, VP ADL’s Center for Antisemitism Research at 0:29:05); *Eighth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of ret. Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, Nexus Project Board Member at 1:41:45).

⁴² For a state-based framework for mandatory anti-bias education inclusive of antisemitism, see Md. H.B. 1386, 2024 Reg. Sess. (Md. 2024), Chapter 128 (approved Apr. 25, 2024; eff. July 1, 2024), available at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB1386?ys=2024RS>; see also *Fourth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Feb. 10, 2025) (statement of Katherine Craven, BESE chair at 2:59:30).

⁴³ See *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director, Parents for Peace at 00:32:30). For example, Parents for Peace recently conducted a pilot training program at Ashland High School. *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director, Parents for Peace at 00:12:05).

⁴⁴ See U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 19, (May 2, 2023), available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>; for a list of resources to support teaching about and celebrating JAHM see, Jewish American Heritage Month, *Educator Resources*, available at <https://jewishamericanheritage.org/educator-resources/>.

with local museums, cultural centers, and survivor-testimony programs to ensure authentic and meaningful engagement.

6. DESE should establish a statewide Bias Reporting Program for K-12 schools that explicitly includes antisemitism as a form of bias. This program should be piloted in select districts within the next school year and evaluated for statewide rollout during the following school year. DESE should provide the anonymized data collected through this program annually to EOPSS to ensure that the data collected is integrated with existing efforts to collect centralized hate crimes data, including data collected by the Hate Crime Reporting Portal recently launched by the Mass. State Police Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART).⁴⁵ Additionally, this program should collect data on bias incidents — which may not rise to the level of a hate crime — in all K-12 schools. Some incidents, particularly in school settings, may not constitute crimes but are nonetheless harmful and require tailored, non-punitive, and supportive responses, including but not limited to restorative justice. DESE and the Attorney General’s office should provide guidelines as to when an incident that might potentially constitute a case of bias, bullying, harassment or discrimination against individuals or groups of a protected class should be reported to this program. The program should include:
 - a. an anonymous reporting option to encourage safe and accessible reporting for students, families, and staff;
 - b. information on how complainants can find victim support services;
 - c. annual public reporting by DESE of the number of reported incidents by category, as well as pertinent details (anonymized to protect privacy and personal identity).⁴⁶
7. School counseling departments should:
 - a. work to deepen their understanding of the effects of hate, bias or discrimination on the mental health of young people, including the impact of antisemitism on the mental health of Jewish and all young people;
 - b. apply trauma informed interventions to incidents of antisemitism; and

⁴⁵ See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Det. Lt. Ryan Czepiel, MA State Police HART Unit at 1:25:40).

⁴⁶ For Massachusetts DESE example see, DESE Student Discipline Data Report, available at <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/ssdr.aspx>; see also *First Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 29, 2024) (statement of Peggy Shukur, Vice President of the East Division of ADL at 1:15:22); *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (April 7, 2025) (statement of Ariella Hellman, Director of Government Affairs at Agudath Israel of America at 1:41:10); *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of ADA David O’Sullivan at 1:17:05).

- c. expand access to mental health resources for Jewish students targeted by antisemitic harassment or bullying.⁴⁷
8. Schools should have a clear, transparent, and publicly available protocol for how a community member can report to the school administration an incident of hate, bias, or discrimination in consultation with the “Guidance on School’s Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents” by DESE and the Attorney General’s Office.”⁴⁸ As part of this protocol, schools should establish clear and public whistleblower protections for anyone who reports such an incident, including safeguards against retaliation.⁴⁹ A lack of transparency in these processes represents a lost opportunity for learning and improvement and can hinder efforts to prevent similar incidents from reoccurring.⁵⁰
 9. Schools should have a clear, transparent, and publicly available protocol for how reports of hate, bias, or discrimination are handled by the district. The protocol should include procedures for how and when such incidents are reported to law enforcement, the community, and the potential victims.⁵¹

⁴⁷ See, e.g., Miri Bar-Halpern and Jaclyn Wolfman, *Traumatic Invalidation in the Jewish Community after October 7*, Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment; Association of Jewish Psychologists Webinar, Exploring the Psychological Toll of Antisemitism on Mental Health (Feb. 27, 2024), available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7clRtE_eBmk; Association of Jewish Psychologists, *Resources Menu and Downloadable Content*, available at <https://associationofjewishpsychologists.com/resources/#links>; see also *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (April 7, 2025) (statement of Ariella Hellman, Director of Government Affairs at Agudath Israel of America at 1:28:45).

⁴⁸ See Office of the Attorney General, *Guidance on Schools’ Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents*, available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-on-schools-obligations-to-prevent-and-address-hate-incidents-september-2024/download>.

⁴⁹ See Revere Public Schools, *Bias Incident Reporting Procedure*, available at, https://www.reverek12.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2833610&type=d&pREC_ID=2320528&total11y=true (clarifying that “ANY retaliation against a person who reports an incident – whether they are a person harmed/targeted, a witness, or a reporter of information – will not be tolerated and will be subjected to strict enforcement.”)

⁵⁰ See *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Andrea Silbert at 02:58:57).

⁵¹ See Concord Public Schools and Concord Carlisle Regional School District, *Bias Incident Response Protocol and Reporting Form*, available at, <https://www.concordps.org/deib>; see Public Schools of Brookline, *Bullying Prevention and Incident Reporting*, available at, <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/bullying>; see Hopkinton Public Schools, *Bullying Intervention and Prevention Plan*, available at, <https://www.hopkinton.k12.ma.us/district-departments/technology-services/technology-policies/bullying-intervention-and-prevention-plan>. See also Anti-Defamation League, *Responding to Bias Incidents in Middle and High Schools: Resources and Best Practices for School Administrators & Educators*, available at,

10. Before the start of each school year, DESE and the Attorney General’s Office should circulate their “Guidance on School’s Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents”⁵² to all school districts. This guidance should explain the obligations of schools and school committees to prevent bias-related incidents and harassment by students and staff and how to respond effectively when it occurs as required by the Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law (G.L. c. 71 § 37O) and the Student Anti-Discrimination Act (G.L. c. 76 § 5). The guidance should also make clear that the protections against harassment provided by the Student Anti-Discrimination Act are closely analogous to those provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, though the Student Anti-Discrimination Act provides greater protections based on religion. DESE and the Attorney General’s Office should review this guidance annually.
11. DESE should issue guidance for Massachusetts public and private schools on creating safe and supportive school environments with respect to shared national origin, shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics similar to its existing guidance on Gender Identity and LGBTQ+ students.⁵³ The guidance should include materials specific to creating safe and supportive environments for Jewish students.
12. School officials should adopt these best practices when communicating about antisemitic incidents and awareness:
 - a. School officials should make strong, clear statements that antisemitism is unacceptable and will not be tolerated, both at the start of each school year and regularly on other appropriate occasions, such as on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, January 27 of each year.⁵⁴
 - b. When an antisemitic incident occurs, school officials, particularly superintendents and principals, should speak out clearly, forcefully, and with specificity as to the

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiw-c36_8SQAxXM0PACHWWCIQwQFnoECBkQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.adl.org%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fdocuments%2F2024-10%2Fresponding-to-bias-incidents-guide.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1r-gkoD5YIQEX0PzaaA7K2&opi=89978449.

⁵² See Office of the Attorney General, *Guidance on Schools’ Legal Obligations to Prevent and Address Hate and Bias Incidents*, available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/guidance-on-schools-obligations-to-prevent-and-address-hate-incidents-september-2024/download>.

⁵³ Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Principles for Ensuring Safe and Supportive Learning Environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning (LGBTQ) Students* (March 24, 2015), available at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/sfs/lgbtq/Principles-SafeEnvironment.html>.

⁵⁴ See *Third Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Jonathan Burke, Asst. Attorney General, Civil Rights Division at 0:40:50).

type of hate, rather than using vague language around all forms of hate.⁵⁵ Communication to the school community should be timely following an incident.⁵⁶

- c. School administrators should communicate clearly and consistently to the entire school community (inclusive of the community in which the school is located), including all students and families, about school values and rules, including policies governing bullying, harassment, discrimination, protests, walkouts, posterings, vandalism/graffiti, and social media. School administrators should make it clear that antisemitism is prohibited under these values, rules, and policies.
13. DESE should coordinate with the Attorney General's office to provide schools and school committees with clear guidance around First Amendment law, including students' right to free expression as provided in G.L. c. 71 § 82.⁵⁷
 14. At the start of each school year, DESE should remind districts and school committees of the importance of teaching and promoting curriculum that is consistent with the frameworks and guidance issued by DESE.⁵⁸
 15. DESE should develop a mechanism for reporting problematic curriculum in use in class including materials that promote bias, bigotry or discrimination against any person or group of persons on the basis of protected characteristics.⁵⁹ This reporting mechanism

⁵⁵ See *Second Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 19, 2024) (statement of Superintendent Peter Light at 0:20:34).

⁵⁶ For examples of effective communications from school officials following antisemitic incidents, see Letter to Acton-Boxborough Families from Superintendent Peter Light, (Oct. 12, 2023), available at, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ks1wbRPkzbpw3Pk9fqikm2HGwJX2JX_m/view; Letter to Concord-Carlise Regional High School Families from Superintendent Laurie Hunter, (Aug. 27, 2025), available at, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tSVhbpqoDbV-WtLO1P8zMRkb9uLB_AIw/view; Letter to St. John's Prep Community from the Office of the Head of School, available at, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uWfPzIvE-XhUUqFOBoChTBxi-SQyVAP/view>.

⁵⁷ See *Third Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Jonathan Burke, Asst. Attorney General, Civil Rights Division at 1:23:50).

⁵⁸ See *Third Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Jonathan Burke, Asst. Attorney General, Civil Rights Division at 0:49:20).

⁵⁹ See *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Dr. Russell Johnston, Acting Commissioner of DESE at 2:38:18). This best practice was adopted by California as a statutory mandate as part of a law enacted in October 2025 to address antisemitism and other forms of discrimination and bias in K-12 education. See

should clearly explain how concerns are evaluated, decisions made, and actions taken, as well as define its scope, limitations, and review timelines. This mechanism should be developed and made publicly available within one year.

16. Schools and districts should expand efforts to ensure kosher and halal foods are available to meet students' religious dietary needs.⁶⁰
17. The Commission notes state regulation 603 CMR 26.05,⁶¹ requiring (1) public schools to promote through their curricula respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, (2) teachers to “review all instructional and educational materials for simplistic and demeaning generalizations, lacking intellectual merit, on the basis of [protected status],” and include “[a]ppropriate activities, discussions and/or supplementary materials shall be used to provide balance and context for any such stereotypes depicted in such materials.” The Commission encourages robust implementation of and adherence to this regulation by DESE, school districts, and teachers.
18. DESE should make available guidance and resources to support teacher training that will support teachers in creating classrooms that are “intellectually diverse.”⁶² This means that they are welcoming to students of diverse backgrounds, committed to exposing students to a wide range of ideas and opinion, supportive of creative activity and thought, committed to providing resources that reflect diverse and competing points of view, and

California A.B. 715, §§ 2, 7, 8, *available at*

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB715.

⁶⁰ See, e.g., Boston Public Schools, *Halal and Kosher Meals*, *available at*

<https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/bps-departments/food-and-nutrition-services/halal-and-koshermeals#:~:text=BPS%20offers%20halal%20and%20circle,available%20at%20your%20child%27s%20school>; Sharon Public Schools, *Food and Nutrition Services*, *available at*

<https://sharon.healtheliving.net/>. For a statewide example, see Illinois, Senate Bill 457 (103rd Gen. Ass’y, Public Act 103-1076, eff. March 21 2025), amending 105 ILCS 5/1B-22, 110 ILCS 330/8j, 410 ILCS 637/25, 410 ILCS 645/1.5 et seq., and 730 ILCS 5/3-7-9 to require halal and kosher meal options at public schools, state-operated hospitals, and Department of Corrections facilities, *available at*

<https://www.ilga.gov/Legislation/BillStatus?DocNum=0457&GAID=17&GA=103&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=144205&SessionID=112>; see also *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Apr. 7, 2025) (statement of Ariella Hellman, Director of Government Affairs Agudath Israel of America, New England Office at 1:29:10).

⁶¹ See Access To Equal Educational Opportunity, 603 CMR 26.00 § 26.05 (2012) *available at* <https://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr26.html?section=05>.

⁶² See Dr. John Austin, Deerfield Academy, *Thriving in a World of Pluralistic Contention: A Framework for Schools*, 16-19, *available at* <https://deerfield.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Framework-2024.pdf>.

dedicated to fostering critical thinking skills that enable independent inquiry and respectful dialogue.

