

In accordance with the values and principles of Torah and Jewish tradition, and in the name of Progressive Judaism:

We recognise and uphold the principle of the inherent equality of humanity, the right to human dignity of each person, and the principle that each human being is *b'tselem Elohim* – made in the image of G-d.

We recognise that we live in multicultural, multi-racial and multi-faith societies in Australia and in the Asian and Pacific regions.

We recognise the need to support and uphold the principles of equality and social justice, and the need to counter discrimination and vilification, as the basis for social cohesion for just and peaceful societies. We recall and uphold the principle: *Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof* – Justice, justice you shall pursue.

We view with concern:

1. the increase in the levels and violence of attacks on Jews, especially in Europe, but also throughout the world, including in Australia,
2. that increasingly anti-Jewish rhetoric and actions are deriving from the far Left and from segments of the Muslim community, and not just from the far Right,
3. the life conditions and often institutional racism faced by indigenous peoples of Australia and NZ, the Americas, and elsewhere,
4. the rise in Islamist terrorism over the last 15 years, targeting innocent civilians in many Western, Muslim and Asian countries including Jews, Christians, Muslims, Yazidis, gays, and others targeted simply for being Westerners,
5. the rise of far Right political groups who target Jews, Muslims, and other non-European minorities,
6. the far Left political and so-called “anti-racism” activist groups in ignoring the racism that Jews, Indians, Chinese and others are subjected to,
7. that all Muslims are being tarred with Islamo-fascism and Islamist violence regardless of their political or religious views or practices,
8. current racism theories and intersectionality (both of which create hierarchies of oppression), and the anti-racism rhetoric and actions by many NGOs which tend to favour particular groups (for political reasons) over other groups who are subjected to similar levels of discrimination, harassment, vilification or attack, while the latter groups are ignored,
9. the lack of political and moral leadership and action in taking a lead to counter racism and bigotry, for example, in calls by some MPs to dilute race-hate laws,
10. shallow politically-based responses, which are generally counter-productive, rather than a nuanced and calibrated approach to populist parties and their voters.

UPJ resolution on racism

We also recognise that:

- a. Racism manifests in both generalist and specific forms – a general aversion to minority groups and/or an aversion to specific minority groups,
- b. the modes of racism and stereotypes often vary according to the specific minority group,
- c. there is a legitimate and valid fear of Islamists and other terrorists, and that denying this is counter-productive to opposing ideologically-based violence,
- d. racism and bigotry occurs between ethnic minorities, and not just between the majority and minority cultures,
- e. some ideologies held by some religious minority groups include the belief in supersessionism and discrimination against those not of their religion,
- f. some churches, some “anti-racism” activists, and some mainstream media focus disproportionately on anti-Muslim prejudice, and neglect or ignore the racism and bigotry directed at other minority groups,
- g. despite the hype about anti-Muslim prejudice and incidents, these do not outnumber other specific forms of bigotry – see Appendix 1.

In light of the above concerns and acknowledgments, with the aim to work towards a socially just and cohesive society,

The UPJ urges Jews to engage in:

- study circles on the history of racism and bigotry and the current situation,
- national conversations against racism and bigotry,
- interfaith dialogue, but coming from a strong foundation in Judaism,
- alliances with other ethnic minority groups, for mutual support against racism,
- programs by representative Jewish organisations eg at state level.

The UPJ urges synagogues and their associated groups to facilitate, where applicable, for Jews to engage in the above.

Appendix 1:

Statistics of hate crimes in the four countries with the highest numbers of Jews, outside of Israel, namely, the United States, France, Canada and Britain:

In the United States, the FBI hate crime statistics show that for the eleven years from 2004 to 2014, anti-Jewish hate crimes constituted between 58% and 70% of all hate crimes in the U.S. in the "Religion" category. By comparison, in the same period, anti-Muslim hate crimes in the U.S. constituted between 7-16% of the total in that category. Anti-"other religion" (Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs etc) constituted between 7-13% - similar to anti-Muslim hate statistics.

In France, 50% of racist attacks are against Jews. The remaining 50% of racist attacks are spread over other groups including Africans, Arabs, Asians, Muslims, Roma and others.

In Canada, the Ontario Human Rights Commission reported that in 2009, of all religion-based hate crimes in the country, 70% were committed against Jews. In 2010, more than 50% were against Jews, and 26% were against Muslims.

In Britain, the Metropolitan Police Service database on hate crimes in London showed a rise in both anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim incidents for the twelve month period from July 2014 to July 2015. Anti-Jewish incidents increased by 93% and anti-Muslim incidents by 70%. During this period, the number of offences against Muslims rose from 478 to 816, and against Jews from 258 attacks to 499. There was one anti-Jewish attack for every 601 Jews, and one anti-Muslim attack for every 3,676 Muslims. A Jew is four times more likely to be attacked than a Muslim.

In Australia, over the twelve month period from September 2014 to September 2015, statistics from the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) and the Islamophobia Register Australia (IRA), comparing like with like, show there were 128 anti-Muslim incidents and 180 anti-Jewish incidents in the categories involving physical abuse (including assaults, apprehended violence and damage to property) and person-on-person verbal abuse (these statistics exclude online abuse).