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**ADL Foundation**

Michael Sheetz, President

March 13, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chair Murray, and Vice Chair Collins:

Since 1913, the mission of ADL has been to “stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” Today, ADL is a global leader in fighting antisemitism, exposing extremism, delivering anti-bias education, and monitoring and fighting the spread of hate in our communities and online. For decades, one of the most important ways in which ADL has fought against bigotry and antisemitism has been by investigating extremist threats across the ideological spectrum, including white supremacists and other far-right violent extremists, producing research to inform the public of the scope of the threat, and working with law enforcement, educators, the tech industry, and elected leaders to promote best practices that can effectively address and counter these threats.

We write to request your support in appropriating sufficient funds to help combat domestic extremism, fight antisemitism at home and abroad, prevent and address hate online and off and build a more just and inclusive society. Below, please find ADL’s appropriations request to prioritize the following FY 2024 programs:

## **HOMELAND SECURITY**

1. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM
2. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM
3. CENTER FOR PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS
4. ONLINE RESOURCE TO PREVENT TARGETED VIOLENCE
5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXTREMISM RESEARCH
6. PREVENT ONLINE HARASSMENT
7. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## **COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE**

1. COUNTER DOMESTIC TERRORISM
2. SECURE LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ANTISEMITISM AND EXTREMISM
3. DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM RESEARCH
4. IMPROVE HATE CRIMES REPORTING
5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO HATE CRIMES
6. ADDRESS HATE ONLINE
7. ONLINE HATE, HARASSMENT, AND EXTREMISM RESEARCH
8. COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE
9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS
10. ONLINE LITERACY PROGRAMS
11. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## **DEFENSE**

1. ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM AND EXTREMISM IN THE MILITARY
2. IMPROVE THE SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS

## **STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

1. COUNTER GLOBAL WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISM
2. OFFICES OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTISEMITISM AND SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOLOCAUST ISSUES
3. SUPPORT ISRAEL'S NORMALIZATION EFFORTS
4. NITA M. LOWEY MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE ACT
5. THE U.S.-MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE
6. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## **INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**

1. NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT
2. NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
3. STUDY CURRENT HOLOCAUST EDUCATION EFFORTS
4. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

1. INCREASE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA
2. INVESTIGATE THE FINANCING OF DOMESTIC EXTREMISM
3. ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
4. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## **LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

1. COMBAT ANTISEMITISM ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES
2. SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN RESPONDING TO AND RECOVERING FROM HATE
3. RESILIENCE AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT HATE ONLINE
4. GAO REPORT ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION
5. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

## HOMELAND SECURITY

### 1. NON-PROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

For the past decade, funding assistance from federal, state, and local governments has provided crucial support for security hardening and enhancements for our nation's non-profit institutions, including religious institutions. This responds to the continuing targeting by violent extremists of synagogues, mosques, churches, temples and other houses of worship and religious gathering places – a threat that was once again brought into stark reality by the horrific hostage-taking at Congregation Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas on January 15, 2022.

The Non-Profit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides non-profits with the capacity to increase their defense against these threats, including physical security and cybersecurity capacity and coordination. In FY 2023, Congress appropriated \$305 million for the NSGP – a notable increase from the FY 2022 level. We appreciate that the President's FY 2024 budget request includes \$360 million for the NSGP and new funding to protect critical infrastructure from cyberattacks.

Unfortunately, despite these generous increases in the NSGP program, as extremist threats continue to rise, the need continues to be greater than the resources provided. For the FY 2022 grants, nearly \$450 million in grant applications were received for this program.

At a time of increased vulnerability to threats of hate-motivated violence by domestic extremists, Congress must significantly increase funding for non-profit religious institutions and other non-profit organizations that government and law enforcement authorities objectively determine are at high risk of attack. In assessing the risk, officials should consider objective factors such as prior attacks against similarly situated institutions or organizations and the vulnerability and financial needs of the specific institution. Officials should also consider how and what criteria for "terroristic threats" is and should be included by NGOs when they are assessing such threats for their applications. For example, the current inclusions are relatively narrow and could potentially leave out some nuanced, yet pervasive, extremist threats that are strongly influenced by white supremacy, antisemitism, or misogyny. And finally, these programs should seek to promote equity by expanding the reach of the grant to more communities affected by security threats and experiencing other vulnerabilities.

**ADL requests increased funding for the Non-Profit Security Grant Program at \$360 million, while noting that \$500 million would more adequately address the threats nonprofits are facing.**

**ADL requests FEMA complete a report on how FY22 and FY21 funding was allocated, the number of grant applicants in those years, as well any results that can be gleaned from a full review of the spending, demand and results of this program. No sooner than 90 days following the passage of the Act, FEMA should submit the report to Congress and make it public on the FEMA website.**

### 2. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

In January 2021, ADL created the [PROTECT Plan](#) – a comprehensive, bipartisan approach to mitigate the threat of domestic terrorism while protecting civil rights and liberties. As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL recommends measures to ensure Congress resources to the threats.

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas made fighting domestic violent extremism (DVE) a “National Priority Area.” As part of the funding notice for the fiscal years 2021 State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant programs, the Secretary designated combating DVE as a National Priority Area (NPA) on which state and urban area grant recipients would be required to set aside \$77 million in grant funding or 7.5 percent of their total awards. In 2022, DHS dropped the required percentage by approximately half, though all requirements were reduced, freeing up additional discretionary spending. These resources are critical for states to create efforts to address the domestic violent extremist threat, a threat that is ongoing and constantly evolving, and will require continuous funding.

**ADL asks that the Homeland Security Grant Program be sufficiently funded in FY 2024, with substantial awards set aside for combating domestic violent extremism (DVE). ADL believes that the \$77 million in DVE set-aside is the correct target.**

**ADL requests DHS produce a report on how states and urban areas use SHSP and UASI funding in support of combating DVE as part of the NPA, which shall be made public on its website 120 days after the date of enactment.**

### 3. CENTER FOR PREVENTION PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL recommends that Congress increase prevention measures to address violent extremist radicalization and recruitment. The Center for Prevention Programming and Partnerships (CP3) funds grants for community initiatives oriented around resilience that can prevent extremist conspiracies from taking hold in our communities and off-ramp individuals before they choose violence. It is the only federal grant program dedicated to enhancing prevention capabilities in local communities. CP3 plays a key role in keeping antisemitism from becoming antisemitic violence.

This community resilience approach to preventing terrorism has been chronically under-funded. These grants are integral for better understanding the extremist landscape and developing responsible, innovative prevention efforts to combat emerging and complex threats from extremists offline and online—social media platforms and online multiplayer games alike—including from white supremacists, antisemites, and misogynists. The FY 2023 enacted budget included only \$20 million for these prevention grants.