19. Schools should have clear policies that assist students observing religious holidays not observed with a day off on the school calendar with making up missed classes or assignments.⁶³
20. Schools should allow and encourage after-school programs and clubs that encourage cross-identity or cross-communal bonding through shared experiences, for example, Jewish Student Unions and similar student organizations. Schools, in consultation with their legal counsel, may be able to support the creation of such student unions without violating the Establishment Clause of the Constitution.⁶⁴
21. Schools should leverage best practices for the US National Youth Sports Strategy to spotlight how activities like sports, fitness, dance, cooking, volunteering, and more can build community solidarity to counter antisemitism and other forms of hate and ensure that such activities are not hostile environments for Jewish students.⁶⁵
22. Schools and districts should implement active bystander training to equip students and staff with the skills to safely intervene in incidents of bias, harassment, or discrimination.
23. In developing and implementing curricula concerning antisemitism, societal bias, and genocide, DESE and school districts should partner with Massachusetts museums, cultural centers, and memorial institutions. Collaboration with Holocaust museums, Jewish heritage centers, and similar institutions can deepen understanding through direct engagement with history, survivor testimony, and civic reflection.⁶⁶ These partnerships would support teachers with trusted resources and reinforce classroom learning with lived experience.

⁶³ In accordance with *Massachusetts General Laws*, c. 151C § 2B

⁶⁴ See, e.g., Emerson College, *Youth Lead* (Sharon, Mass.), available at <https://emerson.edu/social-justice-collaborative/elma-lewis-center/programs-projects/youth-lead>; Mosaic Interfaith Youth Action, <https://mosaicaction.org/our-programs/>; see also *Fifth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 11, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Jodie Gordon at 0:29:35). See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Student Members of Concord-Carlisle High School Jewish Student Union at 3:40:13).

⁶⁵ See Center for the Study of Sports in Society and Northeastern University, *Exploring Diverse Opportunities for Engagement and Empowerment*, available at <https://sportinsociety.sites.northeastern.edu/programs/>.

⁶⁶ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Dr. Nicole Freeman, 3:57:05).

24. The Commission calls upon the Association of Independent Schools in New England to adopt similar recommendations for its schools in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
25. DESE Commissioner Pedro Martinez informed the Commission in August 2025 that DESE is looking into appointing a DESE officer to be responsible for implementing the Commission's K-12 recommendations and working on matters relating to antisemitism. The Commission supports such an appointment, and notes that it is a best practice recognized by California, as reflected in recently-enacted legislation.⁶⁷
26. School districts have significant autonomy with regard to elementary and secondary education, and for the most part, DESE does not have tools or authority to mandate adherence to its recommendations. The Commission is encouraged by the initial reaction of various districts to our K-12 recommendations. If, however, local districts fail to address the need to combat antisemitism and take concrete actions, the Legislature could consider statutory mandates to ensure that schools use inclusive education. For instance, the Commission notes that California's legislature recently adopted, by unanimous vote, various mandates to address antisemitism in K-12 schools, including statutory requirements that teaching, curriculum and professional development materials and instruction not subject any student to unlawful discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, nationality, or sexual orientation.⁶⁸
27. Legislators should continue to work with DESE to determine school districts' adherence to the Genocide Education Act, compliance with which is currently not at acceptable levels statewide based on DESE's survey data.⁶⁹ Legislators should likewise work with DESE to assess the extent to and manner in which the Holocaust is taught in K-12 schools. The Commission agrees with former Acting DESE Commissioner Russell Johnston that Holocaust education is an indispensable component of a public secondary

⁶⁷ See Education Code, §33803.1 (establishing the position of statewide Antisemitism Prevention Coordinator to serve in the new state Office of Civil Rights). The Commission notes that in Massachusetts, DESE could either appoint an official whose duties consist solely of addressing antisemitism, similar to the new California position, or DESE could assign antisemitism prevention responsibilities to a state official whose job also includes addressing other forms of bias and hate, similar to the type of Title VI coordinator appointed at various universities.

⁶⁸ See California A.B. 715, §§ 2, 7, 8, *available at* https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB715.

⁶⁹ See Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *Genocide Education in Massachusetts Middle & High Schools: A Statewide Landscape Analysis & 2023-2024 School Year Grant Outcomes Report* (2024), *available at* <https://www.doe.mass.edu/research/reports/2024/10-genocide-education.pdf>.

school education, and a lack of teaching the Holocaust in required courses may necessitate action by the Legislature.⁷⁰

HIGHER EDUCATION FINDINGS

1. Massachusetts institutions of higher learning are essential to the economic and intellectual vitality of the Commonwealth.⁷¹
2. Antisemitism on Massachusetts college and university campuses has negatively impacted the educational and professional experiences of many Jewish students, faculty, and staff since well before the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel. Antisemitism also poses a threat to the ability of Massachusetts higher education institutions to remain competitive in recruiting and retaining Jewish students, faculty, and leaders.⁷²
3. Antisemitism is a serious, systemic concern within institutions of higher education across the Commonwealth. Jewish students, faculty, and staff report:
 - a. Feeling that their campuses are increasingly hostile environments, where expressing a Jewish identity or connection to Israel, self-identifying as a Zionist, or being presumed to be a Zionist, can lead to social isolation or backlash.⁷³
 - b. Feeling unwelcome or unsafe, with some choosing to conceal their Jewish identity in order to avoid judgment or exclusion.⁷⁴

⁷⁰ See *Tenth Fifth of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Mar. 3, 2025) (statement of Dr. Russell Johnston, Acting Commissioner, DESE, 2:16:57).

⁷¹ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (August 7, 2025) (statement of Dr. Leonard Saxe, 2:14:40); New England Board of Higher Education, *Impact of Higher Education in Massachusetts*, retrieved on at <https://nebhe.org/info/pdf/policy/nec/2025-Massachusetts-Economic-Impact-of-Higher-Education.pdf> (March 2025).

⁷² See *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Dr. Mark Poznansky at 0:49:14); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Dr. Rachel Fish at 3:21:15); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Leonard Saxe at 2:14:43); see also Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 148 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁷³ See Graham Wright, Shahr Hecht, Sasha Volodarsky & Leonard Saxe, *Antisemitism on Campus: Understanding Hostility to Jews and Israel* (Aug. 2024), Cohen Ctr. for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis Univ., <https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/antisemitism/antisemitism-on-campus.html>.

⁷⁴ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 0:49:54); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Eitan Hersh at 0:18:40); Eitan Hersh & Dahlia Lyss, *A Year of Campus Conflict and Growth: An Over-Time Study of the Impact of the Israel-Hamas War on U.S. College Students* (Sept. 3, 2024), Jim Joseph Found.,

- c. Participation in Jewish campus life is often met with negative perceptions. Actual or perceived support for the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, self-identifying as a Zionist, or being presumed to be a Zionist, can carry significant social costs. In some cases, peers have actively sought to marginalize or ostracize Jewish students for holding such views.⁷⁵
 - d. Experiencing antisemitism from both the political left and right, contributing to a climate in which Jewish members of campus communities feel vulnerable and unsupported.⁷⁶
 - e. Being subject to violent physical assaults, antisemitic graffiti, and vandalism including the destruction of mezuzot.⁷⁷
 - f. Harassment and bullying based on their Jewish identity, perceived or actual connection to Israel, or Israeli citizenship.
 - g. Exposure to Holocaust denial, inversion, and jokes, and disturbing verbal abuse, including statements suggesting they should have been sent to “the gas chambers.”⁷⁸
 - h. Being targets of harassment using the term “Zionist” as a derogatory term or replacement slur for “Jew” or “Jewish.”⁷⁹
 - i. Demands to state their views on the Israel-Palestine conflict and to publicly denounce the State of Israel in order to participate in student organizations, clubs, and activities, or within a classroom or department setting.⁸⁰
4. Treating all members of a diverse group as monolithic is a core aspect of prejudice and reinforces harmful stereotypes. The Jewish community, like all religious/ethnic groups, is made up of individuals with diverse experiences, nationalities, and political, religious, and social views, including with regards to the State of Israel.⁸¹ It is wrong, ignorant, and

<https://jimjosephfoundation.org/learning-resources/a-year-of-campus-conflict-and-growth-an-over-time-study-of-the-impact-of-the-israel-hamas-war-on-u-s-college-students>.

⁷⁵ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 0:54:28); Eitan Hersh & Dahlia Lyss, *A Year of Campus Conflict and Growth: An Over-Time Study of the Impact of the Israel-Hamas War on U.S. College Students* (Sept. 3, 2024), Jim Joseph Found., <https://jimjosephfoundation.org/learning-resources/a-year-of-campus-conflict-and-growth-an-over-time-study-of-the-impact-of-the-israel-hamas-war-on-u-s-college-students>.

⁷⁶ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 0:43:20).

⁷⁷ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 0:44:10); See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 0:57:25).

⁷⁸ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 0:57:25).

⁷⁹ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 0:56:50).

⁸⁰ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 57:25).

⁸¹ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 45:41); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on*

may be antisemitic, to call upon Jews to explain the actions of the Israeli government because they are Jewish, demand that Jews share their thoughts on the conflict simply because they are Jewish, or hold Jews collectively responsible for the conduct of the Israeli government.

5. In the months and years following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israelis, Americans and those of other nationalities, many institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth have taken proactive and exemplary steps to address concerns surrounding antisemitism, including those cited in the Recommendations below. While challenges remain, these efforts reflect a growing recognition of the seriousness of antisemitism on campus and the need for sustained institutional responses.⁸²
6. There are institutions in the Commonwealth that maintain robust Jewish Studies departments or offer a wide range of courses that address Jewish history, culture, and antisemitism.⁸³

Combating Antisemitism (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Robert Mayer at 01:38:24) (explaining the experience of Israeli-Americans); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Eliana Nahoumi at 01:46:46) (explaining the experience of Persian-Jewish community in the United States); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Eugene Levin at 01:50:32) (explaining the experience of Jews from the former Soviet Union in the United States); Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 132-33 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁸² See Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht & Leonard Saxe, *Ideology in the Classroom: How Faculty at U.S. Universities Navigate Politics and Pedagogy Amid Federal Pressure Over Viewpoint Diversity and Antisemitism*, Steinhardt Soc. Rsch. Inst., Brandeis Univ. (July 2025), <https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/antisemitism/ideology-classroom.html>; Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht, Sasha Volodarsky & Leonard Saxe, *Antisemitism on Campus: Understanding Hostility to Jews and Israel* (Aug. 2024), Cohen Ctr. for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis Univ., <https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/antisemitism/antisemitism-on-campus.html>; Eitan Hersh & Dahlia Lyss, *A Year of Campus Conflict and Growth: An Over-Time Study of the Impact of the Israel-Hamas War on U.S. College Students* (Sept. 3, 2024), Jim Joseph Found., <https://jimjosephfoundation.org/learning-resources/a-year-of-campus-conflict-and-growth-an-over-time-study-of-the-impact-of-the-israel-hamas-war-on-u-s-college-students>; *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Eitan Hersh at 19:56); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 49:55); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sept. 8, 2025) (statement of Miriam Berkowitz Blue at 2:11:45); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sept. 8, 2025) (statement of Lindsey Gabow at 29:20); Anti-Defamation League, *Antisemitism on Campus*, available at <https://www.adl.org/antisemitism-campus>.

⁸³ See Harvard University, Center for Jewish Studies, *Courses in Jewish Studies*, available at <https://cjs.fas.harvard.edu/academics/courses/>; Boston University, Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies, *Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies*, available at <https://www.bu.edu/jewishstudies/>.

7. Antisemitism on campus causes serious mental health impacts for Jewish and Israeli students, faculty, and staff by fueling anxiety and isolation. Jewish students, faculty, and staff have reported increased levels of stress and depressive symptoms linked to being the target of or witnessing antisemitism.⁸⁴
8. Programs and training for students, faculty, staff, and administrators on combating hate and bias at times do not include antisemitism as a form of bias and, as a consequence, fail to address it as a legitimate issue.⁸⁵ Institutions of higher education, including Brandeis University, Harvard University, Wellesley College, and Simmons College, have taken positive steps to incorporate antisemitism training as part of their broader programming on anti-bias training.⁸⁶
9. Jewish students have raised serious concerns about the lack of clarity in processes for reporting complaints and incidents of bias, as well as inconsistent application of disciplinary measures. Additionally, Jewish students report that antisemitic incidents are

⁸⁴ See Talia Morstead & Anita DeLongis, *Antisemitism on Campus in the Wake of October 7: Examining Stress, Coping and Depressive Symptoms Among Jewish Students*, available at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/smi.3529>; see also Sharon Shapiro, *Psychology Today, Back to School—and Confronting Campus Antisemitism*, (Sept. 5, 2025), available at <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/facilitating-change/202509/back-to-school-and-confronting-campus-antisemitism>.

⁸⁵ See American Jewish Committee, *Educational Institutions Action Items*, available at <https://www.ajc.org/call-to-action/educational-institutions>; Anti-Defamation League, *Nearly Three-Quarters of Jewish Students Experienced or Witnessed Antisemitism on Campus, New Survey Finds* (Nov. 29, 2023), available at <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/nearly-three-quarters-jewish-students-experienced-or-witnessed-antisemitism> (56% of students surveyed by ADL said they had previously completed DEI training, but only 18% of those who had DEI training said that they had completed any training modules specific to anti-Jewish prejudice).

