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After the Deadly Shooting at a Pittsburgh Synagogue: Resources for Educators



Steven Debenport / iStock

On October 27, 2018, a gunman armed with an assault rifle and several handguns, entered the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA and opened fire. Described as the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the U.S., at least 11 congregants were killed and four police officers and two others were wounded. It was the deadliest attack on the U.S. Jewish Community in history.

In the wake of this tragedy and beyond, young people have questions about what happened and what they can do. Below are curriculum and other education

resources to support this discussion in your classroom and home. These discussions can be a time to not only talk about this particular tragedy. They can also be a chance to discuss what we can do in the face of hate and injustice in general and what actions we can take to promote an equitable and inclusive society.

Webinar

Anti-Semitism in the Headlines: Talking about Pittsburgh

This webinar shares information about the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue and its foundation in anti-Semitism and anti-immigrant bias. Also provided are resources for teaching students about historical and contemporary anti-Semitism and resources to support difficult conversations with students around this event.

Lesson Plans on Anti-Semitism

LESSON PLAN

Deadly Shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue

HIGH SCHOOL

In the wake of the Tree of Life Synagogue deadly shooting, students explore the rise of anti-Semitic incidents nationwide, how the escalation of hate operates and how allyship can make a difference.





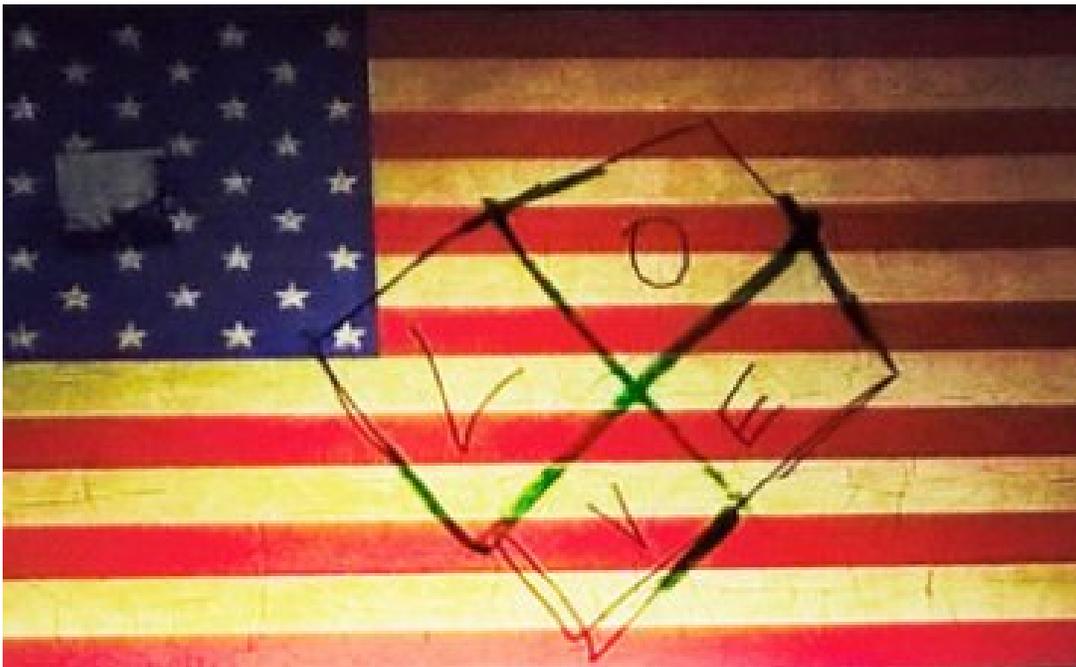
Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, PA

LESSON PLAN

Anti-Semitic Incidents: Being an Ally, Advocate and Activist

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

A middle/high school that provides students an opportunity to learn about and reflect on incidents of anti-Semitism, understand how people and groups can make a difference and explore the various ways different people and groups can act as allies, advocates and activists in order to enact change.



LESSON PLAN

Challenging Anti-Semitism: Debunking the Myths and Responding with Facts

This curricular unit includes multi-grade lessons that provide students with a basic understanding of Judaism and the cultural, historical and religious aspects of the U.S. Jewish community and offer facts to refute anti-Semitic myths and stereotypes and ways to effectively respond to anti-Semitic incidents.