In 2016, the [Homeland Security Advisory Council](#) recommended funding the predecessor of CP3 at \$100 million per year, prior to the current spike in domestic terrorism that led the intelligence and law enforcement community to refer to domestic terrorism as the most significant terrorist threat in our homeland. And [peacebuilding experts](#) studying violence trends in the United States have suggested that CP3 be funded at \$200 million.

**ADL requests \$200 million for the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships grant program in FY 2024 to develop programs that would help mitigate against the complicated and evolving threat environment, in addition to robust administrative and program evaluation funds to ensure funded programs are adequately implemented and evaluated. Target program areas are listed in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO); these targets should continue to include domestic violent extremism and to explicitly include and prioritize antisemitic violence and programs that leverage Holocaust education.**

At the same time, CP3 requires reform. Further funding should be allocated toward increasing transparency, improving program evaluation, and developing an approach that focuses on increasing funding to civil society and other nongovernmental organizations. A law enforcement-only approach centered on investigations and prosecutions is insufficient to address the challenge of radicalization leading to violence; therefore, buttressing funding to nongovernmental partners would promote the more effective multidisciplinary approach that the CP3 has adopted. Enhanced transparency promoting evidence-based solutions learned from the current grant program will further lower the barriers to entry for civil and non-governmental groups in conjunction with steering them to promising practices ready for replication.

**ADL requests that DHS address the need for transparency, oversight, community engagement, and measures of effectiveness for CP3. Therefore, we request report language that supports the community-based approach to preventing targeted violence and terrorism, while seeking regular updates on CP3. Reporting should include public disclosure of program effectiveness, support for complementary programming at other agencies (e.g., the Department of Health and Human Services), and civil liberties oversight mechanisms. The report should outline grants administration approaches, such as consideration of whether the grants should be consolidated into a small number of larger grantees to provide sub-grants to local projects while distancing the program from security officials. This report should be completed within 120 days after the date of enactment.**

#### 4. ONLINE RESOURCE TO PREVENT TARGETED VIOLENCE

As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL also recommends that Congress make resource investments that adapt to the threat from domestic extremists, which is severe – and growing. The majority of violence committed against Americans by extremists is now homegrown, and we must reorient our counterterrorism capabilities.

**ADL requests that sufficient resources be provided to support the requests outlined in the United We Stand Summit, including the launch of an online resource finder for federal content to prevent targeted violence in support of the [2021 National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism](#). This website will serve as a resource center for diverse institutional, governmental, and organizational users who require access to federal grants, program guidance, information sharing platforms, research, training, and community support efforts related to preventing targeted violence, including hate-based targeted violence.**

#### 5. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EXTREMISM RESEARCH

In 2021, ADL announced its [REPAIR plan](#) to push hate, harassment, and extremism back to the fringes of the digital world. Like ADL's PROTECT plan, parts of the REPAIR strategy can be pursued via Homeland Security appropriations, including funding to support much-needed research to better understand and responsibly mitigate online extremism and innovative approaches to address it.

Unfortunately, online hate, harassment, and extremism have become all too commonplace online. The proliferation of online harassment, abuse and misogyny results in the normalization of this abusive behavior and the degradation of our democracy and public safety, including through the suppression and silencing of diverse voices, and the violent expression of gender-motivated, extremist acts. To help understand and in turn mitigate these threats, the Department of Homeland

Security's Office of Science and Technology (S&T) funds innovative startup technology to advance the terrorism prevention market, a portion of which could be directed specifically to online extremism and/or the misogyny-extremism nexus. S&T also funds research of this nature. Despite steps from the White House to recognize and counter this threat, including the establishment of and encouraging work by the Task Force to Address Online Harassment and Abuse, there remains a need for empirical research about the spread of extremist content and extremist activities online, especially when it is white supremacist, antisemitic, or misogynistic. The Task Force has shared that there is much more to be done to ensure that educators, parents, service providers, the legal system, and society as a whole are aware of and responsive to the issue and its detrimental impacts.

Further, ADL was disturbed [to see reports](#) of DHS blocking research on domestic extremism. This research is critical to understanding the threat and how to address it.

**ADL requests an additional \$25 million in funding for these Office of Science and Technology programs above the FY 2023 funding level for S&T research specifically directed toward addressing domestic violent extremism including online radicalization.**

**ADL requests that DHS explore new opportunities for researching domestic extremism and antisemitism, such as how antisemitism fuels violence across different extremist ideologies.**

## 6. PREVENT ONLINE HARASSMENT

ADL's [2022 Online Hate and Harassment Survey](#) revealed that severe harassment, which includes sustained harassment, sexual harassment, doxing and/or swatting, was reported by 27% of respondents—representing more than a quarter of Americans.

Doxing – a type of online harassment in which someone broadcasts private or identifying information about an individual, group or organization online to incite harassment – has been used as a tool by terrorists and foreign malicious actors. For example, the Islamic State released multiple 'kill lists' with identifying information on U.S. nationals and far-right actors have posted information targeting government employees. More recently, the Boston Mapping project—an antisemitic attempt to pinpoint and dismantle the locations of Jewish and community organizations—was endorsed by both The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a designated terrorist organization, and Press TV, Iran's state-sponsored news agency.

Elements of DHS charged with assessing threats posed by terrorists and foreign malign actors must improve their knowledge of how these entities may leverage online harassment trends and techniques, as well as disseminate such analysis to law enforcement partners and the general public.

**ADL requests the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant agencies develop and publicly disseminate a threat assessment on the use of cyber harassment by terrorists and foreign malign actors.**

## 7. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S.

since ADL began conducting its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1979. ADL's incident data shows that we are experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism unlike any we have seen in more than 40 years.

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Secretary of Homeland Security release a public report detailing how the Department plans to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**



## **COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND SCIENCE**

### **1. COUNTER DOMESTIC TERRORISM**

As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL recommends that Congress make resource investments that adapt to the threat from domestic extremists, which is severe – and growing. The majority of violence committed against Americans by extremists is now homegrown, and we must reorient our counterterrorism capabilities.

In a promising development, on January 11, 2022, the Department of Justice announced the creation of a new Domestic Terrorism Unit within the National Security Division to “focus on the domestic terrorism threat, helping to ensure that these cases are properly handled and effectively coordinated across DOJ and around the country.” ADL applauds this initiative, though we note that DOJ did not request funding specifically for the offices. Therefore ADL encourages the Department to ensure that it has appropriate budget and staffing to be successful, while ensuring robust protections for civil liberties.