⁸⁶ See *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Oren Jacobson, CEO, Project Shema at 00:38:35); Brandeis University, *Frieze Family Foundation Summer Institute on Antisemitism in Higher Education*, available at <https://www.brandeis.edu/antisemitism/programs/summer-institute-higher-ed/index.html>; Harvard University, *Training for the Harvard community*, available at <https://www.harvard.edu/task-force-on-antisemitism/revising-and-implementing-policies-procedures-and-training/>; Simmons University, *Simmons Hosts Project Shema's Webinar on Contemporary Antisemitism* (Sept. 27, 2024), available at <https://www.simmons.edu/news/simmons-hosts-project-shemas-webinar-contemporary-antisemitism#:~:text=On%20September%2020%2C%20ODEI%20hosted,%2DFounder%20of%20Project%20Shema>); Anti-Defamation League, *ADL Commends 10 Colleges and Universities for Efforts Made to Fight Campus Antisemitism*, available at <https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/adl-commends-10-colleges-and-universities-efforts-made-fight-campus#:~:text=CUNY%20Brooklyn%20College%20has%20strengthened,could%20result%20in%20conduct%20violations>.

not addressed with the same urgency or seriousness as incidents targeting other vulnerable student populations. The concern about potential differences in treatment coupled with perceived indifference from university administrations contributes to a sense among Jewish students that their concerns are marginalized or dismissed.⁸⁷

10. While most Massachusetts colleges and universities have policies governing campus demonstrations, these rules are not always enforced consistently, leading to confusion, safety concerns, and administrative inaction. Protests have, in some cases, disrupted classes, campus operations and classroom instruction, and included speech or conduct perceived by students and faculty as harassing or intimidating. Although many schools have adopted content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions, their effectiveness is undermined where enforcement is uneven.⁸⁸
11. Colleges and universities are required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibits discrimination based on protected classes, including on the basis of race, color, and national origin. Stakeholders suggest the value of having designated staff at each institution responsible for overseeing Title VI compliance.⁸⁹ Recently, some institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth — including Harvard University — have taken steps to address this need by hiring full-time Title VI coordinators or staff with dedicated Title VI compliance responsibilities.⁹⁰
12. Recent cuts to United States Department of Education (USED) staffing make it difficult or impossible for federal officials to promptly and reliably address complaints filed under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 2024, 7 of 12 regional USED Office of Civil Rights (OCR) offices have completely closed, including the Boston office, and additional OCR staff have been laid off since. Meanwhile, OCR received a record 22,687

⁸⁷ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 53:10); Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 127-28 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁸⁸ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 47:39); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 59:29); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Dr. Rachel Fish at 3:08:10).

⁸⁹ See N.Y. Educ. Law § 6436-a (McKinney 2025), available at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/6436-A>; Johanna Alonso, Inside Higher Ed, *Now Hiring: Title VI Coordinators* (July 14, 2025), available at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/diversity/2025/07/14/colleges-hire-title-vi-coordinators-amid-federal-scrutiny>; *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Dr. Leonard Saxe at 2:29:27); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sept. 8, 2025) (statement of Miriam Berkowitz Blue at 2:15:30); Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 137 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁹⁰ See Harvard University, Office of Community Support, Non-Discrimination, Rights and Responsibilities, *Our Staff*, available at <https://csndr.harvard.edu/staff>.

complaints in 2024.⁹¹ The federal government's reduction in capacity to address civil rights abuses places added pressure on state and private actors to address antisemitism and other forms of hate.

13. College and university students have reported being exposed to educational content and teaching practices that have made Jewish/Israeli students feel unwelcome or unsafe, including holding class at a protest encampment or giving extra credit to participate in a pro-Palestinian protest.⁹²
14. Academic freedom and open discourse are essential in higher education. Yet, these fundamental characteristics of a robust higher education system must be harmonized with a commitment to accuracy, context, and inclusion. When educational content or classroom dynamics promote one-sided narratives, erase Jewish history and identity, or create a hostile environment for Jewish people, it undermines both academic integrity and student safety.⁹³ Confusion and disagreement regarding the nature and definition of antisemitism has resulted in efforts by some to oppose or cancel academic dialogue on campuses regarding complex issues relating to antisemitism itself and Middle Eastern politics. Some programs sponsored on campuses have featured content that is fairly characterized as biased, offensive, and in some cases antisemitic. However, some programs have addressed these topics seeking open dialogue and good-faith efforts to foster understanding, but have unfairly been labeled as antisemitic.
15. Academic boycotts that target individuals on the basis of race, religion, or national origin may be inconsistent with federal and state anti-discrimination laws.⁹⁴ Additionally, academic boycotts targeting individuals or institutions on the basis of race, religion, or national origin violate foundational principles of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and the free exchange of ideas.⁹⁵ Recently, the University of Massachusetts-

⁹¹ See Center for American Progress, *Department of Education Staff Cuts Will Harm America's Children and Schools*, (Mar. 14, 2025) available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/department-of-education-staff-cuts-will-harm-americas-children-and-schools/>.

⁹² *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 49:32); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Dr. Rachel Fish at 3:26:34); Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 125-27 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁹³ Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 125-27 (Apr. 29, 2025); see *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Dr. Rachel Fish at 3:18:10).

⁹⁴ See 42 U.S.C. § 2000d (2018); Mass. Gen. Laws c. 151C § 2(d) (2023).

⁹⁵ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Dr. Rachel Fish at 3:10:34).

Amherst responded swiftly to an event that planned to exclude anyone associated with “Israeli institutions,” reaffirming its commitment to nondiscrimination and the protection of academic freedom by requiring organizers to abandon their planned boycott conditions.⁹⁶

16. Jewish students and faculty have experienced a lack of awareness and sensitivity to the Jewish calendar and religious holidays, both from university administrators and student organizations. This lack of recognition can result in scheduling conflicts for important academic activities, exams, and campus events, with limited or unclear accommodations for religious observance.⁹⁷
17. Many institutions in the Commonwealth now offer guidance on addressing and responding to online harassment,⁹⁸ in recognition of the fact that antisemitism experienced by Jewish students on college and university campuses occurs both in physical and digital spaces.⁹⁹ Social media platforms have become a significant vehicle for the spread of antisemitism and are frequently used to target, harass, and intimidate Jewish students. Some colleges and universities lack clear, enforceable policies that address discriminatory or harassing behavior occurring on social media, whether the conduct originates on- or off-campus.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁶ See Brandeis Center, *Following Brandeis Center Demand Letter, UMass Amherst To Prevent Conference From Boycotting Israelis*, available at <https://brandeiscenter.com/following-brandeis-center-demand-letter-umass-amherst-to-prevent-conference-from-boycotting-israelis/>; *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Justice David Lowy at 32:40).

⁹⁷ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 53:54); see also Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 129 (Apr. 29, 2025).

⁹⁸ See Boston University, *Guide to Managing Online Harassment*, available at <https://www.bu.edu/research/forms-policies/guide-to-managing-online-harassment-for-the-boston-university-research-community/>; Harvard, Office of the President, *Guidance on Addressing Online Harassment*, (Sept. 5, 2024), available at <https://www.harvard.edu/president/news/2024/guidance-on-addressing-online-harassment/>; University of Massachusetts Amherst, Equal Opportunity & Access Office, *Managing Online and Social Media Harassment*, available at <https://www.umass.edu/equalopportunity/managing-online-and-social-media-harassment>.

⁹⁹ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 44:45 to 49:00); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 44:45 to 49:00); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sept. 8, 2025) (statement of Miriam Berkowitz Blue at 2:11:30).

¹⁰⁰ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Skye Landau at 53:54); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Miriam Berkowitz Blue at 2:17:30).

18. Punitive measures taken by the federal government against Massachusetts higher education institutions are highly divisive and threaten to undermine the earnest efforts that many Massachusetts college and university leaders are making to deal with the issue of antisemitism in good faith. Specifically:
- a. The federal government's threats and actions to withhold or cut billions of dollars of funding for research at Massachusetts higher education institutions, much of which is scientific research, including but not limited to cancer research, climate science, and other critical areas of academic inquiry, purportedly to address antisemitism on college campuses, are ineffective methods of addressing antisemitism. Cutting research funding risks stifling innovation, scientific discovery, and intellectual freedom. Such funding cuts, made in the name of tackling antisemitism, carry direct negative consequences for students — including Jewish students — by limiting research opportunities, reducing access to academic resources, and weakening the overall educational environment that supports their growth and success.¹⁰¹
 - b. By singling out the need for additional antisemitism efforts while eliminating or threatening to eliminate anti-hate and anti-bias programs for other protected classes, the federal government risks the further alienation of Jews and fuels resentment against Jews by non-Jews.
 - c. The federal government's claims of antisemitism as justification to arrest and detain any student solely due to their lawful exercise of free speech undermines the work of institutions to effectively address antisemitism for the reasons described throughout this paragraph.

HIGHER EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Colleges and universities should have a clear, transparent, and publicly available protocol for how a community member can report any incident of hate, bias, harassment, or discrimination to the school administration. The protocol should:
 - a. include supportive measures for affected parties;
 - b. identify how to file a report or a formal complaint;
 - c. explain the institution's policy for responding to reports/complaints, including how and when such incidents are reported to law enforcement, the community and the potential victims);
 - d. identify how to access campus resources that support affected parties;

¹⁰¹ See *Eighth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of ret. Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, Nexus Project Board Member at 19:52); *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 8, 2025) (statement of Leonard Saxe at 2:20:30); Graham Wright, Shahar Hecht & Leonard Saxe, *Ideology in the Classroom: How Faculty at U.S. Universities Navigate Politics and Pedagogy Amid Federal Pressure Over Viewpoint Diversity and Antisemitism*, Steinhardt Soc. Rsch. Inst., Brandeis Univ. (July 2025), 31, available at <https://www.brandeis.edu/cmjs/antisemitism/ideology-classroom.html>.

- e. include a mechanism to acknowledge to the complainant receipt of a complaint and, where appropriate, establish a line of communication between the institution and the complainant;
 - f. be reviewed periodically for manners to improve the protocol;
 - g. demonstrate how the institution will collect data as to the number, type, and outcomes of incident reports, which data should be made publicly available in a manner that protects privacy.
2. Several Massachusetts institutions of higher education, including Tufts University, University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Wheaton College, have set strong examples of bias reporting protocols by establishing clear, accessible, and user-friendly mechanisms for reporting bias-related or hate-based incidents.¹⁰² The offices that oversee and collaborate to address these complaints should take measures to protect all students, faculty, and others from harassment, prevent harassment from occurring, and vigilantly and promptly respond to and investigate reports and incidents of harassment and other bias-motivated violations of law, school rules, and school codes of conduct.
 3. College and university administrations should coordinate closely with local and state law enforcement agencies as well as campus police to assess risks, share intelligence, cooperate in relevant criminal investigations, and develop responsive security strategies to protect vulnerable populations of students, including but not limited to Jewish students. As it concerns Jewish students in particular, institutions should engage directly with Jewish student groups, campus Hillel organizations, employee resource groups (ERGs) or other staff/faculty groups, and local Jewish community organizations to identify specific safety concerns, including threats of antisemitic harassment, violence, and vandalism/destruction.¹⁰³ Hillel leaders have praised higher education administrators for their responsiveness and proactive efforts in addressing antisemitism and ensuring the safety and well-being of Jewish students, recognizing these partnerships as essential to maintaining inclusive and secure campus environments.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰² See Tufts University, *Incident Reporting Process*, available at <https://www.tufts.edu/israel-hamas-war/incident-reporting-process>; University of Massachusetts Amherst, Office of Equity and Inclusion, *Incident Report Form*, available at, <https://www.umass.edu/diversity/incident-report-form>; Wheaton College, *Bias Incident Policy & Reporting*, available at <https://wheatoncollege.edu/about-wheaton-college/honor-code/bias-incident-policy-reporting/>.

¹⁰³ For an example of an initiative to increase security on college campuses for Jewish students, see Hillel International, *Operation SecureOurCampuses*, (Aug. 23, 2024) available at, <https://www.hillel.org/operation-secureourcampuses-release/>.

¹⁰⁴ See *Tenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Aug. 7, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Aaron Fine at 49:55); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sept. 8, 2025) (statement of Miriam Berkowitz Blue at 2:11:45).

