

Shine a Light Week

WHEREAS, antisemitism is a challenge to the basic principles of tolerance, pluralism and democracy, and the shared values that bind Americans and many allies together. Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities; and,

WHEREAS, antisemitism threatens public life, the media, schools, the workplace and in the religious sphere. FBI statistics for 2020 have shown that Jews are the target of 58 percent of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the U.S. despite constituting a mere two percent of the population. A recent American Jewish Committee survey on antisemitism in America found that one in four American Jews has been the target of antisemitism over the past 12 months, either verbal or physical attacks, in-person, online or on social media. Four in 10 American Jews changed their behavior over the past year out of fear of antisemitism; and,

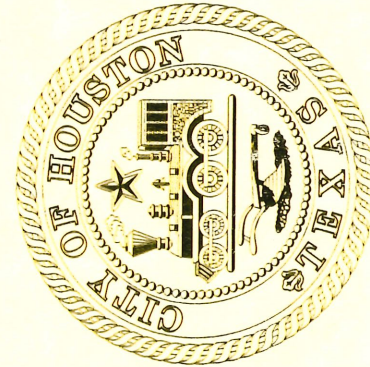
WHEREAS, antisemitism is multifaceted and multiform, manifesting in many ways, making it easier to spread and harder to combat. State officials and institutions can play a powerful role in protecting citizens from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus, including antisemitism. An essential tool in combating antisemitism is the ability to define antisemitism in each of its multiple forms. In 2016, the Working Definition of Antisemitism was formally adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). The IHRA Working Definition provides a clear and non-legally binding definition that can be used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, including Holocaust distortion or denial, prejudices against Jews and the denial of Israel's right to exist; and,

WHEREAS, from November 28 to December 6, 2021, coinciding with Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, the City of Houston will join Jewish organizations and communities around the country to observe this week to **Shine A Light** on antisemitism in all its modern-day forms. This Chanukah, the people of Houston will champion the message of light to send a message of support and solidarity to our Jewish friends and neighbors.

THEREFORE, I, Sylvester Turner, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim November 18 to December 6, 2021, as

Shine a Light Week

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 4th day of November, 2021.

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of the City of Houston