



## WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

Antisemitism (or anti-Jewish hate or Jew hatred) is the hostility to, prejudice towards and discrimination against Jews and manifests in many ways. One of the oldest and persistent forms of hate, antisemitism can manifest in words, rhetoric, slurs, myths and stereotypes, discrimination (i.e. banning Jews), double standards, demonization, delegitimization, violence and ethnic cleansing (Spanish Inquisition, pogroms in Russian Empire, Holocaust).

**WATCH:** [Antisemitism](#). Yad Vashem. (14:52)

**READ:** [Antisemitism Uncovered](#): A Guide to Old Myths in a New Era. Anti-Defamation League. A comprehensive resource with historical context, fact-based descriptions of prevalent antisemitic myths, contemporary examples and calls-to-action for addressing this hate.

**READ:** [Anti-Semitism and Bigotry: Jews and Finance](#)

Jews have been victims of widespread hatred for centuries, well before Hitler executed his plan for a "Final Solution" killing 6 million Jews, including 2 million children, and 5 million non-Jews (non-Arians) that were Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and people with disabilities. During the Holocaust, the Nazis labeled Jews an "inferior" race (Jews weren't persecuted for their religion; they were persecuted for being Jews and having Jewish blood). Interestingly, in the United States today, Jews are often depicted as "white", although this is a social construct through the lens of race and disregards the diversity of many Jews.

The Holocaust was the culmination of years of religious, scientific, cultural and political anti-Jewish sentiment. That still exists today. The basis for all of these sentiments is the inability to accept those who are different:

**WATCH:** [Why is Antisemitism Still Around? Antisemitism Explained](#). Unpacked. (6:34)

While the Holocaust happened over 75 years ago, antisemitism is still very much alive. So, whose fault is antisemitism? And how do we address it?

**WATCH:** [Whose Fault is Antisemitism?](#) Unpacked. (8:15)

Anti-Jewish conspiracy theories still exist today, resulting in anti-Jewish beliefs and disproportionately high statistics of hate crimes against Jews.

**WATCH:** [The Origins of Antisemitic Conspiracies](#). Unpacked. (5:18)

Antisemitism knows no bounds; antisemitic ideas, speech and actions come from all over the ideological spectrum. That's why it is imperative to focus on **the what** – understanding and education -- dispelling myths and misrepresentations -- fighting antisemitic ideas; not on **the who** – those who traffic in hate, lies, misinformation and bigotry.

**VIEW:** [Translate Hate Glossary](#)

## DEEPER DIVES

**WATCH:** [State of the Union Part 2 - Fighting Antisemitism](#). Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center (9:54). Hear from leading experts, Noa Tishby, Bari Weiss and Eve Barlow, who are on the frontlines (of social media) battle against antisemitism

**WATCH:** [ADL International Leadership Award Presented by Sacha Baron Cohen](#) (24:43)

**READ:** [How Anti-Semitism Rises on the Left and Right](#). *The New Yorker*.

**READ:** [The Jews and the Boggart](#). Ben M. Freeman

**READ:** [The Legacy of Trauma](#). *American Psychological Association*.

**WATCH:** [Intergenerational Trauma in Second and Third Generation Holocaust Survivors](#) (59:49)

## ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DISPLAY AND SHARE:** Place a paper menorah (see [.pdf](#)) in your window during the 8 nights of Chanukah.