4. Colleges and universities should review, clarify, and widely disseminate their policies and codes of conduct to explicitly prohibit discrimination and harassment based on all protected identities, including but not limited to religion, race, ancestry, national origin, or ethnicity. These policies must clearly state that they apply in a content-neutral manner to all members of the campus community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Additionally, all students, faculty, and staff should be required to acknowledge and affirm their understanding of these anti-discrimination policies as a condition of enrollment or employment. In the years following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israelis, Americans and those of other nationalities, institutions of higher education such as the University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, Brandeis University, and others have done an exemplary job of clarifying and communicating these policies.¹⁰⁵
5. Colleges and universities should ensure that their police and security departments have:
 - a. appropriate training on antisemitism, hate and bias, and trauma-informed investigations;
 - b. proper instruction to treat matters involving Jewish community members with the same seriousness as they would handle matters involving members of other protected groups; and
 - c. training to conduct security assessments of physical spaces on campus.
6. College and university health services and counseling programs should:
 - a. work to deepen their understanding of the effects of antisemitism on the mental health of Jewish and Israeli young adults;
 - b. apply trauma-informed interventions to incidents of antisemitism; and
 - c. expand access to culturally competent mental health resources for Jewish and Israeli students targeted by antisemitic harassment or bullying.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ See University of Massachusetts, Office of the President, *University Policies, Guidelines, State & Federal Laws*, <https://www.umassp.edu/hr/employee-handbook/2-university-policies-guidelines-state-federal-laws>; Harvard University, *Non-Discrimination, Anti-Bullying, and Other Professional Conduct Policies*, available at <https://www.fas.harvard.edu/non-discrimination-anti-bullying-and-other-professional-conduct-policies>; Brandeis University, Department of Student Rights and Community Standards, *Rights and Responsibilities, Section 3. Harassment, Discrimination, Sexual Violence*, available at <https://www.brandeis.edu/student-rights-community-standards/rights-responsibilities/current/section-3.html>.

¹⁰⁶ See, e.g., Miri Bar-Halpern and Jaclyn Wolfman, *Traumatic Invalidation in the Jewish Community after October 7*, Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment; Association of Jewish Psychologists Webinar, *Exploring the Psychological Toll of Antisemitism on Mental Health* (Feb. 27, 2024), available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7clRtE_eBmk; Association of Jewish Psychologists, *Resources Menu and Downloadable Content*, available at <https://associationofjewishpsychologists.com/resources/#links>; *Sixth Hearing of the Special*

7. Colleges and universities should institute mandatory anti-bias education for all faculty, administrators, students, and trustees that specifically includes antisemitism education and training. Such training should include instruction on how incidents can be reported. In addition to such core training, colleges and universities should provide in-depth antisemitism and Title VI/VII trainings and resources for administrators and for select faculty and staff – including teaching assistants – who are more likely to engage with members of the campus community on issues relating to antisemitism, and those who may be in charge of responding to and investigating incidents of antisemitism. Colleges and universities should also implement active bystander training to equip students and staff with the skills to safely intervene in incidents of bias, harassment, or discrimination. Many institutions of higher learning, including Brandeis University, Harvard University, Tufts University, Wellesley College, and Simmons College, have begun to incorporate antisemitism training as part of their broader programming on anti-bias training.¹⁰⁷
8. Colleges and universities should explore and consider expanding partnerships with local museums, cultural centers, and memorial institutions to integrate experiential learning opportunities into higher education programming on antisemitism, societal bias, and civic responsibility. Such partnerships can include visits, academic collaborations, or shared initiatives that promote dialogue across differences and deepen understanding through lived experience.
9. The Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (“DHE”) should:
 - a. Encourage all public and private colleges and universities to conduct campus climate surveys on student belonging which also include questions related to hate and bias incidents experienced by students. These surveys should collect and analyze responses across multiple demographic groups representing all protected classes. Institutions should publish the findings of their surveys on their websites in a manner that maintains confidentiality. The DHE should develop a statewide

Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism (Apr. 7, 2025) (statement of Ariella Hellman, Director of Government Affairs at Agudath Israel of America at 1:28:45).

¹⁰⁷ For examples of anti-bias training specifically on antisemitism, see Brandeis University, *Frieze Family Foundation Summer Institute on Antisemitism in Higher Education*, available at, <https://www.brandeis.edu/antisemitism/programs/summer-institute-higher-ed/index.html>; Harvard University, *Training for the Harvard community*, available at, <https://www.harvard.edu/task-force-on-antisemitism/revising-and-implementing-policies-procedures-and-training/>; Simmons University, *Simmons Hosts Project Shema’s Webinar on Contemporary Antisemitism* (Sept. 27, 2024), available at [https://www.simmons.edu/news/simmons-hosts-project-shemas-webinar-contemporary-antisemitism#:~:text=On%20September%2020%2C%20ODEI%20hosted,%2DFounder%20of%20Project%20Shema\).](https://www.simmons.edu/news/simmons-hosts-project-shemas-webinar-contemporary-antisemitism#:~:text=On%20September%2020%2C%20ODEI%20hosted,%2DFounder%20of%20Project%20Shema).)

reporting program, which identifies and links to the websites of those institutions conducting such climate surveys. Many campuses currently conduct surveys related to students' sense of belonging on campus, including University of Massachusetts, Harvard University, Amherst College, Bridgewater State University, Tufts University, and MIT.¹⁰⁸ These surveys should be broadened to include disaggregated data categories for a greater number of student demographic groups, including Jewish students. Additionally, DHE should disseminate and share information about potential survey models, instruments, and vendors.

- b. Issue specific guidance, in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office, for Massachusetts public colleges and universities on creating safe and supportive campus environments with respect to protected categories under state and federal law, including materials specific to creating safe and supportive environments for Jewish students, staff, and faculty. Such guidance should make clear that federal and state antidiscrimination law and school non-discrimination and harassment policies cover Jewish and Israeli identity.
 - c. Coordinate with the Attorney General's Office to provide public colleges and universities with clear guidance around the First Amendment including the legality and necessity of implementing and consistently enforcing content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions.
 - d. Provide guidance for all public colleges and universities regarding protocols and best practices, including clear protection for those who report incidents of hate and bias and safeguards against retaliation.¹⁰⁹
 - e. Continue to lead and work with other relevant state agencies to provide trainings and convening opportunities on matters related to campus safety, including identifying, preventing, and responding to incidents of campus hate and bias.
10. Colleges and universities should adopt and distribute clear rules governing campus demonstrations and protests. These rules should include clear instruction on content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions on speech and expression, requirements for registering or obtaining permits to conduct organized events. In recent years, institutions

¹⁰⁸ For an example of a model survey on antisemitism, see *Anti-Defamation League, ADL-Gratz Model Campus Climate Survey* (Nov. 13, 2024), available at <https://notoleranceforantisemitism.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/adl-gratz-model-campus-climate-survey>.

¹⁰⁹ See Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, *Resources for Addressing Hate and Protecting Free Speech on Higher Education Campuses*, available at <https://www.mass.edu/strategic/addressinghatecrimesresources.asp>.

such as MIT, Harvard Business School, and Boston University have set strong examples by making their policies clear, easily accessible, and publicly available.¹¹⁰

11. Colleges and universities in the Commonwealth should appoint or designate a Title VI Coordinator and/or establish a Title VI office responsible for overseeing the institution's compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and providing university-wide training on Title VI and other federal civil rights protections.¹¹¹ Such efforts already exist on numerous Massachusetts campuses, including Harvard University, Tufts University, and MIT.
12. Consistent with M.G.L. c. 151C § 2B, colleges and universities should have clear policies that assist students observing religious holidays on school days with making up missed classes or assignments. Institutions should also:
 - a. take measures to ensure reasonable accommodation for religious dietary and residential needs;
 - b. encourage registered student organizations to consider the religious observance needs of their members when planning events or activities, and to make reasonable accommodations to the best of their ability;¹¹²

¹¹⁰ For good models of such campus policies, Harvard Business School, *Demonstration Policy* (available at <https://www.hbs.edu/about/campus-and-culture/policies/demonstration-policy>); MIT, *Rules for Campus Protests and Demonstrations*, available at <https://resources.mit.edu/protest-demonstration-rules/>; Boston University, *Boston University Events and Demonstrations Policy* (Dec. 10, 2024), available at, <https://www.bu.edu/policies/boston-university-events-and-demonstrations-policy/#Time,%20Place>.

¹¹¹ See N.Y. Educ. Law § 6436-a (McKinney 2025), available at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/EDN/6436-A>; Columbia Spectator, *Barnard to Hire Title VI Coordinator, Prohibit Negotiations with Protest Groups, Offer Free Classes at JTS as Part of Antisemitism Lawsuit Settlement* (July 7, 2025), available at <https://www.columbiaspectator.com/news/2025/07/07/barnard-to-hire-title-vi-coordinator-prohibit-negotiations-with-protest-groups-offer-free-classes-at-jts-as-part-of-antisemitism-lawsuit-settlement/>; NYU Adopts JCRC-NY's Call for Creation of Title VI Coordinator to Combat Hate, Including Antisemitism (July 11, 2024), available at <https://www.jcrcny.org/news-post/nyu-adopts-jcrc-nys-call-for-creation-of-title-vi-coordinator-to-combat-hate-including-antisemitism/>; Tufts Now, *Tufts Launched University-Wide Training Series on Civil Rights Protections* (Sept. 10, 2025) available at <https://now.tufts.edu/2025/09/10/tufts-launches-university-wide-training-series-civil-rights-protections>.

¹¹² See Boston University, *Religious Holidays & University Policy*, available at <https://www.bu.edu/chapel/students/religious-holidays-policies/>; University of Massachusetts Amherst, *Policies on Religious observance or Practice*, available at <https://www.umass.edu/student-life/religious-spiritual-life/policies-observance-practice>.

- c. encourage faculty members to be mindful of religious holidays when scheduling assignment deadlines or examinations.
13. Subject to each institution’s internal governance processes and consistent with each institution’s mission, colleges and universities should consider offering a curriculum that addresses antisemitism, extremism, and antisemitic myths/tropes¹¹³ as part of a broader focus on digital literacy, identity-based bias, pluralism and civic dialogue, civics, and the critical evaluation of misinformation and disinformation.¹¹⁴
14. Colleges and universities should develop, broadly disseminate, and enforce clear policies to address discriminatory or harassing behavior targeting students, faculty, or staff on social media, including antisemitic content. These policies should make clear:
- a. that online harassment, cyberbullying, or intimidation violates codes of conduct and policies against harassment and bullying;
 - b. that online harassment, cyberbullying, or intimidation based on an individual’s actual or perceived race, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, national origin, gender or sexual orientation violate codes of conduct and policies on discrimination;
 - c. that students, faculty, staff, or administrators found responsible for online harassment, cyberbullying, or intimidation can be subject to the institution’s disciplinary process and, if the behavior is criminal, referred to law enforcement;
 - d. how members of the campus community can report and document instances of online harassment, cyberbullying, or intimidation;
 - e. how members of the campus community can take steps to protect themselves from online harassment.¹¹⁵

¹¹³ For examples of common antisemitic myths/tropes, see Facing History & Ourselves, “*Antisemitic Tropes*” (Nov. 3, 2022), available at https://www.facinghistory.org/sites/default/files/202211/Handout_%20Antisemitic%20Tropes.pdf; American Jewish Committee, *Translate Hate Glossary*, available at <https://www.ajc.org/translatehateglossary>.

¹¹⁴ For examples of resources addressing antisemitic myths/tropes in online spaces, see Facing History and Ourselves, *Confronting Online Antisemitism*, available at <https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/confronting-online-antisemitism>; ADL, *Antisemitism Uncovered*, available at <https://antisemitism.adl.org/>; see also *Third Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Jan. 23, 2025) (statement of Matt Williams, VP ADL’s Center for Antisemitism Research at 0:29:05); *Eighth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of ret. Ambassador Alan D. Solomont, Nexus Project Board Member at 1:41:45);

¹¹⁵ Boston University, *Guide to Managing Online Harassment*, available at <https://www.bu.edu/research/forms-policies/guide-to-managing-online-harassment-for-the-boston-university-research-community/>; Harvard, Office of the President, *Guidance on Addressing Online Harassment*, (Sep. 5, 2024), available at <https://www.harvard.edu/president/news/2024/guidance-on-addressing-online-harassment/>;

15. Academic institutions and affiliated organizations should refrain from participating in discriminatory academic boycotts that target individuals or institutions based on race, religion, national origin, or ancestry. Such boycotts may also be inconsistent with federal and state anti-discrimination laws and undermine the core principles of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and the free exchange of ideas. Institutions should adopt policies that uphold these principles and promote inclusive, non-discriminatory academic engagement. When events or organizations call for discriminatory academic boycotts by the institution or its affiliated organizations, institutions should respond promptly and unequivocally by reaffirming that such actions may be inconsistent with state and federal antidiscrimination laws and run counter to the values of academic freedom and institutional integrity. University of Massachusetts Amherst recently demonstrated such leadership by swiftly disallowing a group's discriminatory policy, reaffirming its commitment to inclusion and the protection of academic values.¹¹⁶
16. Colleges and universities should create and maintain safe, inclusive venues and forums that encourage open dialogue and discussion on diverse and often sensitive topics, including but not limited to issues related to antisemitism, religious identity, and international conflicts. This can be achieved through the addition of relevant academic courses, increased programming such as campus events and facilitated discussions, the establishment of dedicated departments designed to organize programming, the development of resources to promote civic discourse, and the invitation of a diverse range of visiting speakers who can offer multiple perspectives in a respectful and educational environment.¹¹⁷
17. Colleges and universities should encourage collaboration between institutions of higher education and museums, memorials, and cultural centers to foster experiential learning opportunities on antisemitism, societal bias, and genocide prevention. These

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Equal Opportunity & Access Office, *Managing Online and Social Media Harassment*, available at <https://www.umass.edu/equalopportunity/managing-online-and-social-media-harassment>.

