



Musée Holocauste Montréal
Montreal Holocaust Museum

**Confronting Antisemitism:
The Montreal Holocaust Museum's Statement**

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

As Jewish communities around the world and here in Montreal are shaken by a wave of recent antisemitic violence, the Montreal Holocaust Museum urges citizens to stand together against all forms of hatred. The history of the Holocaust teaches us the dangers of indifference and reminds us of our shared responsibility to speak out against racism, antisemitism, and xenophobia.

Antisemitism is centuries old, but we cannot tolerate its proliferation today. There is no place nor justification for Jew hatred, intimidation, or hate speech. Over the past few weeks, there have been a concerning number of incidents targeting Jewish communities in Montreal and in other parts of the world. These include harassment and hate speech in the streets and online, threats made against Jewish individuals and institutions, vandalism of Jewish property, and instances of physical assault. Many Jews feel unsafe and fearful to display their Jewish identity.

The recent increase of antisemitic crimes is concerning, but unfortunately not surprising. According to Statistics Canada (2019), hate crimes motivated by antisemitism represent the largest group of crimes against religious minorities (55 %) and of all hate crimes (19 %).

The Museum thanks members of the Quebec National Assembly for the adoption of a motion “denouncing firmly the threats, violence and aggressions made against Quebecers of Jewish confession” on May 26. We also thank those in Quebec and Canada who spoke out against antisemitic threats and attacks. We encourage those committed to the fight against racism to work alongside Jewish communities to combat this long-lived form of hatred.

There are numerous ways to fight against antisemitism today, notably through education. People of all ages and backgrounds must be taught the dangers of misinformation and the perils of unchecked hatred. It is also crucial to recognize contemporary forms of antisemitism, exemplified by the resurgence and dissemination of historic stereotypes, Holocaust denial, and hateful acts justified by the recent developments in the conflict in the Middle East. Recognizing all of these as forms of antisemitism is an essential step in its prevention.

Our Museum was founded by Holocaust survivors who experienced the worst form of antisemitism in history. As inheritors of their legacy, we remain steadfast in our efforts to transmit their testimonies, educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the history of the Holocaust, and combat hatred,



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racism, and antisemitism. The Museum is a place that welcomes all those who are committed to work against antisemitism, racism, and discrimination. It is a place of learning, contemplating, and dialogue.

There is much work to be done to combat antisemitism and build a world without fear. We all have an important role to play in speaking up against misinformation and hatred.

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