**ADL strongly supports increased funding for the FBI to increase capacity to conduct domestic terrorism investigations.**

**ADL also requests that Congress direct DOJ to continue to enhance resources devoted to countering domestic terrorism.**

**ADL also requests report language that reflects the need for transparency and threat-proportionate resource allocations.**

### **2. SECURE LAW ENFORCEMENT FROM ANTISEMITISM AND EXTREMISM**

Extremist movements seek to corrupt our law enforcement agencies by recruiting members to their violent causes. We must protect law enforcement’s ability to preserve unit cohesion and focus on fighting crime - not fending off extremist advances. ADL’s Center on Extremism (COE) has identified 373 individuals in the [Oath Keepers database](#) who we believe are currently serving in law enforcement agencies across the country. Among these 373 law enforcement employees, COE identified individuals holding a variety of positions, including officers, detectives, sergeants, lieutenants and captains. COE also identified individuals who we believe are currently holding senior leadership positions within their respective agencies, including at least ten chiefs of police and eleven sheriffs. The consequences of this infiltration are potentially severe, ranging from deterioration of police-community relations to destruction, conflict, and death resulting from extremist officers’ activities.

**ADL asks that DOJ support improved policies, procedures, and training to ensure that law enforcement has the tools and resources to resist violent extremist ideologies and uphold trustworthiness, including directing the Department to update on its progress in developing these improved policies, procedures, and training.**

**ADL requests that the Department of Justice provide the highest priority to Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program applicants and law enforcement agencies that screen applicants and personnel for violent extremist ideologies or affiliations, and further to prioritize COPS grants to program applicants and law enforcement agencies that require their employees to complete training on extremism.**

### 3. DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISM RESEARCH

As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL recommends increased investment in federal research to study ways to close the gap in our ability to prevent domestic extremism that will otherwise endure as an increasingly dangerous and destabilizing force in American communities. As domestic violent extremism is on the rise – and already at an impactful level – we must expand the government’s knowledge, and that of the general public, on the threat and best practices to counter it. Data should drive policy.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) performs essential research on violent extremist radicalization and best practices and methods to counter it; the Bureau of Justice Statistics is in a position to collect and analyze data to better understand the context around the issues; the Office of Justice Programs is well-suited to coordinate various complementary efforts throughout the offices it oversees. In FY 2023, Congress provided \$3.06 billion for the Office of Justice Programs. Within that amount, \$7.5 million was allocated for the NIJ to research domestic radicalization. While these are good steps, this funding still falls far short of what is needed for comprehensive research into these complex threats from extremists offline and online—social media platforms and online multiplayer games alike—including from white supremacists, antisemites, and misogynists. ADL has engaged with numerous families around the country that have expressed concerns about their loved one’s descent into extremism but have few options to help them off-ramp from a violent path toward a peaceful one. NIJ should create new research to map opportunities to refer youth to public health-style off-ramping programming, as well as into the latest trends in the radicalization of young people, including the feasibility of additional referral mechanisms for off-ramping programming.

**ADL requests \$20 million above FY 2023 levels for the Office of Justice Programs, dedicated specifically to research and data related to domestic violent extremism issues.**

The FY 2022 CJS report provided NIJ with \$500,000 to support a feasibility study of the potential for an independent clearinghouse for online extremist content. ADL looks forward to seeing the results of this research.

**ADL requests that NIJ share a status update on the feasibility study of the online clearinghouse and that the resulting study be published on NIJ’s website.**

### 4. IMPROVE HATE CRIMES REPORTING

Fighting hate crime is a critical task, especially now when manifestations of antisemitism and other forms of hate, racism, and bigotry are growing at a very disturbing rate. We are alarmed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) hate crime statistics for 2021—originally

released in December 2022 and supplemented through a report released in March 2023—continue to convey low participation from law enforcement agencies. convey the lowest participation from cities and states in two decades. At a time when many communities across the country feel increasingly vulnerable to bias-motivated crimes and extremist-fueled attacks, and as we work to address bias-based crimes and improve data collection and reporting, funding is required to combat hate-motivated violence. Congress also must place a greater emphasis on addressing biased-based crimes and resolving gaps in data collection and reporting.

According to the FBI's annual and supplemental hate crime statistics report, a total of 10,840 hate crime incidents were reported across the country in 2021, the highest number in more than two decades.

One of the biggest impediments to developing a complete picture of the scope and nature of hate crimes in this country – and therefore being able to design and implement a fulsome response – is the lack of comprehensive and reliable data. There are concerning signs that the problem may be getting worse.

According to data from the FBI, there has been a consistent decline in the number of law enforcement agencies participating in the federal hate crime reporting program since 2018. Furthermore, even among agencies that participate in the program, far too many affirmatively report zero hate crimes, raising concerns about their credibility and the accuracy of these numbers. In 2021, the first year that the hate crime reporting system was officially transferred to the more updated, modernized NIBRS (the National Incident-Based Reporting System crime data reporting system), the FBI data showed a decrease in the number of agencies that participated in reporting –from 15,138 to 14,859. For the fourth straight year, the number of law enforcement agencies providing data to the FBI has declined, and the vast majority of agencies that did participate affirmatively reported zero hate crimes. Only 20% of participating agencies reported one or more hate crimes to the FBI in 2021.

To address this issue, critical attention and funding is required. The Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, enacted in 2021 as part of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, contains key provisions to help improve hate crime data collection and reporting, including authorizing grants to promote hate crime training, prevention, best practices, and data collection initiatives; assistance to law enforcement agencies in implementing NIBRS; and grants to develop state hate crime reporting hotlines to refer individuals to local law enforcement and support services. Congress appropriated \$10 million in FY 2023 to implement the grants created by this legislation. We appreciate the President's FY 2024 budget request of \$15 million but think funding for the grant programs should be further increased.

**ADL requests that Congress fund the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act grant programs at no less than \$20 million to support state and local efforts to implement NIBRS, establish and run hate crime reporting hotlines, train officers and develop protocols for identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes.**

**ADL requests that the FBI continue to report on its ongoing efforts to ensure that all federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies fully report hate crimes statistics as provided by the Hate Crime Statistics Act. Incomplete reporting of hate crime data to the**

**FBI hinders critically needed efforts to understand, prevent, and mitigate the harms of hate crimes. ADL urges the FBI to conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies that have not consistently reported hate crimes data, with particular attention to small agencies which may have fewer resources for administrative management and data analysis. In addition, the Department should continue to ask state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to include the cost of participation in the FBI's HCSA program for the purposes of calculating extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes under Public Law 111– 84, section 4704(b)(3).**

**ADL requests that the Department of Justice continue to report on whether jurisdictions affirmatively reporting zero hate crimes are accurate in their reporting and to identify factors that lead to inaccurate reporting. The report should detail efforts to ensure all law enforcement agencies know of the reporting obligations and describe any gaps in reporting, strategies to overcome those gaps, and challenges to the full nationwide implementation of NIBRS. In addition, the report should detail the FBI's continued outreach and education on hate crimes reporting, including the number of trainings conducted on best practices to address hate crimes, as well as efforts the FBI is undertaking to help address the barriers to reporting that communities – particularly those communities disproportionately targeted by hate crimes – face in reporting hate crimes, and to ensure that all victims feel secure reporting hate crimes to law enforcement authorities.**

#### **5. EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO HATE CRIMES**

Since the enactment of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009, the federal government has provided crucial support to state and local efforts to raise community awareness about hate crimes, provide robust and culturally-appropriate training for law enforcement, and ensure appropriate investigations and prosecutions of hate crimes. During this time of historically high rates of hate crimes – particularly those targeting the Jewish community, and other minority and marginalized communities, this support remains vital to local efforts to effectively prevent and respond to bias and hate motivated attacks. This program was funded at \$25 million in FY 2023.