¹¹⁶ See Brandeis Center, *Following Brandeis Center Demand Letter, UMass Amherst To Prevent Conference From Boycotting Israelis*, available at <https://brandeiscenter.com/following-brandeis-center-demand-letter-umass-amherst-to-prevent-conference-from-boycotting-israelis/>.

¹¹⁷ For current and past initiatives encouraging more open discussion and dialogue on college campuses, see Tufts University, *Tufts Talks Openly*, available at, <https://provost.tufts.edu/tufts-talks-openly/>; Northeastern University, *Dialogue & Action in an Age of Divides: A Series Organized by Nine Massachusetts Universities*, available at <https://dialogueandaction.northeastern.edu/>; Tufts Hillel, *Critical Conversations: An Israel Education Series*, available at <https://tuftshillel.org/series/critical-conversations-an-israel-education-series/>.

collaborations may include joint research, educator training, exhibitions, and student engagement initiatives that promote empathy, dialogue and democratic values. Such partnerships strengthen the moral and civil fabric of higher education and align with Massachusetts' commitment to education that develops both intellect and conscience.

Public Safety and Law Enforcement Findings

1. Antisemitic hate crimes in Massachusetts are rising — by over 20% in 2024 alone — at the same time as overall violent crime is decreasing in the Commonwealth. Jewish people were the most targeted victims of hate crimes in 2024, which also marked the first year on record in which Massachusetts reported more hate-crime incidents targeting Jewish people than targeting any other group. Further, 84.4% of religious bias hate crimes in the Commonwealth were committed against Jews, who make up approximately 5% of the population.¹¹⁸
2. A portion of antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts constitute criminal violations and of those, some meet the statutory definition of a hate crime, meaning they are motivated by bigotry and bias against a person's or group's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability. There is a lack of understanding about the differences among antisemitic incidents that are not crimes, those that are, and those crimes that meet the statutory definition of a hate crime in Massachusetts. That lack of understanding impacts expectations of what law enforcement can do in response to each particular category of incident.

¹¹⁸ See FBI Crime Data Explorer, available at <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime>; United State Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation, *UCR Summary of Reported Crimes in the Nation, 2024* (August 5, 2025), available at <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-releases-2024-reported-crimes-in-the-nation-statistics>; Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety, *Hate Crime 2024 Massachusetts*, available at https://ma.beyond2020.com/ma_tops/report/hate-crime_1/massachusetts/2024; Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, *Massachusetts Crime Rates Continue Downward Trend Ahead of Summer Season; Preliminary 2024 Data Shows Fewer Violent and Property Crimes Statewide* (June 6, 2024), available at <https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-crime-rates-continue-downward-trend-ahead-of-summer-season-preliminary-2024-data-shows-fewer-violent-and-property-crimes-statewide>; The Boston Globe, *Violent Crime Went Down Last Year in Mass., but Anti-Jewish Hate Crimes Spiked, Officials Say* (July 1, 2025), available at <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/07/01/metro/violent-crime-down-mass-hate-crime-anti-jewish-incidents-up/>. While it is not possible to disaggregate changes in reporting behavior from the reported statistics themselves, the Special Commission does not believe that the increase in reported incidents is due to a change in reporting behavior rather than an actual increase in incident occurrence.

3. The Commission commends the creation and work of the Massachusetts State Police Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART), established under the Healey-Driscoll Administration to confront and deter hate crimes, support victims, and strengthen community resiliency across the Commonwealth. The HART unit has developed resources and communication channels to educate both law enforcement and impacted communities on how to recognize and respond to hate crimes and incidents of hate. Additionally, the HART unit's recently created Hate Crime Reporting Portal, launched in October, will serve as a valuable tool to enhance data collection and improve the Commonwealth's overall response to hate-based activity.¹¹⁹
4. Antisemitic hate crimes and incidents take various forms and manifest in a variety of ways including vandalism/destruction of property, intimidation, assaults, larceny, burglary, and extortion.¹²⁰
5. Hate crimes negatively impact not only the victim and the specific community being targeted, but harm the broader community and the Commonwealth as a whole.¹²¹
6. Antisemitic hate crimes and incidents in Massachusetts are likely to be underreported. Accurate reporting is essential to ensure proper allocation of resources for the

¹¹⁹ See Governor Maura Healey and Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll, *Healey-Driscoll Administration Launches New Statewide Initiatives to Combat and Prevent Hate Crimes*, available at <https://www.mass.gov/news/healey-driscoll-administration-launches-new-statewide-initiatives-to-combat-and-prevent-hate-crimes>; *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel at 1:24:23).

¹²⁰ Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, *2023 Massachusetts Hate Crime Report* (2023), available at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/2023-massachusetts-hate-crime-report-0/download>; Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, *Massachusetts Crime Rates Continue Downward Trend Ahead of Summer Season; Preliminary 2024 Data Shows Fewer Violent and Property Crimes Statewide* (June 6, 2024), available at <https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-crime-rates-continue-downward-trend-ahead-of-summer-season-preliminary-2024-data-shows-fewer-violent-and-property-crimes-statewide>

¹²¹ See U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, 2, (Oct. 2023), available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/02/the-u-s-national-strategy-to-counter-antisemitism-key-actions-by-pillar-2/>; James Morsch, *The Problem of Motive in Hate Crimes: The Argument against Presumptions of Racial Motivation*, 82 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 659, 662 (1991), available at <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc/vol82/iss3/6/>; Madison F. Bader & Christina Miller, *Addressing Hate Crimes: Massachusetts Can Do Better*, 66 B. Bar J., available at <https://bostonbar.org/journal/addressing-hate-crimes-massachusetts-can-do-better/>.

investigation and prosecution of hate crimes as well as for providing support for victims and impacted communities.¹²²

7. Under G.L. c. 22C § 33, law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth are not required to report hate crimes to a central data repository, which limits the state's ability to accurately track, analyze, and respond to incidents of bias-motivated violence.¹²³
8. Victims of hate crimes may not report hate crimes because they may not know the conduct they suffered is legally recognized in Massachusetts as a hate crime. Additionally, individuals and communities which are frequently the target of hate-based incidents or hate crimes may normalize the conduct, see the conduct as not serious enough to report, or be fearful of reporting to law enforcement.¹²⁴
9. Distrust between law enforcement and communities contributes to the underreporting of hate crimes and incidents. Building and maintaining trust between law enforcement and communities which are frequently the targets hate crimes is crucial in combating hate crimes.¹²⁵
10. When civilians fail to identify an incident as motivated by hate, officers may discover a hateful motive by asking tailored questions. Without specialized training for law

¹²² See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Senator John Velis at 1:53:50); Tien Nguyen, *Why are hate crime so hard to convict in court?*, The Center for Public Integrity (May 9, 2024), available at <https://publicintegrity.org/inequality-poverty-opportunity/addressing-anti-asian-hate/why-are-hate-crimes-so-hard-to-convict-in-court/>; see Madison F. Bader & Christina Miller, *Addressing Hate Crimes: Massachusetts Can Do Better*, 66 B. Bar J., available at <https://bostonbar.org/journal/addressing-hate-crimes-massachusetts-can-do-better/>.

¹²³ See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Assistant District Attorney David O'Sullivan at 0:49:14); See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel at 1:48:40). See also M.G.L. c. 22C § 33.

¹²⁴ See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel at 1:28:08); see FBI Boston, *FBI Boston Launches Public Awareness Campaign to Encourage the Public to Report Hate Crimes* (Oct. 12, 2021), available at <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field-offices/boston/news/press-releases/fbi-boston-launches-public-awareness-campaign-to-encourage-the-public-to-report-hate-crimes>.

¹²⁵ See American Jewish Committee, *Law Enforcement Action Items*, available at <https://www.ajc.org/call-to-action/law-enforcement>. AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2024 Report found that 65% of American Jews believed that law enforcement was effective in responding to their security needs, down from 81% in 2019. See also *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel at 1:28:08)

enforcement personnel on recognizing the legal elements of hate crimes, law enforcement may not properly recognize or categorize an incident as a hate crime.¹²⁶

11. The rise of online harassment and coordinated digital intimidation has created significant new threats to personal and public safety and privacy. Antisemitic hate crimes often originate online, where many extremist ideologies take root and spread. Digital platforms are frequently used to disseminate antisemitic conspiracy theories, and to support and encourage violence against Jewish communities. Doxxing, the deliberate publication or dissemination of an individual's personal or identifying information, such as home addresses, phone numbers, employment details or family information, without consent and with intent to harass, threaten or incite others to cause harm, has become a dangerous tool for silencing voices, spreading fear and enabling offline violence. Massachusetts has experienced serious, intimidating incidents involving such harassment, including the infamous Mapping Project in 2022, which identified names and addresses of many Jewish organizations and individuals, falsely claimed that they are responsible for the "colonization of Palestine," and called for these Jewish individuals and organizations to be "dismantled" and "disrupted."¹²⁷
12. G.L. c. 265 § 39 requires the secretary of Executive Office of Public Safety to design a diversity awareness program in consultation with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, to be approved by the Chief Justice of the Trial Court. Every individual convicted of assault or battery for purpose of intimidation under M.G.L. c. 265 § 39 is required to participate in the program, however, individuals whose cases are disposed via a continuance without a finding (CWOFF) are not required to participate. No such program has ever been established or implemented.¹²⁸

¹²⁶ See Madison F. Bader & Christina Miller, *Addressing Hate Crimes: Massachusetts Can Do Better*, 66 B. Bar J., available at <https://bostonbar.org/journal/addressing-hate-crimes-massachusetts-can-do-better/>; *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel at 1:39:06); *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of ADA David O'Sullivan at 1:14:05).

¹²⁷ See U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism at 37, available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>; *Eighth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Adam Katz, President, Blue Square Alliance Against Hate at 2:19:58); National Association of Attorneys General, *The Escalating Threats of Doxxing and Swatting: An Analysis of Recent Developments and Legal Responses*, (Aug. 12, 2025), available at, <https://www.naag.org/attorney-general-journal/the-escalating-threats-of-doxxing-and-swatting-an-analysis-of-recent-developments-and-legal-responses/>; Jewish Community Relations Council, *Community Response to BDS Supported Mapping Project* (June 8, 2022), available at <https://jcrcboston.org/community-response-to-bds-supported-mapping-project/>.

¹²⁸ See G.L. c. 265 § 39; *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:19:20); Madison F. Bader & Christina Miller, *Addressing Hate Crimes: Massachusetts Can Do Better*, 66 B. Bar J., available

13. In the absence of overwhelming evidence, proving motive in hate crime cases is extremely difficult. This is especially true in “mixed-motive” cases, where a perpetrator may have acted based on a combination of motives, such as personal conflict or opportunity, in addition to bias and hate.¹²⁹
14. Restorative justice can be a powerful tool for addressing hate crimes as part of a case sentencing or resolution, as well as antisemitic incidents that are not criminal. Restorative justice approaches have the potential to increase satisfaction with the prosecution outcome among victims and affected communities, while also reducing recidivism rates among hate crime offenders.¹³⁰ Restorative justice can also be effective in school settings, where incidents of bias or discrimination may not rise to the level of a crime but still cause harm and require meaningful resolution.¹³¹
15. Efforts to strengthen the Commonwealth’s hate crime statutes will benefit not only the Jewish community, but all communities disproportionately impacted by hate crimes.
16. Recent revisions by the Department of Homeland Security to the FY 2025 Standard Terms and Conditions for grant recipients—requiring coordination and cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials and prohibiting recipients from

at <https://bostonbar.org/journal/addressing-hate-crimes-massachusetts-can-do-better/>; see *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of District Attorney Marian Ryan at 1:09:51).

¹²⁹ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:18:10); Madison F. Bader & Christina Miller, *Addressing Hate Crimes: Massachusetts Can Do Better*, 66 B. Bar J., available at <https://bostonbar.org/journal/addressing-hate-crimes-massachusetts-can-do-better/>

¹³⁰ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of District Attorney Marian Ryan at 1:05:09). According to DA Ryan, when restorative justice is used, victims are significantly more likely to be satisfied with the prosecution outcome, and offenders are less likely to reoffend. See also *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:18:52); Gerald FitzGerald, Aspen Institute, *Restorative Justice as a Response to the Harms of Hate*, (Nov. 2023), available at <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Restorative-Justice-Convening-Report.pdf>; Parents for Peace, *Services*, available at <https://www.parents4peace.org/services>.

