



## **Statement on Anti-Semitic Incident in Philadelphia**

*May 9, 2019*

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Southern New Jersey - JCRC and the Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey are profoundly concerned about school curricula or after-school activities that include lessons in hatred and violence. We have been made aware of an incident at a Philadelphia religious program where young children were taught to glorify the beheading and torture of Jews and to engage in acts of martyrdom.

Children are not born as haters. However, when guided and encouraged to engage in activities that call for violence, there is a huge risk that these young people may engage in inciteful and dangerous behaviors as adults. In this case, when the children are specifically taught to strike out at Jews, the Jewish community must respond. We condemn these acts of anti-Semitism in our community and other communities around the world.

Dr. Qanta Ahmed, a leading Muslim scholar and a member of the Committee on Combating Contemporary Anti-Semitism Through Testimony, stated that the children who participated in the Philadelphia program were “being indoctrinated in Islamist anti-Semitism,” an activity that is contrary to the teachings of the Quran and “endangers the entire Muslim community in America.” She said that these children must be “sheltered from such abuse and exploitation.”

The JCRC, which prides itself on its Interfaith programs and warm relationships with the Muslim, Christian, and Catholic communities, strongly condemns any actions and activities that promote anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism.

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1301 Springdale Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003 • 856.751.9500, ext. 1402