**ADL requests \$100 million for grants to State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to conduct educational outreach and training on hate crimes and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, as authorized by section 4704 of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (Public Law 111–84).**

**ADL also requests \$30 million for grants to support community-based approaches to preventing hate crimes through conflict resolution and community empowerment and education.**

**ADL supports the President's FY 2024 budget request for an additional \$13.2 million for the Civil Rights Division to increase capacity to enforce civil rights statutes and address hate and bias in the areas of education, employment, housing, policing, public accommodations, and access to federally funded programs. The increased funding will**

**enable the Civil Rights Division to provide outreach to impacted communities and technical assistance to Federal, state, and local law enforcement entities.**

**ADL supports the \$5 million Youth-Focused Hate Crime Prevention and Intervention Initiative in the President's FY 2024 budget request.**

## 6. ADDRESS HATE ONLINE

One urgent aspect of hate crimes is the proliferation of hate and harassment online. The ADL [Center for Technology and Society](#) (CTS) conducts an [annual survey](#) to assess bias-motivated online harassment and, in 2022, found disturbing results. Overall, the survey revealed that 2 in 5 Americans (40 percent) experienced some type of online harassment in the course of their lives, with 1 in 10 (12 percent) having experienced severe types of harassment—defined as including physical threats, sustained harassment, stalking, sexual harassment, doxing, and/or swatting—in the past 12 months. Data from the same survey also shows that marginalized or minoritized identity groups—including Jews, women, people of color, and LGBTQ+ people—experience hate-based online harassment (i.e., targeted attacks or abuse of marginalized people because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexuality, physical appearance, identity, or disability) at disproportionately high levels. According to the study, 65 percent of people from these groups who experienced online harassment reported being targeted for an aspect of their identity, compared to 38 percent of people from non-marginalized groups. Moreover, in addition to severe harassment for historically marginalized groups being higher, these groups also experienced higher rates of online stalking (12 percent vs. 6 percent) and sexual harassment (12 percent vs. 5 percent).

For the first time, ADL also surveyed youth aged 13-17 in the same study about their experiences of hate and harassment online and found that nearly half (47 percent) reported experiencing harassment and a quarter experienced severe harassment including physical threats, sustained harassment, stalking, sexual harassment, doxing, and swatting. Nearly half of respondents (47 percent) ages 13-17 experienced online harassment at some point in their lives, with one-fourth (25 percent) experiencing severe harassment.

CTS also conducts an [annual survey](#) to assess hate and harassment in online multiplayer games. For the third consecutive year, ADL's survey found that harassment experienced by adult gamers increased and remains at alarmingly high levels, while the new research on the experience of teens also raises significant concerns.

Despite evidence from civil society about the increasing problem of hate online, the [FBI's efforts](#) to collect data on these crimes has fallen short. There is very little data available through the data collected pursuant to the Hate Crime Statistics Act about hate crimes facilitated by the internet to allow policymakers, technology companies, and impacted communities to develop effective policy solutions to address them.

The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, enacted as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022, authorized two new federal grant programs to improve the response to cybercrimes against individuals, including hate and bias-motivated

offenses. The first authorizes a grant program to provide funding to states, Indian Tribes, and units of local government for the prevention, enforcement, and prosecution of cybercrimes against individuals. The second authorizes a grant program to establish and maintain a National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals, which would “provide resource information, training, and technical assistance to improve the capacity of individuals, organizations, governmental entities, and communities to prevent, enforce, and prosecute cybercrimes against individuals.”

**ADL requests that Congress support the President’s FY 2024 budget request of \$10 million for Local Law Enforcement Grants for enforcement of cybercrimes against individuals.**

**ADL requests that Congress support the President’s FY 2024 budget request of \$4 million for the National Resource Center on Cybercrimes Against Individuals to address the serious issue of online hate, stalking, and abuse.**

## 7. ONLINE HATE, HARASSMENT, AND EXTREMISM RESEARCH

ADL’s [REPAIR plan](#) pushes hate, harassment, and extremism back to the fringes of the digital world. Like ADL’s PROTECT plan, parts of the REPAIR strategy can be pursued via federal funding, including funding to support much-needed research to better understand and responsibly mitigate online hate and extremism.

There is insufficient data to understand whether the tools private technology companies provide for consumers to protect themselves are effective, and research is needed that evaluates platforms’ available tools and assesses users’ needs, including a gap analysis of available tools and services.

The federal government does not have a solid understanding of the role product design plays in exacerbating and normalizing hate, harassment, and extremism online. Government agencies should support research into how product design and implementation either diminish or amplify the spread of hate, harassment, and extremism, and commission an independent, third-party audit of product systems related to product design as a means to hold technology companies accountable in developing products that combat hate from inception to implementation.

Tech companies’ fundamental business model—surveillance advertising—must also be addressed. Surveillance advertising maximizes profits because the astronomical amount of data collected on every user enables platforms to target them with the content and recommendations best designed to keep those users engaged on the platform for as long as possible in order to serve them with as many ads as possible.

It is important that the federal government contribute to the growing body of research regarding this practice to better understand and appropriately mitigate the harmful practice of surveillance advertising. Continued research on this issue is needed from both outside experts and government bodies to understand the harms associated with targeted advertising to support and influence legislative, regulatory, and policy solutions.

The federal government should invest in research to better understand how algorithmic processes discriminate on the basis of protected characteristics.

**ADL supports designating \$10 million to support research and development of a report on best practices that can inform federal policy to combat online hate, harassment, and extremism, specifically focused on algorithmic amplification and other recommendations of dangerous content at the National Institute of Justice.**

## 8. COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

The Department of Justice's Community Relations Service (CRS) saves lives and preserves community cohesion and must be taken to scale to meet increased demand resulting from increases in discrimination and hate.

CRS provides facilitation, mediation, training, and consultation services that improve communities' abilities to problem solve and build capacity to prevent and respond to conflict, tension, and hate crimes based on race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability.

