

MORE FROM HOMEPAGE

◀ Dak was the hero, but Cowboys defense deserves the praise in dramatic win over Steelers

Matt Bush, ex-Texas Rangers pitcher, faces DWI charge after crash in Arlington

Here's w
registeri ▶

ADVERTISEMENT

THINK PINK!
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

FREE Service call with Repairs

0% to 72 MONTHS SPECIAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

\$44.95 HVAC TUNE-UP*
*Per unit. Must mention coupon.

Up To **\$300 Off** NEW WATER HEATER INSTALLATION
*Must mention coupon.

Up To **\$300** NEW ELECTRICAL BREAKER PANEL
*Must mention coupon.

WHY CHOOSE ANYONE ELSE?

Xtreme Air Services
SERVICE • SALES • COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL

THIS IS MEMBER-EXCLUSIVE CONTENT ⓘ

OPINION

Here's how Texans are fighting antisemitism

One year from Oct. 7 attacks, more work to be done.

By Kenneth Goldberg

Oct. 7, 2024 | Published 1:30 a.m. | ⌚ 4 min. read



A damaged school building is seen after it was hit in Iran's missile attack in Gedera, Israel, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024. Kenneth Goldberg writes that one year after the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas, Israel is still under attack, but allies in Texas are showing support. (AP Photo/Ohad Zwigenberg) (Ohad Zwigenberg / AP)



Today marks one year since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel. On the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust, the terror group raped and kidnapped hundreds of Israelis, Americans and foreign nationals, slaughtered 1,200 and launched a regional war that is still raging.

One year later, the trauma is still real. Israel continues to fight for survival against Hamas, which uses its own people as human shields, and against Iran, which crossed a red line last week by launching hundreds of rockets at Israeli cities and towns.

ADVERTISEMENT



Meanwhile, Jewish communities globally face a torrent of hate: Vicious antisemitism that has become synonymous with anti-Zionism, which denies Jewish people the right to self-determination in their historic homeland.

But today should not just be a call for outrage, anger and heartbreak. It must be a call to action — including in Texas.



Opinion

Get smart opinions on the topics North Texans care about.

gary@newwestcomms.com



SIGN UP

Or with:



By signing up you agree to our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#).

Nationally, antisemitic incidents jumped 140% between 2022 and 2023, with 2024 on pace at similarly historic levels, according to the [Anti-Defamation League](#). Sadly, Texas has not been immune.

On college campuses like the University of Texas at Austin and [UT Dallas](#), anti-Israel protests crossed the line into harassment and intimidation, leaving many Jewish students feeling

vulnerable.

ADVERTISEMENT



At city councils, activists screamed for a ceasefire with language that targeted Jews, and sometimes the activists had to be forcibly removed from council chambers. Dallas Council Member Cara Mendelsohn's home was vandalized with antisemitic graffiti, slurs, and dolls representing dead babies.

And in communities like Flower Mound to our north and Godley to our south, white supremacists have maintained their own recognizable brand of antisemitism, distributing flyers laden with swastikas and conspiracy theories about Jewish control.

Against this backdrop, I am proud Texas has become a national leader in raising awareness, fighting Jew-hatred from all directions, and supporting the Jewish community, which includes nearly 180,000 individuals mostly in and around our biggest cities.

That foundation was laid before Oct. 7 with true bipartisan support. Both Dallas and Texas adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of antisemitism. In the Legislature, Republican Sen. Phil King of Weatherford sponsored a bill banning academic boycotts of Israel and other foreign nations, while Democratic Sen. Jose Menendez of San Antonio wrote a 2019 law that established Holocaust Remembrance Week in Texas public schools.

ADVERTISEMENT



In the year since Oct. 7, our leaders have again risen to the moment. Gov. Greg Abbott secured funding for [new security grants for religious organizations](#), including synagogues and Jewish schools, and issued [an executive order taking on antisemitism at colleges and universities](#), among other steps.

These leaders have modeled that *all* Texans have a responsibility to fight anti-Zionism and antisemitism.

In the coming months, the [Texas Holocaust, Genocide and Antisemitism Advisory Commission](#), which I chair, will submit two reports to the Legislature that provide a continued path forward.

The first report includes the results of a survey of K-12 educators about Holocaust Remembrance Week. We found that many are incorporating lessons about that genocide in their classrooms. But others are missing valuable opportunities to teach about that brutal era in history and use it as a lesson to recognize hate today.

The other report is our second [Study of Antisemitism in Texas](#), which will review the events of the past year and include recommendations for state leaders to support the Jewish community in areas from public safety to higher education in a post-Oct. 7 world.

Last month, our commission heard testimony from Dallas educator Charles Pullman about three historical manifestations of antisemitism: race, religion and peoplehood.

For centuries, Jews were targeted for our religious practice. That evolved into hate toward the “Jewish race,” particularly during the Holocaust. Now, antisemites deny Jewish peoplehood through efforts to undermine the only Jewish state as they pivot from targeting Israel to targeting Jews.



I am heartened that many Texans already deeply support the Jewish community and Israel, especially as it faces an existential threat from Iran. Others, sadly, will never overcome their own hate.

One lesson of Oct. 7 and its aftermath should be to raise awareness among the majority of the Texans in the “movable middle.” Some have never met Jews in their communities and don’t think much about Israel. But they have an essential role to play in fighting antisemitism in Texas and beyond.

Kenneth Goldberg is the former president of Dallas’ Jewish Community Center and chairman of the Texas Holocaust, Genocide and Antisemitism Advisory Commission.

We welcome your thoughts in a letter to the editor. See the guidelines and [submit your letter here](#). If you have problems with the form, you can submit via email at letters@dallasnews.com



By Kenneth Goldberg

TOP PICKS



Back to the Ballot

Head to the polls with confidence. Take our voter education course.



Voter Guide

The most comprehensive voting tool in North Texas.