

Call for Support from the Houston Jewish Community Antisemitism Roundtable Following Antisemitic Terrorist Attack in Australia

December 15, 2025 - The Greater Houston Jewish Community is outraged and heartbroken by the deadly antisemitic attack that took place during a Chanukah celebration on Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia. This gathering was meant to celebrate Jewish life, faith, and resilience. Instead, it was violently targeted and innocent lives were taken. Multiple others were injured as the result of this act of terror.

We mourn the victims of this heinous attack and extend our deepest condolences to their families, loved ones, and to the entire Jewish community in Sydney. We stand with them, united in grief, solidarity, and resolve.

For Texans, this attack hits especially close to home. Among those injured was Rabbi Leibel Lazaroff, the beloved son of Rabbi Yossi and Rebbetzin Manya Lazaroff of Texas A&M's Chabad. At the time of this writing, he is in stable condition. We send the Lazaroff family our unconditional love and support and ask our community to join us in praying for a *refuah shleimah* (a full and speedy recovery).

Synagogues, schools, community centers, and holiday celebrations—spaces meant for prayer, learning, and joy—have become targets of hatred with alarming frequency and ferocity. There is a disturbing and accelerating global surge in antisemitic violence, in which Jews are increasingly targeted simply for gathering openly as Jews.

We need you. We call on leaders at every level—civic, religious, educational, and governmental—to lead with courage in opposing hate. We ask that you unequivocally condemn antisemitism, hold perpetrators accountable, and take concrete steps to protect our communities. Only through partnership and allyship can we make a difference in the fight against hate.

We invite you this year to join with the Jewish community in celebrating Chanukah. It is a festival that honors freedom, resilience, and the triumph of light over darkness. Please help us preserve this light. As you speak out and stand against hate, you defend the dignity and safety of all people.

For tools and resources and to learn how you can help stop antisemitism, please visit <https://www.houstonjewish.org/antisemitism/>

The Houston Jewish Community Antisemitism Roundtable



About the Houston Jewish Community Antisemitism Roundtable

The Antisemitism Roundtable unites Houston's leading Jewish organizations in a collaborative effort to prevent and combat antisemitism. Together, we share knowledge, align messages, and amplify each other's work to advocate for the Jewish community. By coordinating resources, outreach, and responses, we ensure a unified, resilient approach to confronting hate and safeguarding our community.

Organizational Representatives

Randi Sonenshein

Senior Regional Director, Texas and Oklahoma
ADL
rsonenshein@adl.org

Rabbi Kenny Weiss

Executive Director
Houston Hillel
kweiss@houstonhillel.org

Rachel Schneider

Regional Director, Houston Regional Office
American Jewish Committee (AJC)
schneiderr@ajc.org

Erica Winsor

Public Affairs Director
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
ewinsor@houstonjewish.org

Gary Weiserman

Chief Executive Officer
Holocaust Museum Houston
gweiserman@hmh.org

Media Contacts

For media inquiries, please contact

Dena Marks

Senior Associate Director
ADL Southwest
dmarks@adl.org
832-567-8843

Taryn Baranowski

Chief Marketing Officer
Jewish Federation of Greater Houston
tbaranowski@houstonjewish.org
713-805-6374