CRS's efforts are both symbolically important and practically effective. For example, after a gunman killed a worshiper and wounded three others at the Chabad of Poway, CA, on April 27, 2019 – exactly six months after the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh – members of the surrounding community asked CRS to help reestablish community safety and rebuild residents' confidence that they could safely attend religious services. Within days of the shooting,

CRS brought the local U.S. Attorney's Office together with leaders of local faith communities to assess tensions, identify concerns, and share best practices for addressing hate crimes and protecting religious institutions. CRS served as a liaison between community stakeholders and the state and federal agencies involved in investigating the shooting. CRS also worked with stakeholders to convene continuing conversations, including a Bias Incidents and Hate Crimes forum held by an interfaith coalition of San Diego-area religious communities, and an August 2019 training that brought the U.S. Attorney's Office back together with faith community leaders to build capacity to prevent and respond to hate crimes. In FY 2023, Congress appropriated over \$25 million for CRS.

**ADL supports increased funding for the Community Relations Service at \$40 million to ensure availability of community-based peacebuilding and violence prevention efforts.**

## 9. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Department's United Against Hate initiative is vital to strengthening relationships between communities and law enforcement to build trust and encourage the reporting of hate crimes and hate incidents. ADL welcomes the recent expansion of this program and recognizes the importance of and need to convene local forums that connect community groups to federal, state, and local law enforcement to increase community understanding and reporting of hate crimes;



build trust between law enforcement and communities; and create and strengthen alliances between law enforcement and other government partners and groups to combat hate.

**After the successful piloting of the program in the U.S. Attorney's Offices for Massachusetts, New Jersey, and the Eastern District of Washington, ADL requests that Congress fully fund the expansion of this initiative to remaining U.S. Attorneys Offices.**

## 10. ONLINE LITERACY PROGRAMS

Online hate and extremism have increased dramatically in recent years, and the consequences have included violent attacks and serious harm. Online literacy skills have become essential for individuals to successfully navigate and critically assess the ever-increasing amount of information they receive online, especially on social media. Improved online literacy advances resilience against attempts to foment hate-motivated violence and is a crucial way to creating a safer and more inclusive world.

**ADL requests funding for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to assist states, Tribal entities, and U.S. territories as they develop programs to improve digital literacy and online skills. These programs include strategies for improving Americans' ability to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information online. ADL requests that NTIA be provided an additional \$5 million for online literacy programming directed specifically at hate- fueled violence, such as violence inspired by antisemitic or white supremacist conspiracy theories.**

## 11. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S. since ADL began conducting its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1979. ADL's incident data shows that we are experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism unlike any we have seen in more than 40 years.

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Attorney General and Secretary of Commerce release public reports detailing how the Agencies plan to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**



## **DEFENSE**

### **1. ADDRESS ANTISEMITISM AND EXTREMISM IN THE MILITARY**

Our research has shown a continuous rise in antisemitism and extremism – threatening not only individual Americans and communities but our national security as a whole. ADL’s [2021 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the United States](#) found that antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high in the United States since the Audit was launched in 1979, with a total of 2,717 incidents of assault, harassment and vandalism. At the same time, domestic violent extremism has been on the rise in recent years. The Jewish community continues to be a primary target of extremists, regardless of ideology, alongside other targeted communities. Unchecked extremism damages our social fabric and undermines our democratic norms and institutions.

In light of this threat, ADL remains deeply concerned by violent extremists’ attempted recruitment from and targeting of government institutions, and the danger posed to our service members. Even a small number of members harboring unchecked antisemitism and extremism in the ranks undermines America’s armed forces and can cause harm far disproportionate to their number. According to [ADL research](#), there is significant evidence that service members today are encountering antisemitic and extremist personnel, and that this extremist threat to the ranks has been harmful to the effectiveness and security of the force in multiple ways. It has led to physical harm to servicemembers, theft of military equipment, security breaches, harm to morale, mental health, unit cohesion and personnel retention harm to recruiting efforts, and harm to mission success.

**In order to protect our armed forces and uniformed services from the national security threat posed by antisemitism and extremism, ADL requests an additional \$2 million per year in dedicated funding specific to domestic violent extremist threats be provided to the Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center to research and address antisemitism and extremist threats within the military.**

**Further, ADL requests report language to instruct the Department to report on the ongoing processes outlined in the Countering Extremism Working Group’s final report, as well as a summary of the Department’s activities to address antisemitism.**

ADL also requests reports on the following:

- **The role of antisemitism in violent extremist movements, and the threat that global antisemitism and violent extremist movements pose to United States Armed Forces and national security from the Secretary of Defense. The report should include an assessment of how antisemitism can manifest as a national security threat, as well as the key threat streams across different violent extremist ideologies and themes that will help the Department understand the challenge.**
- **The feasibility of requiring defense contractors (companies with contracts over \$100,000 and 10 or more employees) to take training on the nature and scope of antisemitism, as well as best practices for avoiding and addressing it, as a step**

**towards ensuring the federal procurement process is conducted in a manner free from discrimination from the Secretary of Defense.**

- **An assessment of the relationship between antisemitism and national security threats from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, working with intelligence components.**
- **A public report detailing how the Department has implemented, and plans to implement, the National Strategy to Counter Domestic Terrorism and the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism from the Secretary of Defense.**

## **2. IMPROVE THE SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS**

Security clearances are a privilege granted to highly trusted employees, as well as a tool for safeguarding highly sensitive information. Known antisemites also may sympathize with conspiracies motivating some of the country's most grave national security threats.

**ADL requests that Congress support improved security clearance policies, procedures, and training to ensure that individuals who adhere to extremist ideologies do not have security clearances, including directing the Department to report on its progress in developing these improved policies, procedures, and training. ADL requests that, with civil liberties safeguards in place, the Secretary screen for those with extremist sympathies in the security clearance process, including efforts to ensure that those who are granted clearances do not harbor dangerous antisemitic or conspiracy-riddled views that could animate them to violence.**

**This review should also ensure that Americans, including Jewish Americans, are not unduly targeted with accusations of dual loyalty towards Israel, or any other country, when undergoing this process.**

## **STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS**

### **1. COUNTER GLOBAL WHITE SUPREMACIST EXTREMISM**

As part of the PROTECT plan, ADL supports the Department of State's nascent efforts to counter "Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (REMVE)" and supports further efforts to shepherd in a new era of capabilities to counter white supremacy globally. White supremacy and other forms of domestic terrorism are clear threats domestically, but many of those responsible for these threats have overseas counterparts with whom they coordinate or inspire. The Department's multilateral coordination and best practices can serve as a cost-effective way to catalyze global efforts to mitigate the threat. By providing startup-funding for community resilience non-profits, facilitating best practices for policymakers, and creating best practices and training for prosecutors and terrorism prevention practitioners, a new era of capabilities can be launched.