¹³¹ See *Eleventh Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Sep. 8, 2025) (statement of Professor Hilary Lustick at 1:06:39); *Thirteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of District Attorney Marian Ryan at 1:06:08); *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director, Parents for Peace at 0:24:10); *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Arno Michaelis, Exit Peer Specialist, Parents for Peace at 0:27:50).

operating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs— pose a significant risk to the security of places of worship and the safety of their attendees.¹³²

17. Non-governmental and non-profit organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) have made important contributions to identifying extremist and antisemitic groups, threats and activities. These organizations contribute by tracking incidents and trends motivated by hate, exposing hate groups and their tactics, providing training and resources to law enforcement, and conducting outreach to communities frequently targeted by hate groups. The recent decision by the FBI to cut ties with both the ADL and SPLC may hamper the ability of law enforcement to effectively identify, track, prevent, and respond to hate-fueled threats and incidents, including those targeting the Jewish community. Weakening cooperation between government agencies and civil society organizations risks leaving communities more vulnerable to extremist threats and undermines public trust in efforts to combat hate.¹³³
18. The Massachusetts Victim Bill of Rights (G.L. c. 258B) applies primarily to individual victims and does not require courts to accept community impact statements in hate crime cases, though courts may consider such statements at their discretion under G.L. c. 279 § 4B.¹³⁴
19. The Commission affirms the value and impact of the Commonwealth Non-Profit Security Grants program, which supplements federal Homeland Security grants and provides funding to vulnerable non-profits including places of worship and community centers in

¹³² See Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General, *AG Campbell Releases Statement After Court Finds Trump Administration's Threats To Withhold FEMA Funding Unconstitutional*, (Sep. 24, 2025), available at <https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-campbell-releases-statement-after-court-finds-trump-administrations-threats-to-withhold-fema-funding-unconstitutional>; U.S. Department of Homeland Security, *FY 2025 DHS Terms and Conditions, Version 3 Dated April 18, 2025*, available at <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-standard-terms-and-conditions>; *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Jeremy Yamin at 2:17:10); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Braham David at 1:49:39).

¹³³ See Eric Tucker, Associated Press, *FBI cuts ties with Southern Poverty Law Center, Anti-Defamation League after conservative complaints*, (Oct. 3, 2025), available at <https://apnews.com/article/fbi-antisemitism-patel-comey-kirk-f997bd60b92a07023c00cfbf6c4ed7e6>; Jay Deitcher, eJewishPhilanthropy, *FBI cutting ties with ADL puts Jewish community at greater risk, experts say*, (Oct. 6, 2025), available at <https://ejewishphilanthropy.com/fbi-cutting-ties-with-adl-puts-jewish-community-at-greater-risk-experts-say/>; *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (presentation of Ben Popp from ADL Center on Extremism at 00:08:45).

¹³⁴ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:21:20); M.G.L. c. 258B.

all at-risk communities. Through testimony to the Commission from EOPSS and from CEOs of community organizations, the Commission heard and endorses the value of these grants to support the Jewish and other communities that are vulnerable to acts of violent hate. These grant programs help to alleviate the direct costs to these organizations — through target hardening and personnel costs — to reduce the risk of harm, and have a meaningful impact for vulnerable community's sense of safety and ability to gather freely.¹³⁵

Public Safety and Law Enforcement Recommendations

1. The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) should encourage local law enforcement agencies to report all instances of hate crimes, both charged and investigated, to the newly established HART Hate Crimes Reporting Portal, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).¹³⁶ As the use of and reliance upon the HART Unit by law enforcement agencies increases, the Commonwealth should ensure that the Unit is adequately staffed and resourced to perform its important functions.
2. At the state level, EOPSS and the State Police through the HART Unit, have conducted valuable outreach meetings with an array of Jewish community organizations to address the serious threat of crime and violence against Jewish people, especially in the wake of October 7.¹³⁷ All law enforcement agencies should implement measures to help targeted populations better understand and recognize when a hate crime occurs, and create more opportunities to foster trust and cooperation with marginalized or targeted communities. Partnering with community organizations, faith institutions, and cultural centers to hold listening sessions, security trainings, and dialogues about hate-crime prevention helps to improve awareness and preparedness while also signaling a shared commitment to protecting every community targeted by hate.

¹³⁵ See *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Kevin Stanton, Executive Director, EOPSS Office of Grants and Research at 2:08:42); *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Lily Rabinoff-Goldman, President/CEO, JCC Greater Boston at 2:23:20).

¹³⁶ See Federal Bureau of Investigation, *National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)*, available at <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you/more-fbi-services-and-information/ucr/nibrs>

¹³⁷ Massachusetts State Police, Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART) Hate Crime Brochures, available at, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HHyQ11zTVVt1mOWzFqehFnzgIbzF0yN_/view; See IACP, *Action Agenda for Community Organizations and Law Enforcement to Enhance the Response to Hate Crimes*, (Apr. 1, 2019), available at <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/document/action-agenda-for-community-organizations-and-law-enforcement-to-enhance-the>.

3. District Attorney's Offices, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) should provide resources on their websites to ensure that victims of hate crimes—and the broader communities impacted—have access to trauma-informed services and support systems. These victim services should include counseling, legal assistance, and culturally competent victim advocacy. District Attorney's Offices, the Office of the Attorney General, and the Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) should partner with community-based organizations, including those serving religious and ethnic minorities, to deliver support to victims of hate crimes in a timely and accessible manner.¹³⁸
4. Law enforcement agencies should collaborate with civil society organizations and non-profits to provide training and resources to non-profit and religious organizations on physical security, cybersecurity, and emergency preparedness and response. Additionally, law enforcement should develop and maintain toolkits and guidance materials tailored to non-profits and religious organizations, addressing common security threats and outlining best practices for risk mitigation.¹³⁹
5. Law enforcement agencies should provide training for all law enforcement personnel, clerk magistrates, victim witness advocates, and prosecutors that specifically includes instruction on antisemitism and hate crimes. Such training should include instruction on recognizing antisemitism, and interview techniques to better elicit whether a crime was motivated by bias or hate. Law enforcement should also provide resources to law enforcement personnel on recognizing and responding to hate crimes.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁸ See *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Apr. 3, 2025) (statement of Commissioner Peggy Shukur at 1:14:35); Suffolk County District Attorney, *Victim Services: Hate Crimes*, available at <https://www.suffolkdistrictattorney.com/victim-services/hate-crimes>.

¹³⁹ See Secure Community Network, *SCN Announces Full 2024 High Holiday Webinar & Training Series*, (July 22, 2025), available at <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/articles/scn-announces-full-2025-high-holiday-webinar-training-series/>; Combined Jewish Philanthropies, *CJP Communal Security Initiative*, available at <https://ma.cjp.org/communal-security-initiative>; see *Seventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Jeremy Yamin at 2:17:10).

¹⁴⁰ See *Sixth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Apr. 3, 2025) (statement of former U.S. Attorney Eric Olshan at 1:11:40); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:14:37); International Association of Chiefs of Police, *Responding to Hate Crimes: A Police Officer's Guide to Investigation and Prevention*, available at <https://www.theiacp.org/resources/responding-to-hate-crimes-a-police-officers-guide-to-investigation-and-prevention>; Out to Protect, *Hate Crimes Investigation for Law Enforcement*, available at <https://outtoprotect.org/hate-crimes-investigations/>; Matthew Shepard Foundation,

6. Law enforcement agencies should educate and train personnel on religious holy days and observances and take proactive policing measures, including coordinating with local religious institutions, on such days to ensure the security of places of worship and the safety of congregants.¹⁴¹
7. Law enforcement agencies should support and implement youth initiatives and restorative justice programs, including the Diversity Awareness Program mandated by G.L. c. 265 § 39, to mitigate and combat radicalization. Such initiatives and programs should enlist professional counselors and juvenile parole officers as well as civil society organizations.¹⁴²

Workplace (Including Healthcare) Findings

1. Antisemitism in professional and healthcare settings undermines employee well-being, institutional integrity, and the Commonwealth's ability to attract and retain professionals. Preventing and addressing it requires clear policy, proactive education, and a culture of inclusion grounded in respect and accountability.
2. Jewish employees in Massachusetts and across the United States report feeling unsafe, unwelcome, or uncomfortable being openly Jewish in their workplaces. The Commission has heard from individuals who avoid expressing their religious or cultural identity due to fear of discrimination, social exclusion, or retaliation. Some Jewish employees do not believe their employers have adequate policies in place to protect them from antisemitic harassment or bias.¹⁴³

Creating Safer Communities Hate Crime Prevention Training, available at <https://www.matthewshepard.org/creating-safer-communities-hate-crimes-prevention-training/>.

¹⁴¹ See Secure Community Network, *SCN Announces Full 2024 High Holiday Webinar & Training Series*, (July 22, 2025), available at <https://www.securecommunitynetwork.org/articles/scn-announces-full-2025-high-holiday-webinar-training-series/>.

¹⁴² See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of District Attorney Marian Ryan at 1:05:09); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Professor Christina Miller at 2:18:52); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director, Parents for Peace at 00:12:46); Gerald FitzGerald, Aspen Institute, *Restorative Justice as a Response to the Harms of Hate*, (Nov. 2023), available at <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Restorative-Justice-Convening-Report.pdf>; Parents for Peace, *Services*, available at <https://www.parents4peace.org/services>.

¹⁴³ See Rabbi Elan Babchuck and Rebecca Leeman, Clal – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership & Applied Curiosity Research, *Jewish at Work 2024: Results from a*

3. In the wake of the October 7, 2023, terrorist attack and the subsequent global surge in antisemitic incidents, Jewish employees have expressed a growing need for connection, safety, and institutional support in the workplace. Jewish workers increasingly seek environments where they can discuss their experiences, express and celebrate their identity without fear, and find solidarity among colleagues.¹⁴⁴
4. Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are a proven mechanism for promoting inclusion, belonging, and cross-cultural understanding in the workplace. ERGs focused on Jewish identity can provide safe and affirming spaces for Jewish employees to connect, celebrate cultural traditions, and educate others. In the absence of formal ERGs, some workplaces support employees who create affinity groups for the same purpose. These groups provide support for Jews as members of a distinct ethnic group with shared culture and heritage, and are not focused on religious practices.¹⁴⁵

Survey of Jews in the Workplace (Jan. 17, 2025), available at, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj2u-KfprOQAxUIEFkFHRlhGTIQFnoECBIQAAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Frevsonfoundation.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2025%2F02%2FJewishatWork2024_Report_011725.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3HTeWsV0TXCLL3_7b3lysv&opi=89978449. According to the survey, 31% percent of Jewish employees feel unsafe being openly Jewish at work, 56% do not feel supported by their employer to express their Jewish identity and 37% often encounter Jewish stereotypes or misconceptions. *Id.* at 4.

¹⁴⁴ See Rabbi Elan Babchuck and Rebecca Leeman, Clal – The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership & Applied Curiosity Research, *Jewish at Work 2024: Results from a Survey of Jews in the Workplace* (Jan. 17, 2025), available at, https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwj2u-KfprOQAxUIEFkFHRlhGTIQFnoECBIQAAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Frevsonfoundation.org%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2025%2F02%2FJewishatWork2024_Report_011725.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3HTeWsV0TXCLL3_7b3lysv&opi=89978449. 46% of Jewish ERG members and leaders surveyed joined their groups after October 7, 2023. *Id.* at 4. Further, from October 2023 to October 2024, there was a 709% growth in the number of groups participating in the Jewish ERG network. *Id.*

¹⁴⁵ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Elyse Park at 3:14:01); *Fifteenth Hearing of Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Oren Jacobson, CEO, Project Shema at 00:42:32) (explaining that for many Jewish people, being Jewish extends beyond a religious identity, and encompasses a cultural, ethnic and ancestral identity).

5. Antisemitic incidents and attitudes within professional environments can significantly hinder an employer's ability to attract and retain Jewish employees.¹⁴⁶
6. Antisemitic incidents and attitudes, particularly in the healthcare sector, have caused some Jewish medical professionals, students, and patients to feel unsafe, unwelcome, and discriminated against. The presence of antisemitism in healthcare settings is likely to have a negative impact on health outcomes for Jewish patients—especially in fields such as genetics, where a patient's Jewish heritage may be medically relevant to risk assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. When patients are fearful of disclosing their ancestry due to experiences of bias or discrimination, negative health consequences will follow.¹⁴⁷
7. Jewish medical professionals, researchers, and students have been exposed to politically charged, divisive, or antisemitic rhetoric in academic and professional forums, including lectures, conferences, and education programs. Such rhetoric—often unrelated to the subject matter being presented—has included inflammatory commentary about Israel or Jewish identity, creating hostile and exclusionary environments for Jewish participants.¹⁴⁸

Workplace (Including Healthcare) Recommendations

1. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD) should provide updated information clarifying that employment discrimination against Jews is prohibited as discrimination based on religion, ethnicity, shared ancestry, and in some cases, national origin, and is prohibited under state and federal law.¹⁴⁹ The creation of a hostile workplace environment can constitute prohibited discrimination under these laws.

