

Confronting Antisemitism in Texas: How To Respond

Antisemitism is on the rise statewide, nationally, and globally. As Texans confront episodes of hate, it's important that they can quickly identify antisemitism when it happens – and respond effectively.

Spotting antisemitism

Sometimes antisemitism is painfully obvious: swastikas at schools, anti-Jewish banners, or attacks on synagogues. Other episodes are just as hateful but more subtle. They rely on centuries-old tropes about Jews controlling the media, global finances, and education; draw from untrue stereotypes about greed and dishonesty; or demonize Israel, the world's only Jewish state, as the incarnation of evil.

If you believe you have witnessed or been targeted by antisemitism, it is vital to seek guidance so that you or others can respond effectively. *You are not alone – Texas has a wide network of educators, security professionals, and advocates who can help.*

Physical attacks

If you face immediate danger, move to a safe area and call 9-1-1.

If you believe there is an ongoing threat against the Jewish community or its members or have witnessed a specific attack against a person or property, you can call your local police department or any of these security resources:

→ Austin:

securitydirector@shalomaustin.org
512-735-8000

→ Dallas:

bhumphrey@jewishdallas.org
214-615-5221

→ Houston:

atribble@securecommunitynetwork.org
773-312-3884

→ San Antonio:

jewishfederation@jfsatx.org
210-302-6960

→ Statewide & National:

• Secure Community Network

dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org
844-SCN-DESK

• Anti-Defamation League

www.adl.org/report-incident
212-885-7700

In a school

All school districts must adopt anti-harassment policies under federal law and **adopt anti-bullying policies** to prevent written, verbal, physical, or electronic abuse under state law.

If you or your child experience antisemitism — on the playground, in the classroom, at the library, or elsewhere — it is important to understand **local policies** so you can speak up or seek guidance immediately. All districts must have an anonymous reporting option. Other options include:

Steps include:

- Talk to the classroom teacher, if you are comfortable doing so
- Report it to the principal or school district
- Before making any calls, you can always seek guidance or assistance in engaging with school officials through the **Anti-Defamation League**
www.adl.org/report-incident
or 212-885-7700

On campus

Antisemitism is a persistent concern on college campuses, often rooted in a demonization of Israel that relies on historic, hateful tropes. Episodes can arise at public gatherings, residence halls, or classrooms.

If you are a student, faculty, or staffer and experience antisemitism, **consider these options:**

- Call your campus police department if there is any physical danger or damage
- Contact the campus administration or University System offices for schools in the **UT, A&M, Texas State, Texas Tech, Houston, North Texas,** or other Systems
- Reach out to **Hillel International**, which serves more than 50 Texas campuses, and find your local contact at hillel.org/find-a-hillel/
- Faculty members can reach out to the **Academic Engagement Network**, which mobilizes networks of university faculty and administrators to counter antisemitism on campuses, at academicengagement.org/



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
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REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

The Texas Holocaust, Genocide and Antisemitism Advisory Commission is available to connect you with the right resources to respond to incidents of hate <https://thgaac.texas.gov/about/contact>
512.463.5108