**ADL requests that the State Department's Bureau of Counterterrorism receive additional funding specific to REMVE-related efforts, including dedicated funding for donations to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (\$2 million), Hedayah (\$800,000), the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law (\$800,000), and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (\$12 million) to build counter-REMVE capacity.**

Additionally, the Department of State's Global Engagement Center (GEC) creates and supports critical efforts to counter malign propaganda, such as that of ISIS, Al Qaeda, Iran, and Russia. In light of the threat of the rise of global white supremacy, particularly given the movement's reliance on global communications, ADL believes the GEC should also create new efforts to address REMVE and adapt to the malign influence from global white supremacist extremists.

**ADL requests that the State Department's Bureau of Public Affairs receive an additional \$10 million for the GEC to launch REMVE-specific efforts.**

**ADL also asks that the Department report on its progress on implementation of the requirement in the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that the Department create a comprehensive strategy on countering white identity terrorism and how the strategy will be implemented. The Department should release a public version of the strategy.**

### **2. OFFICES OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTISEMITISM AND SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HOLOCAUST ISSUES**

We are facing a global crisis of rising antisemitism today, which has been exacerbated in the last few years due to several factors, including the pandemic, proliferating cyberhate, rising populism in certain countries, and anti-Zionist vitriol from the far left and far right in others. The horrific 2018 attack in Pittsburgh was the deadliest incident specifically targeting the Jewish community in our country's history, and we've seen attacks by similar far-right extremists in America and around the world, such as in Poway and Halle, Germany, as well as

other plots that were disrupted before they were carried out. And the May 2021 spike in antisemitic violence around the world was an undeniable reminder that antisemitic assaults by other forces pose a persistent concern as well.

Additionally, the largest Jewish community in the world is in Israel, which is subject to antisemitic incitement every day. For example, this includes the incitement of hatred and the plotting of deadly attacks by Hamas, Iran, Hezbollah, and Al Qaeda.

However, as alarming as the rise in incidents has been in America, circumstances have actually been far worse over the last decade in Europe, which is home to over a million Jews. A major European Union survey of European Jewish respondents found that roughly 40 percent worried about being the target of an antisemitic physical attack and over a third of respondents avoided visiting Jewish sites because of safety fears. Roughly 70 percent of respondents said their governments were not doing enough to address the societal antisemitism that leads to attacks.

Latin America also hosts large Jewish communities in Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico, all of which have their own serious concerns. For example, Argentina was the site of one of the deadliest terrorist attacks targeting a Jewish community, when 85 people were murdered in a terrorist attack on a Jewish community center in 1994.

Combating antisemitism around the world is an American interest, and there is no way that we can win this fight unless the United States plays a leading role by pressing other countries to do more. There are two crucial offices in the State Department working to fight antisemitism globally: the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism and the Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues. Each of these offices was funded in FY 2023 at a level of \$1.5 million, which falls short of the urgent role each plays in countering antisemitism around the world.

**ADL requests \$2 million for the U.S. State Department's Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, for staffing and additional programs.**

**ADL also requests \$1.5 million for the U.S. State Department's Office of the Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, for staffing and additional programs or exchanges to combat Holocaust distortion and to promote Holocaust education abroad in partnership with civil society.**

**ADL also requests that the Office of International Religious Freedom and the Office of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism work jointly to create and implement interfaith curriculum development and trainings specifically related to Holocaust education. The Office of International Religious Freedom should use existing processes and augment future programming with Holocaust education. These efforts will help combat Holocaust distortion within other faith communities and set a foundation for greater interfaith efforts.**

### 3. SUPPORT ISRAEL'S NORMALIZATION EFFORTS

Over the past two years, the historic Abraham Accords have transformed the Middle East and created the opportunity for systemic change in the fight against antisemitism and Holocaust denial in the region. The newly normalized relations between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco are ushering in a new era of bridge-building between Israelis and her neighbors. At the same time, these accords provide unprecedented opportunities to promote tolerance and fight antisemitism in the region.

As we have done so globally, the United States and Congress must leverage these accords to fight antisemitism globally and advance global efforts to support Holocaust education and curriculum that fights violence, bigotry and hate.

In recognition of the potential impact of this diplomatic feat, Congress passed the Israel Relations Normalization Act (IRNA), which directed the Department of State to take action to promote the normalization of relations between Israel, Arab states, and other relevant countries and regions.

Specifically, IRNA directed the State Department to develop a strategy to expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords, and to report on the status of the normalization of relations with Israel, including information on laws that punish individuals for people-to-people relations with Israelis and evidence of steps taken by Arab governments toward permitting or encouraging normalized relations between their citizens and Israeli citizens.

**ADL requests that funding be provided to ensure that the Department of State has the resources required to fully implement the requirements created by the Israel Relations Normalization Act to help ensure the maximum potential of the Abraham Accords are reached.**

**ADL also requests that the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs of the Department of State complete a report that evaluates efforts by countries under its jurisdiction to advance innovative efforts to combat hate and promote tolerance, including a summary of all diplomatic efforts by the United States over the last five years to support initiatives by these nations to improve their education materials. The report should also include an evaluation of efforts to remove content and passages from educational materials that encourage violence or intolerance toward other nations, ethnic groups, religious minorities, or the LGBTQI+ community.**

### 4. NITA M. LOWEY MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE ACT

The Nita M. Lowey Middle East Partnership for Peace Act (MEPPA) was enacted into law in 2020 with bipartisan support, and directs \$50 million for people-to-people exchanges and economic partnerships between Israelis and Palestinians. The legislation, named after former Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Nita Lowey, provides for grants to support Palestinian and Israeli private

sector initiatives to build partnerships, increase economic growth, and lay the foundation for peace through people-to-people programs. These crucial programs – the People-to-People Partnership for Peace Fund and the Joint Investment for Peace Initiative, implemented by the Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).

MEPPA programs are a critical tool of U.S. foreign policy aiming to build greater trust among Israelis and Palestinians and enhance economic cooperation in the hopes of delivering greater prosperity to the region. This effort continues to play an important role in Israeli-Palestinian civil society and peacebuilding.

**ADL requests that Congress maintain funding at \$50 million under the Economic Support Fund to support MEPPA in FY 2024.**

## 5. THE U.S.-MIDDLE EAST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

The U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Program under the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs' Office of Assistance Coordination (NEA/AC) offers assistance, training, and support to groups and individuals striving to create positive change in the society. MEPI works across the Middle East and North Africa region partnering with civil society organizations, community leaders, youth and women activists, and private sector groups to advance their efforts to improve their communities. MEPI's approach is bottom-up and grassroots, responding directly to local interests and needs.

The MEPI Program responds to needs and emerging opportunities for citizens and organizations that target one or more three core objectives – Participatory Governance, Economic Reform, or Educational Advancement. MEPI remains an important program for promoting economic and political reforms.