¹⁴⁶ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (June 9, 2025) (statement of Dr. Jacqueline Hart at 3:02:15); *Eleventh Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (May 5, 2025) (statement of Dr. Mark Poznansky at 0:49:14); see Harvard University Presidential Task Force on Combating Antisemitism and Anti-Israeli Bias, *Final Report*, 148 (Apr. 29, 2025).

¹⁴⁷ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Janette Lawrence at 3:10:12); United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, *Never Again: Addressing the Rise of Antisemitism and Supporting Older Americans*, 53, (Apr. 30, 2025), available at <https://www.aging.senate.gov/hearings/never-again-addressing-the-rise-of-antisemitism-and-supporting-older-americans>.

¹⁴⁸ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Leila Caplan at 3:26:29); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Janette Lawrence at 3:08:30).

¹⁴⁹ See Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Landmark Step to Counter Antisemitism, (Sep. 28, 2023), available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/28/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-takes-landmark-step-to-counter-antisemitism/>. As part of the National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, eight federal agencies

2. State agencies and private employers should incorporate education on antisemitism into broader workplace diversity, equity, inclusion, and anti-discrimination training programs. Doing so ensures that antisemitism is recognized as a serious and distinct form of hate, while also affirming its connection to broader patterns of bias. Without this inclusion, even well-meaning programs risk overlooking Jewish employees' experiences or and unintentionally perpetuating exclusion. Integrating antisemitism training into workplace initiatives promotes more comprehensive understanding, strengthens allyship across communities, and fosters safer, more inclusive work environments for all.¹⁵⁰
3. State agencies and private employers should support the creation of and formally recognize Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) or affinity groups, including those focused on Jewish identity, to promote education, cultural awareness, belonging, and allyship while providing employees with safe spaces for connection and support.¹⁵¹ Encouraging open dialogue and allyship through Jewish ERGs not only fosters belonging but also helps cultivate courage and confidence among colleagues to speak up against hate in all its forms.

clarified in writing that Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin applies to discrimination against Jews. *See also* M.G.L. c. 151B § 4(1A); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Commissioner Michael Memmolo at 3:37:35) (explaining that discrimination in the workplace based on protected class is illegal in Massachusetts); Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e – 2000e-17 (2024) (prohibiting employment discrimination based on religion).

¹⁵⁰ *See Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Dr. Jacqueline Hart at 3:37:35); *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Rodrigo Monterrey at 3:18:41); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Myrieme Churchill at 00:12:46); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Rebecca Lehman at 01:05:45); Project Shema, *Corporate*, available at <https://www.projectshema.org/corporate>; *see* Shine A Light on Antisemitism, *Safe and Inclusive Workplace*, available at <https://shinealighton.com/workplace/>.

¹⁵¹ *See* Massachusetts Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, *Employee Resource Group Roadmap and Tools*, available at, <https://www.mass.gov/doc/employee-resource-groups-at-the-commonwealth/download>; Clal, *Jewish@Work Resource Portal*, available at <https://www.jewishatwork.com/>; *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Elyse Park at 3:12:58); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm'n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Karyn Cohen at 01:14:06); Combined Jewish Philanthropies, 2026 “*Jewish at Work*” *Stipends*, available at <https://ma.cjp.org/jewish-at-work-stipends>. CJP is currently offering a limited number of stipends, up to \$1,000, for the creation of Jewish Employee Resource Groups (ERGs), affinity groups, and Jewish employee peer groups within Greater Boston workplaces. *Id.*

4. Private employers should review and strengthen their policies and practices to ensure full compliance with federal and state laws governing religious accommodation in the workplace, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and G.L. c. 151B § 4(1A).¹⁵²
5. Professional and academic organizations, particularly in the healthcare and higher education sectors, should adopt standards ensuring that educational and professional programming remains focused on its intended subject matter and free from antisemitic or otherwise discriminatory rhetoric.¹⁵³
6. Public and private employers should be encouraged to recognize and celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), observed nationally each May, as part of their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Promoting awareness of JAHM aligns with broader efforts to build inclusive workplaces, educate employees about Jewish history and culture, and combat antisemitism through understanding and visibility.¹⁵⁴
Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month publicly also sends a message that combating antisemitism is not just a compliance issue, but also a matter of shared civic responsibility.

Other Findings and Recommendations:

1. Several nongovernmental community groups have presented on the significant benefits of grassroots efforts to self-advocate and create cross-communal understanding.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵² See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Rodrigo Monterrey at 3:19:10).

¹⁵³ See American Public Health Association, *APHA Continuing Education Policies*, available at <https://www.apha.org/professional-development/continuing-education/apha-continuing-education-policies> (providing that organizers of APHA meetings or events should ensure that “content proposed is relevant for the Meeting theme and the learning needs of the target audience of professionals who attend the meeting”).

¹⁵⁴ See U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism at 19, available at <https://bidenwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/U.S.-National-Strategy-to-Counter-Antisemitism.pdf>; City of Boston, *City Council Recognizes Jewish American Heritage Month*, (May 13, 2024), available at <https://www.boston.gov/news/city-council-recognizes-jewish-american-heritage-month-0>; Sony Music Group, *Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month at Sony Music Group*, (May 31, 2024), available at <https://www.sonymusic.com/inside-sony-music/jewish-american-heritage-month-2024/>.

¹⁵⁵ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Jodi Sperber at 2:30:48); Concord Against Antisemitism, available at <https://www.concordagainstantisemitism.org/>; Lexington United Against Antisemitism, available at <https://www.lexluaa.org/>.

2. Encouraging and coordinating interfaith and multi-ethnic dialogue fosters greater understanding, collaboration, and allyship among diverse religious faiths and ethnic and racial groups, strengthening community cohesion and resilience against hate.¹⁵⁶
3. The Commonwealth should consider establishing an annual “Interfaith Civic Resilience Week” in partnership with community and faith-based organizations to highlight collaboration, celebrate diversity, and reaffirm Massachusetts’s commitment to combating hate through unity.
4. Chapter 151C currently covers discrimination based on various categories (including race, religion, creed, color, age, sex or national origin, and visual impairment) in the application process, but once a person attends an educational institution, it does not apply. Several organizations and individuals have proposed amending Chapter 151C in various ways — most importantly, to prohibit discriminatory treatment and harassment of students who attend educational institutions, not only applicants. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination lacks a statutory mechanism to address discriminatory treatment and harassment in K-12 schools and higher education institutions, whereas analogous mechanisms exist in some fashion in various other states, including California, New Jersey, New York and Vermont. Particularly at a time when the federal government has significantly reduced Department of Education Office of Civil Rights staffing and enforcement of Title VI, amendments to Chapter 151C could offer critical protections to members of all protected classes.
5. The Legislature has received extensive information about the financial costs of combating and responding to antisemitism and other forms of hate and discrimination, leading it to include funding in the FY ’26 budget to bolster mental health training for professionals who support vulnerable communities and invest in nonprofit security measures. The Commission applauds these efforts and notes that, in order to support the implementation of its recommendations, increases in funding to municipalities, law enforcement agencies, school districts, higher education institutions, and other stakeholders is likely to be needed.

¹⁵⁶ See *Thirteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Oct. 16, 2025) (statement of Steven Van Evera at 2:34:15); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal, T’Ruah Clergy, at 01:28:45); *Fifteenth Hearing of the Special Comm’n on Combating Antisemitism* (Nov. 14, 2025) (statement of Mubin Shaikh, Exit Peer Specialist, Parents 4 Peace at 0:14:28); Lexington United Against Antisemitism, available at <https://www.lexluaa.org/>.

APPENDIX A (Table Summarizing Commission Meetings):

The following table summarizes the Commission’s work throughout its 16 meetings:

Meeting	Purpose	Agenda	Meeting Materials¹⁵⁷
October 29, 2024	To introduce commission members to their legislative charge and discuss areas of emphasis.	● Opening Statements of the Chairs - Rep. Cataldo and Sen. Velis ● Self-Introductions of the Members ● Overview of the Statutory Charge ● Overview of Meeting Agenda ● Overview of WH National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism ● Discussion of Topic Areas for Emphasis in Furtherance of the Commission’s Work as Prescribed in Section 201 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024 ● Anti-Defamation League Presentation on Available Data on Antisemitism ● Introduction to Combined Jewish Philanthropies’ Center for Combating Antisemitism ● Logistical Commission Matters ● Meeting is Adjourned	White House National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism 2023 ADL Massachusetts Data
November 19, 2024	To examine antisemitism in K-12 educational settings and institutional responses.	● Roll Call ● Opening Statements of the Chairs on Current Events and Future Opportunities for Student Testimony – Sen. Velis and Rep.	Acton-Boxborough Protocols for Responding to Incidents Involving Hate or Bias

¹⁵⁷ All Commission materials may be found on the General Court’s website at <https://malegislature.gov/Commissions/Detail/646/Hearings>.

		- Cataldo - Overview of Meeting Agenda - Testimony from Massachusetts Student on Experience with Antisemitism - Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Superintendent Peter Light Presentation on District Response to Hate and Bias Incidents - Lubavitcher Yeshiva Academy (Longmeadow) Rabbi Noach Kosofsky Presentation on Antisemitism in Schools and Community Responses to Incidents - Lappin Foundation Presentation on Best Practices in Responding to Antisemitism in Schools - Approve October 29th Meeting Minutes - Meeting is Adjourned	Superintendent Peter Light's Letter to Families Following October 7th
January 23, 2025	To further discuss antisemitism in schools and to consider the impacts of antisemitism on students	- Roll Call - Approve November 19th Meeting Minutes - Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements on Future Meeting Agenda Including Topic Areas and Opportunities for Public Comment – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo - Overview of Meeting Agenda - Presentation on Parent Survey of Antisemitism in Schools by Anti-Defamation League Center for Antisemitism Research	ADL-CAR Parent Survey of Antisemitism in Schools Results: Antisemitism in Schools and Support for Holocaust Education ADL Facing History and Ourselves Presentation on School Programming – Elizabeth Carroll, New England Program Director

		(ADL-CAR) – Matt Williams, VP, ADL-CAR • Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General Presentation on First Amendment Considerations – Jonathan Burke, Asst. Attorney General, Civil Rights Division • Facing History and Ourselves Presentation on School Programming – Elizabeth Carroll, New England Program Director • Presentation on Psychological Impact and Effects of Antisemitism on Students – Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern, PsyD • Meeting is Adjourned	Facing History Explainer: Antisemitism and Its Impacts Executive Summary of Evaluation Results for Brave Classrooms Online Course Letter from Newton Public Schools leaders with testimony about Facing History's partnership Presentation on Psychological Impact and Effects of Antisemitism on Students – Dr. Miri Bar-Halpern, PsyD
February 10, 2025	To discuss countering antisemitism in K-12 education	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Overview of Meeting Agenda • Discussion on Countering Antisemitism in K-12 Education: Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) – Max Page, MTA President • Discussion on Viewpoint Diversity, Training, and Curriculum Relating to Countering Antisemitism in K-12 Education: Together for an Inclusive	N/A

		Massachusetts – Elsa Auerbach, UMass Boston Professor Emerita, Jewish Voice for Peace Boston; Emilia Diamant, LCSW, educator, Board Member, Boston Workers Circle; Merrie Najimy, elementary STEM lab teacher; Sana Fadel, Sawa: Newton-Area Alliance for Peace and Justice, public school parent • Discussion on K-12 Curriculum and Teacher Licensing: Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) – Katherine Craven, BESE Chair • Adjourn	
March 11, 2025	To focus on antisemitism in Western Massachusetts	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: February 10, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Overview of Meeting Agenda • Discussion on concerns in Berkshire County and small rural Jewish communities - Rabbi Jordie Gordon, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire • Discussion on trends in Western Massachusetts and community responses to antisemitic incidents - Molly Parr, 1st Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts	Genocide Education Session Law Genocide Education General Law DESE History and Social Science Framework (2018) FY2025 Budget Section 106 DESE Resources Relative to Antisemitism and Societal Bias

		• Discussion on trends in Western Massachusetts and responses from Jewish communities – Rabbi Amy Wallk, Temple Beth El • Discussion on genocide and Holocaust education curricula and resources provided to schools on antisemitism - Dr. Russell Johnston, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) • Discussion on community education efforts on antisemitism and Holocaust – Henia (Henny) Lewin, past Board Member of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts and former Professor at University of Vermont • Discussion on viewpoint diversity, and balancing different perspectives in responding to antisemitism – Rabbi Ariella Rosen, Congregation B’nai Israel • Discussion on experiences in school settings and research on Jewish issues and antisemitism – Dr. Nicole Collins, Faculty at John F. Kennedy Middle School (Springfield), Asnuntuck Community College, American International College • Meeting is Adjourned	
April 7, 2025	To discuss antisemitic violence and	• Roll Call • Welcome Remarks from Mayor Ruthanne Fuller	N/A

	gather testimony from public on the work of the Commission	● Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: March 11, 2025 ● Opening Statements of the Chairs, Announcements, and Reminder of Special Commission's Commitment to Principles of Free Speech and Civil Liberties – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo ● Overview of Meeting Agenda ● Presentation – Eric Olshan, Former U.S. Attorney, Western District of Pennsylvania, lead prosecutor in <i>U.S. v. Robert Bowers</i> (Tree of Life Synagogue Case) ● Discussion on the Orthodox Perspective on Antisemitism – Ariella Hellman, Director of Government Affairs Agudath Israel of America, New England Office ● Public Comment ● Meeting is Adjourned	
May 5, 2025	To discuss law enforcement responses to antisemitic incidents and hate crimes	● Roll Call ● Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: April 7, 2025 ● Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo ● Overview of Meeting Agenda ● Discussion on Trends and Tracking of Extremist Activity – Ben Popp, ADL Center on Extremism ● Discussion on Existing Hate Crime Statutes – David O'Sullivan, Asst.	HART Unit Hate Crimes Brochures