LESSON PLAN

Swastikas and Other Hate Symbols

HIGH SCHOOL

High school students consider the significance of symbols in our society and explore what can be done about the prevalence of hate symbols.





LESSON PLAN

The Alt Right and White Supremacy

HIGH SCHOOL

High school lesson plan to help students learn about the alt right and explore historical and current day examples of white supremacy.



Anthony Crider/CC BY 2.0

Educator and Parent Resources for Discussing Issues of Racism and Anti-Semitism with Young People

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Empowering Young People in the Aftermath of Hate (en Español)

Tools, tips and strategies for what educators and family members can do to help young people discuss and deal with the aftermath of hate-inspired events.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Shooting at a Pittsburgh Synagogue

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about the deadly shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA, anti-Semitism and hate.





Official White House Photo by Andrea Hanks

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Gun Violence and Mass Shootings

Tips and strategies for parent and family roundtable discussion with youth about mass shootings, violence, guns and gun laws.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Helping Students Make Sense of News Stories about Bias and Injustice

When there are national news stories that involve incidents of bias and injustice, young people want to be part of the conversation.



Loavesofbread

BLOG

The Week in Hate and Bias and How to Talk with Young People

This is a blog post about the week of hate-inspired incidents and how to talk with young people about it.



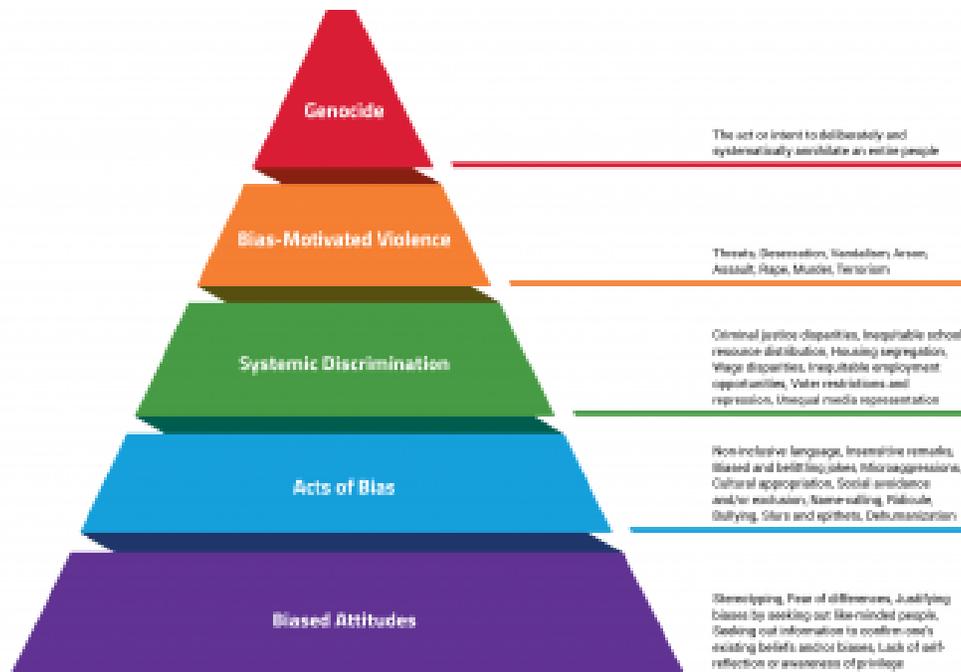
Governor Tom Wolf/CC BY 2.0

Teaching Tools and Strategies

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Pyramid of Hate (en Español)

A visual of a pyramid which shows biased behaviors, growing in complexity from the bottom to the top.



TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

5 Tips for Talking with Children about the Shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue

This resource provides tips for talking with young people about the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA.



TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

5 Tips for Talking with Children about Bomb Threats at Jewish Community Centers

In the aftermath of the recent series of bomb threats against Jewish Community Centers and day schools across the country and other acts of anti-Semitism that have been widely reported in recent weeks, the Anti-Defamation League is making available the following tips for responding to threats, violence, terrorism or other incidents of hate.



Roberto E. Rosales/Albuquerque Journal

Backgrounder on Anti-Semitism

A Brief History of Anti-Semitism

This backgrounder provides information on the worldwide persistence and contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism in society today.