**ADL requests that Congress maintain funding at \$20 million for the MEPI program to support its important goals.**

## 6. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S. since ADL began conducting its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents. According to ADL's most recent Global 100 survey, roughly one out of every four residents of the 14 European countries polled subscribed to a majority of the antisemitic stereotypes tested. The survey found that stereotypes about Jewish control of business and the financial markets widespread in Central and Eastern Europe, while questions of Jewish loyalty – to their country or their community – is widespread in Western Europe.

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a

holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Secretary of State release a public report detailing how the Department plans to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**

## **INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES**

### **1. NEVER AGAIN EDUCATION ACT**

According to a [survey done in 2020 by the Claims Conference](#), 63 percent of U.S. Millennials and Gen Z do not know that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. Additionally, 12 percent of U.S. Millennials and Gen Z have never heard or don't think they've heard the word "Holocaust" before.

78 years after the conclusion of World War II, with the decreasing number of eyewitnesses and growing distance of students and their families from this history, it is important to institutionalize education about the events of the Holocaust such as the German Nazis' racist ideology, propaganda, and plan to lead a state to war and, with their collaborators, kill millions--including the systematic murder of six million Jewish people; as well as the persecution and murder of millions of others in the name of racial purity, political, ideological, and behavioral grounds, among them Sinti-Roma, Poles, people with physical and mental disabilities, LGBTQ+ people, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet prisoners of war, and political dissidents.

According to a 2020 [study from Echoes and Reflections](#), an ADL educational program, Holocaust education encourages empathy and tolerance. Holocaust education can teach universal lessons, including world history, fascism, extremism, the fragility of democracy, the human capacity for immorality, scapegoating and stereotyping, the role of perpetrators and bystanders, the importance of empathy and diversity and efforts toward justice.

If we do not make sure our children are learning about the Holocaust and antisemitism, history will repeat itself.

Moreover, Holocaust denial and distortion is proliferating more broadly. Today, those who deny that the Holocaust occurred or distort its true nature continue to find forums, especially online. This denial and distortion dishonors those who were persecuted, and murdered, making it even more of an imperative to educate students in the United States so that they may explore the lessons that the Holocaust provides for all people, sensitize communities to the circumstances that gave rise to the Holocaust, and help youth be less susceptible to the falsehood of Holocaust denial and distortion and to the destructive messages of hate that arise from Holocaust denial and distortion.

As antisemitism, bigotry, and Holocaust denialism and distortion are on the rise and continuously promoted by hate groups, Holocaust education provides a context in which to learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others. Learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important component of the education of members of our society.

We must properly resource Holocaust education through the Never Again Education Act. With the study of the Holocaust, students can grow as responsible citizens, have the tools to speak out against hate, and develop critical thinking, empathy, and social justice skills for the future.



**ADL requests a minimum of \$10 million to significantly scale up the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's education programming.**

## **2. NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR HUMANITIES AND NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

The Administration's United We Stand Summit included commitments from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for Humanities for additional programming for civic and social engagement, as well as cross-cultural understanding. These types of programs are critical for inoculating communities to conspiracy theories as well as helping communities recover from hate and violence.

**ADL requests robust funding for both the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for Humanities' programs to address hate-motivated violence.**

## **3. STUDY CURRENT HOLOCAUST EDUCATION EFFORTS**

Holocaust education is a critical tool to teach students the dangers of bias and hate and fight back against the rising tide of antisemitism. Unfortunately, there are currently significant variations in if and how the Holocaust is taught across different states and localities, what types of lessons and curricula are taught, and what resources and training are available to support educators. The best available data is needed to drive policy, and to understand the underlying gaps in education efforts. In order to improve and support Holocaust and antisemitism education, there must be an understanding of what programs, curriculum, and resources exist in order to promote a more uniform and accurate understanding of Holocaust education.

**ADL requests \$2 million for a study by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum on the state of Holocaust Education across the country. This study should compile efforts in States, local educational agencies, and public elementary schools and secondary schools, including identifying each State's standards and the requirements, teaching methods and instructional material, and the overall comprehensiveness of the Holocaust education.**

## **4. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM**

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S. since ADL launched its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1979. ADL's incident data shows that we are experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism unlike any we have seen in more than 40 years.

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Secretary of Interior release a public report detailing how the Department plans to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**

## **FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **1. INCREASE TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

In an effort to stop the spread of hateful, racist, and extremist online activity and content, as well as stymie the flow of disinformation, it is vital that the public and policymakers alike have a better understanding of how social media platforms are protecting their users. Current transparency reports on how social media companies are policing their platforms are selective and inadequate in terms of the information provided, and are often inconsistent and confusing. This misleads consumers and investors alike. That is why the federal government must champion policies that promote transparency and accountability for any digital platforms that can host online hate, harassment and extremism.

ADL surveys have underscored public support for policies that promote accountability and transparency in online social spaces including social media platforms and online multiplayer games. For instance, recent ADL surveys have found that more than 3 out of 4 respondents think that online platforms should be doing more to counter hate online and that laws need to be strengthened to hold platforms accountable for online hate and harassment (78 percent and 77 percent respectively).

They also found that more than half (59 percent) of adult gamers believe that laws need to be created to increase transparency around how game companies address hate, harassment, and extremism.

The federal government should invest resources in and build off of current initiatives to enhance transparency and accountability of social media platforms for the harms that they facilitate. For instance, studies, commissions, or other measures can be funded in order to develop a comprehensive transparency framework for platforms on content moderation, recommender systems, digital ads, high-reach content, and internal research.

**ADL requests \$10 million for the Federal Trade Commission's Office of Technology and Bureau of Consumer Protection to enhance current initiatives to promote transparency and accountability of social media platforms. The objective of such investment should include the development of a comprehensive transparency framework for platforms.**

### **2. INVESTIGATE THE FINANCING OF DOMESTIC EXTREMISM**

Domestic violent extremist organizations support their movement through a variety of financing mechanisms, including utilizing online crowdfunding platforms. The funds that flow to these organizations are used to target communities at risk of hate, and to promote violence. Whereas the U.S. government has considerable resources to track the financing of foreign terrorists, it must further invest in its capacity to investigate the financing of domestic terrorists.

**ADL requests that funding for the Department of Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence include sufficient resources to investigate domestic terrorism and to develop a website of key reports and resources on financing domestic violent extremism to**

**help inform the public and private sectors. That should include a public report detailing efforts to address the exploitation of crowdfunding campaigns by extremists, including any work with the Securities and Exchange Commission on this matter as required by the JOBS Act. Within this report there should be a status review undertaken by the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to evaluate the 501(c)3 status of organizations connected to or supporting violent extremist causes.**

### **3. ANTISEMITISM EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

With antisemitism rising precipitously around the United States, it is critical for the federal government to incorporate antisemitism education and training as part of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) efforts and other anti-bias initiatives. Building on President Biden's June 2021 Executive Order on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in the Federal Workforce, any Government-Wide Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Initiative and Strategic Plan must ensure that addressing antisemitism and cultural competency on Jews and Jewish issues are part of the course.