		District Attorney, Essex District Attorney's Office • Discussion on Federal, State, and Local Partnership in Combating Antisemitism and Incidents of Hate – Detective Lieutenant Ryan Czepiel, Mass. State Police Anti-Terrorism Unit/Hate Crimes Awareness and Response Team (HART) Unit • Discussion on Mass. Exec. Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) Nonprofit Security Grants – Jeremy Yamin, VP, Security and Operations, Combined Jewish Philanthropies and Lily Rabinoff-Goldman, President/CEO, JCC Greater Boston • Meeting is Adjourned	
June 9, 2025	To discuss the weaponization of antisemitism and the prevalence of antisemitism online	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: May 5, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Overview of Meeting Agenda • Discussion on weaponization of antisemitism – Amb. Alan D. Solomont (ret.), Nexus Project Board Member • Discussion on the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and connection to antisemitism – Professor David Webber,	N/A

		Boston University School of Law • Presentation by Foundation to Combat Antisemitism on insights around the digital landscape of antisemitism – Adam Katz, President, Foundation to Combat Antisemitism • Observations on response to Jewish advocacy on municipal level and local school district, and comparison to other Massachusetts communities – Owen Zaret, Former City Councilor and Jewish Community Organizer • Meeting is Adjourned	
July 9, 2025	To discuss preliminary K-12 education findings and recommendations	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: June 9, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Discussion on Draft Preliminary K-12 Education Findings and Recommendations • Meeting is Adjourned	Draft Preliminary K-12 Education Findings and Recommendations
August 7, 2025	To explore antisemitism in higher education and on college campuses	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: July 9, 2025 • Discussion on Resources Provided to Schools on Antisemitism and Societal Bias – Commissioner Pedro Martinez, Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education • Discussion on Jewish	SCCA K-12 Preliminary K-12 Findings and Recommendations_08.07.25 Eitan Hersh & Dahlia Lyss, A Year of Campus Conflict and Growth: An Over-Time Study of the

		Student Experience on College Campuses - Professor Eitan Hersh, Professor of Political Science, Tufts University • Discussion on the State of Jewish Life on Campus from the Perspective of Hillel - Rabbi Aaron Fine, Executive Director, UMass Hillel • Discussion on Student Perspective of Jewish Life on Campus - Skye Landau, UMass Amherst • Discussion of Antisemitism on College Campuses: Using Data to Inform Policy – Dr. Leonard Saxe, Professor and Director of the Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies, Brandeis University • Discussion on Identifying Root Challenges and Best Practices for Addressing Antisemitism in Higher Education - Dr. Rachel Fish, Special Advisor to the Brandeis University President's Initiative on Antisemitism • Discussion & Vote on Endorsing Draft Preliminary K-12 Education Findings and Recommendations • Meeting is Adjourned	Impact of the Israel-Hamas War on U.S. College Students Boundless, Zionism: Misconceptions, Messaging, and the Fight Against Antisemitism Boundless, Understanding Antisemitism in the United States Presentation
September 8, 2025	To continue exploration of antisemitism in higher education	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: August 7, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep.	Concerned Jewish Faculty and Staff Materials

		Cataldo ● Overview of Meeting Agenda ● Discussion on the Impact of Antisemitism on STEM and Research in Higher Education - Dr. Mark Poznansky, Harvard Medical School ● Discussion on Antisemitism at Harvard: Perspective of a Jewish Mom - Lindsay Gabow, Harvard Law School ● Combating Antisemitism the Massachusetts Way; And a Word of Caution – Panel of <i>Concerned Jewish Faculty & Staff</i>: Frances Tanzer - Rose Professor of Holocaust Studies and Jewish Culture, Clark University; Jeremy Menchik - Associate Professor of International Relations and Political Science; Director of the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), Boston University; Hilary Lustick - Associate Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, School of Education, UMass Lowell; Jonathan Feingold - Professor of Law, Boston University School of Law ● Discussion on the Role of State Government in Responding to Antisemitism in Higher Education - Douglas Hauer, Former Professor at Boston University School of Law	
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		• Discussion of Hillel Experience on Public and Private Campuses - Miriam Berkowitz Blue, Executive Director - Hillel Council of New England • Meeting is Adjourned	
September 25, 2025	To hear public comment and feedback	• Roll Call • Approve prior meeting minutes: September 8, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Overview of Meeting Agenda • Public Comment • Meeting is adjourned	
October 16, 2025	To hear testimony on community engagement and best practices	• Roll Call • Approve prior meeting minutes: September 25, 2025 • Opening Statements of the Chairs and Announcements – Sen. Velis and Rep. Cataldo • Overview of Meeting Agenda • Discussion on Combating Antisemitism while Protecting Civil Liberties – The Honorable David A. Lowy, current General Counsel, University of Massachusetts, former Associate Justice, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. • Discussion: How Law Enforcement Uses Restorative Justice to Address Antisemitism – Middlesex District	ADL, Portrait of Antisemitic Experience in the U.S., 2024-2025 Article: Peter Hotez, On Antiscience and Antisemitism Article: National Review, Deborha Gastfreund Schuss, A Plague in the Health-Care Profession Article: Rambam Maimonides Meical Journal, Antisemitism in Medicine: An International Perspective Jewish Employees in Massachusetts Healthcare Setting Survey: May 2024

		Attorney Marian Ryan. • Discussion on Charging, Prosecuting and Sentencing Hate Crimes in Massachusetts –Christina Miller, Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Associate Director of Clinical Programs, Suffolk University Law School; Former Chief of District Courts and Community Prosecutions, Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office. • Perspectives of Local Rabbis – Panel of Local Rabbis: • Rabbi Darby Leigh, <i>Kerem Shalom Synagogue, Concord</i> • Rabbi Karen Thomashow, <i>Temple Isaiah, Lexington</i> • Rabbi Braham David, <i>Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton</i> • Discussion on Community Efforts to Combat Antisemitism – Panel of Community Organization Leaders; Jodi Sperber, <i>Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism</i>; Steven Van Evera, <i>Lexington United Against Antisemitism</i> • The Impact of Antisemitism in Healthcare: The Need for Clinical Neutrality – Panel of Medical Professionals; Jacqueline A. Hart, MD, Internist; Consultant, Vaccine & Immunotherapy Center at MGH; Jewish-ERG leader, MGB; Janette Lawrence,	slide Dr. Nicole Freeman Presentation on Holocaust Museum Boston
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		MS, LGC; Senior Genetic Counselor, MGH; Elyse Park, PhD, MPH, FAPOS; Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, MGH and Harvard Medical School; Director, MGH Health Promotion and Resiliency Intervention Research Center in the Mongan Institute, Department of Psychiatry; Leader and co-founder MGB Jewish-ERG; Rodrigo Monterrey, MPA -- Senior Director of Health Equity, Belonging and Engagement, Tufts Medicine; Leila Caplan, BU Medical Student ● Concord-Carlisle Student Experiences and the Value of Jewish Student Organizations –Panel of Student Members of Concord-Carlisle HS Jewish Student Union ● Discussion on Holocaust Museum Boston: Teaching the Lessons of the Holocaust to Confront Antisemitism Today – Dr. Nicole Freeman, Education Director, Holocaust Museum Boston ● Adjourn	
November 5, 2025	To discuss the Final Draft Report	● Roll Call ● Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: October 16, 2025 ● Statements of the Chair and Announcements – Rep. Cataldo ● Discussion on Law Enforcement Training – Chief James Hicks of the Natick Police Department;	Draft SCCA Rpt and Recs (11.5.2025 Meeting) DESE Draft Rubric, Antisemitism and Societal Bias Prevention Curriculum and Professional

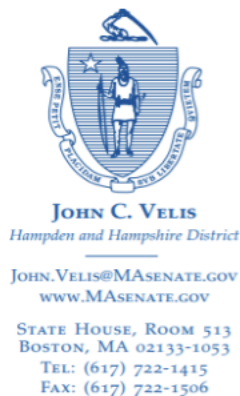
		Chairman, Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC); Chief Thomas Fowler of the Salisbury Police Department • Discussion on the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism's Draft Final Report • Discussion on Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) Antisemitism and Societal Bias Prevention Curriculum and Professional Development Draft Rubric • Adjourn	Development
November 14, 2025	To gather testimony on community best practices and antisemitism in the workplace	• Roll Call • Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: November 5, 2025 • Statements of the Chair and Announcements – Co-Chairs • Discussion: Parents for Peace - Why antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem; Myrieme Churchill, Executive Director; Arno Michaelis, Exit Peer Specialist; Mubin Shaikh, Exit Peer Specialist • Discussion: Lessons from an antisemitism educator supporting the community; Oren Jacobson, Chief Executive Officer of Project Shema • Discussion on research and interventions to support Jews in the workplace;	Clal, Jewish@Work 2024: Researching the Impact of and Potential for Corporate Jewish Employee Resource Groups Parents for Peace Flyer Memo from Andrea Silbert to SCCA Timeline Summary – Nauset Public Schools Antisemitic Incidents Article: The Provincetown Independent Resolution Agreement, Nauset

		Karyn Cohen, Volunteer, CJP and Member, Center for Combating Antisemitism Advisory Committee; Rebecca Leeman, Chief of Staff, National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL) • Discussion: Perspectives on antisemitism from Massachusetts clergy of T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights; Rabbi Jessica Lowenthal; Rabbi Aliza Schwartz • Discussion on the Immigrant Jewish Experience — Israelis, Russian Jews, and Persian Jews in Massachusetts; Robert Mayer, National Co-Chair, Israeli-American Civic Action Network; Eugene Levin, Filmmaker and Community Advocate; Eliana Nahoumi, Representative of the Persian Jewish Community • Discussion: A global approach to confront antisemitism and educate on lessons from the Holocaust; Alice Nderitu, Former United Nations Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide • Discussion: What it takes to combat antisemitism in K-12, a parent's perspective, Andrea Silbert, Parent • Adjourn	Public Schools, OCR Complaint No. 01-19-1320 Alice Nderitu Slideshow Presentation
November	To discuss and	• Roll Call	SCCA Draft Final

20, 2025	vote on the Final Draft Report	• Approve Prior Meeting Minutes: November 14, 2025 • Statements of the Chair and Announcements – Rep. Cataldo • Statements from Massachusetts State Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah Goldberg • Discussion and Vote on Final Commission Report • Adjourn	Report
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APPENDIX B (Letter from Co-Chair Senator John Velis):

Co-Chair Senator Velis was unable to vote on the Commission's Final Report of Findings and Recommendations due to being on active-duty deployment with the Massachusetts National Guard. In lieu of voting, Senator Velis expressed his support for the Commission's Final Report by submitting the following letter to Co-Chair Representative Cataldo and the Members of the Commission:



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH,
SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY
Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND FEDERAL AFFAIRS
Vice Chair
JOINT COMMITTEE ON ELDER AFFAIRS
DISTRICT
94 NORTH ELM STREET
WESTFIELD, MA 01085
413-572-3920

November 19, 2025

Representative Simon Cataldo
Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA, 02133

Dear Chair Cataldo and Members of the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism:

I am writing to inform you that I am currently on active-duty military orders with my unit of assignment in the Massachusetts National Guard. As a result, I will not be present or available to vote on the Commission's final report.

Despite my absence, I have been receiving frequent updates regarding Commission meetings and the composition of the final report from my staff. I want to commend the Commission for its remarkable work to come together on complex and nuanced subject matters where attaining consensus is nothing short of remarkable. If I was present and available to vote, I would be a resounding and emphatic YES on this report.

I want to share my deep appreciation to every Commission member for their participation and engagement throughout this process, to Chair Cataldo for his partnership and steadfast leadership since our appointment as Co-Chairs last fall, and to all the individuals who have come before the Commission to share the impactful testimony that is the basis of this comprehensive report. I am deeply grateful for the thoughtful and collaborative work that has been undertaken thus far and for the important vote that will take place during the November 20th meeting.

Sincerely,

John C. Velis

Senate Chair, *Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism*
State Senator, *Hampden and Hampshire District*