



Statement on Antisemitism

The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre was founded in 1979 by Montreal Holocaust survivors and members of the Jewish community committed to the transmission of the memory of the 6 million Jews murdered due to antisemitism, and education aimed to prevent antisemitism, hate, prejudice and intolerance in our society.

We are concerned by the rise in antisemitism, unprecedented since the pre-WWII era. The Holocaust was the worst manifestation of antisemitism. Our concern is that this long-lived hatred of Jews is present today and manifested not only in terrorist attacks, such as those that several European countries have experienced this past year (Jewish Museum in Brussels, Hyper-Casher in Paris and the Copenhagen attack at a synagogue), but also in daily discourse and violent incidents demonising and dehumanising Jews through historical stereotypes and attacking freedom of religious expression. Hate speech has become prevalent on the Internet. Conflation of issues associating Israeli government decisions as giving free license to express antisemitism or act against all Jews, and the propagation of Holocaust denial or diminishment are prevalent in many societies.

Faced with these attacks, often coupled with others against freedom of speech, the Centre wishes to reaffirm its commitment to combating all prejudices, and to invite each and every citizen to take measure of the dangers which threaten our ability to live together in harmony, in Europe and also in Quebec and Canada. We urge citizens to work together, not to identify old or new scapegoats, but to mobilise against racism, hate and indifference.

In addition, we are concerned about the stereotyping and stigmatisation of other minority communities such as the Roma. Fears propagated about religious and cultural diversity by parties of the far right in some countries and the rise of islamophobia are disturbing contemporary issues.

The Centre's *raison d'être* is summarised in the leitmotif of the Museum: *To learn, to feel, to remember, to act*. We offer it as an inspiration and a call to vigilance to all Quebecers and Canadians and intend to contribute, as is our role, to building an inclusive society, respectful of difference.

To learn more about the Holocaust and antisemitism: www.mhmc.ca