Following events like the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville and the shootings in Pittsburgh, 75% of Jews say that there is more antisemitism than there was five years ago, and 53% feel less safe, according to the Pew Research Center's Survey of Jewish Americans. ADL's 2021 Survey on Jewish Americans Experiences with Antisemitism found that 63% of Jews had experienced or witnessed an antisemitic incident in the past 5 years, and that business establishments were the 4th most frequent location where antisemitic incidents take place.

DEIA efforts must take into account the experiences of all government employees and do so in an intersectional manner. Otherwise, any gaps or inequities that prevent the creation of a truly inclusive workplace will not be addressed. One of the areas to build upon current efforts is by incorporating antisemitism and other issues impacting Jewish employees into DEIA strategies.

**ADL requests that the Government-wide DEIA Plan and other anti-bias initiatives include antisemitism as part of their efforts to build a more inclusive government.**

**ADL requests a GAO historical study on the federal government's efforts to promote antisemitism training, and how Holocaust lessons are utilized for that training, for federal employees – including but not limited to diplomatic trainings, the Peace Corps, and Americorps.**

### **4. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM**

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S. since ADL began conducting its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1979. ADL's incident data shows that we are experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism unlike any we have seen in more than 40 years,

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Secretary of Treasury release a public report detailing how the Department plans to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**

## **LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES**

### **1. COMBAT ANTISEMITISM ON COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**

Rising antisemitism is directly impacting Jewish students on college and university campuses across the country. For decades, a small but vocal segment of U.S. student groups and faculty on college campuses has espoused virulently anti-Israel and anti-Zionist views effectively singling out Jews as a people undeserving of a right of self-determination. Anti-Israel rhetoric and activism can span the spectrum from the denial and vilification of the right of Jewish self-determination to the propagation of classic antisemitic tropes. Over the past several years and through the current academic year, the prominence of anti-Israel and anti-Zionist activities on campus appears to have continued to grow. As incidents surge, we must be aware of possible links between hateful rhetoric and violence and students and faculty of all political stripes must do their best to engage in healthy and respectful dialogue.

In 2019, the former Administration issued Executive Order 13899—Combating Anti-Semitism which reaffirms the long-standing principle that antisemitism and discrimination against Jews based on an individual's race, color, or national origin may violate Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq. The Order directs the federal government to enforce Title VI against prohibited forms of discrimination rooted in antisemitism as vigorously as against all other forms of discrimination prohibited by Title VI and requires federal agencies to consider the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism along with the eleven contemporary examples in enforcing Title VI. This EO underscored the policy that several administrations, both Democratic and Republican, had adopted.

**ADL requests that funding be provided to the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights' Outreach, Prevention, Education & Nondiscrimination (OPEN) Center for technical assistance regarding campus antisemitism to support the completion of pending investigations of Title VI complaints relating to antisemitism and to prioritize the rulemaking process for Title VI to ensure it remains a priority.**

### **2. SUPPORT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN RESPONDING TO AND RECOVERING FROM HATE**

From K-12 schools to university campuses, educational environments and educators are on the frontlines of the fight against hate. Students face threats of bullying, hate, harassment, and extremism. Educators and educational institutions at all levels need better resources not only to educate against hate and provide better anti-bias curriculum, but also to improve their ability to prevent hate-based threats and bullying and recover from hate-based violence.

**ADL requests funding for the Department of Education to support safer learning environments and student wellbeing and resilience in the face of hate and trauma as part of the implementation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.**

**ADL also requests funding for the Department of Education's efforts to provide grants for institutions of higher education to effectively prevent and respond to hate-fueled violence, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) subjected to recent threats.**

### 3. RESILIENCE AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO FOMENT HATE ONLINE

Online hate and extremism have increased dramatically in recent years, and the consequences have included violent attacks and serious harm. Online platforms often lack adequate policies to mitigate these challenges or fail to enforce their policies effectively, and users require skills to navigate around and remain safe from these threats.

**ADL requests an additional \$5 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to advance information literacy. This funding should specifically support the efforts of IMLS's Information Literacy Taskforce to facilitate the development of a portal of resources bridging information literacy research and best practices for advancing information literacy within communities.**

The efforts of the Taskforce are needed to help confront the challenge, faced by people of all ages, of a lack of information literacy in many areas that has become more critical than ever.

### 4. GAO REPORT ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

As intolerance, antisemitism, and bigotry are promoted by hate groups, Holocaust education provides a context in which to learn about the danger of what can happen when hate goes unchallenged and there is indifference in the face of the oppression of others; learning how and why the Holocaust happened is an important component of the education of members of our society.

According to ADL data, Holocaust education encourages empathy and tolerance. Students who have participated in Holocaust education have more pluralistic attitudes and are more open to differing viewpoints, and report a greater willingness to challenge intolerant behavior in others. Students who learned about the Holocaust through survivor testimony showed higher critical thinking skills and greater sense of social responsibility and civic efficacy.

ADL's recent Antisemitic Attitudes in America survey found that 20 percent of Americans believe six or more anti-Jewish tropes, nearly doubling the antisemitic prejudice found in 2019 and the highest level in three decades. If we do not make sure our children are learning about the Holocaust and antisemitism, history will repeat itself.

**ADL requests GAO conduct a historical study on the use of educational resources devoted to Holocaust education. The review should include an analysis and review of state mandates to identify whether their funding is adequate, whether schools that teach about the Holocaust do so appropriately at each grade level, whether school districts are meeting learning standards about the Holocaust, and other relevant and related information.**

A GAO study accounting about existing efforts to teach and learn about the Holocaust will help us better understand why we are not doing better in educating a younger generation about the Holocaust and the lessons of the past.

## 5. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

Today, Jews and Jewish institutions are facing antisemitism with alarming frequency, and the trend is worsening: 2021 was the highest year on record for antisemitic incidents in the U.S. since ADL launched its annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in 1979. ADL's incident data shows that we are experiencing a crisis of rising antisemitism unlike any we have seen in more than 40 years.

ADL welcomed the Biden Administration's announcement that they are forming a new interagency group to develop a national strategy to combat antisemitism. This is part of a holistic approach to address the antisemitism that has been increasingly normalized in society.

**ADL requests that the Secretary of Education, Secretary of Health of Human Services, and Secretary of Labor release public reports detailing how the Departments plan to implement the National Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.**

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These funding requests are essential to dealing with the grave situations our nation faces, including domestic extremism, increased antisemitism and hate crimes, and other critical issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [msevillia@adl.org](mailto:msevillia@adl.org) or 202-374-1272 with any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration of ADL's requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Sevillia', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Max Sevillia  
Vice President for Government  
Relations, Advocacy and Community  
Engagement