

Annual Report 2023



Message from our Leadership

As we reflect upon the past year, it is difficult to look at our successes and challenges without thinking about the tragic moment when our reality changed on October 7th. Our hearts break for Israel as we just witnessed the worst massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust. We pray for the hostages still being held by Hamas and for the innocent civilians in Gaza.

Since the beginning of the war, antisemitic and other hate incidents have been surging across the globe and in our own community. Between Oct. 7 and Dec. 6, ADL San Diego recorded a 642%-percent increase in hate incidents compared to the same period last year. These alarming trends reinforce our determination to fight antisemitism and all forms of hate in our K-12 schools, college campuses, City Hall, and anywhere on the streets of our community.

This is why ADL San Diego is here. We are the region's line of defense against antisemitism and hate because of our unique decades-long partnership with law enforcement, our hands-on educational programs, our extensive advocacy efforts, and allyships spanning a vast network of agencies and communities.

Despite the many challenges that lie ahead, ADL San Diego will remain steadfast at pursuing our mission to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and secure justice and fair treatment to all. Together, we will stand against hate and create a better future.



Fabienne Perlov
Regional Director,
ADL SD and Imperial
Counties



Karen Weil
Regional Board Chair,
ADL SD and Imperial
Counties

We fight hate for good.



ADL San Diego has been the leader in fighting antisemitism, and bigotry of all kinds, for over 40 years in America's Finest City. Our mission has always been the same: "to stop the defamation of the Jewish people and to secure justice and fair treatment to all." With a regional team and the support of a national network, we are boots on the ground responding to local needs.

Our Three Pillars

Investigate

We respond to antisemitic and hate incidents in coordination with law enforcement and key stakeholders. We use the latest technology and analysis to monitor, expose and disrupt antisemitism, extremism and hate. We train law enforcement and communities on current threats and different forms of hate and extremism.

Educate

Our innovative programs empower students, educators, communities and workplaces to embrace inclusion and diversity. We are a leading provider of antisemitism, Holocaust and anti-bias programming and resources.

Advocate

We speak out in the media, local communities and with our elected officials against antisemitism and hate. We engage with elected officials, policymakers and tech companies to shape policies that fight all forms of hate. We build strong partnerships and coalitions to fight antisemitism, hate and bias.

Since October 7th

As reported to our ADL San Diego office, antisemitic incidents since October 7th have increased by 150% in comparison to last year. Our staff has been on full alert and responding to the crisis on multiple fronts, leveraging our capabilities and leaning into our expertise and partnerships. We have:

- Responded to incidents off and online while coordinating with law enforcement
- Actively engaged elected officials and policymakers at the federal, state and local levels to denounce the Hamas attack and condemn antisemitism
- Spoken up against antisemitism in the media and at public rallies
- Monitored and responded to incidents of antisemitism at anti-Israel protests
- Called upon and engaged universities to better protect Jewish students on campus
- Co-launched the Campus Antisemitism Legal Line for students to report antisemitic incidents and receive legal counsel. Text CallHelp or 51555
- Co-launched Antisemitism-on-College-Campus Module for students and faculty to learn about antisemitism and how to confront it
- Provided K-12 schools with resources to respond to hate incidents and promote understanding and belonging
- Provided educational workshops on antisemitism and anti-bias to schools, universities and organizations
- Co-organized a San Diego LGBTQ+ Rally Against Antisemitism



San Diego Incident Response

383 Hate
Incidents in 2023
YTD/2022

+160%

97 Antisemitic
Incidents in 2023
YTD/2022

+169%

141 Hate Incidents
between 10/7-
12/6/2023

+ 642%

30 Antisemitic
Incidents between
10/7-12/6/2023

+150%

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Combating hate crimes remains a priority for the District Attorney's Office because of their insidious impact on victims and the ripple effect of fear and pain they leave on the community. However, effectively fighting hate crimes depends on strong partnerships like my office has developed with the Anti-Defamation League, in order to better leverage all credible resources and advance the safety of our community. This year we joined the ADL in many valuable efforts such as education and training programs for law enforcement, places of worship and the community at large.

San Diego County District Attorney Summer Stephan

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Examples of Incident Response



Assault of a rabbi at a grocery store

In 2023, ADL San Diego responded to an unprecedented surge of antisemitic and hate incidents. These included the assault of a rabbi, thousands of antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ+ distributed flyers in our communities, dozens of swatting and bomb threats against synagogues, the vandalism of the House of Israel, swastikas and other hate graffiti in schools and on college campuses, harassment of Jewish students, and the hijacking of a city council meeting by an extremist and white supremacist group.



Swastikas at schools and on college campuses



Antisemitic flyers in residential neighborhoods



Hijacking of the San Diego City Council meeting by white supremacists



Students for Justice in Palestine hanging an Al-Qaeda flag and chanting "From the River to the Sea"

Law Enforcement and Community Security Partnership

United Against Hate Week

For the second year in a row, ADL San Diego was privileged to participate in the U.S. Department of Justice's United Against Hate Week in November. We hosted three webinars, including one titled "A Healthy Way Forward: A Conversation about Hate with Former Violent White Supremacists."



Law Enforcement Training

2023 was an active year for ADL San Diego's training of law enforcement. The trainings addressed white supremacy in the region, the targeting of the LGBTQ+ community, antisemitism, and the online radicalization of youth. ADL was proud to partner with the San Diego Sheriff's Department and San Diego Police Department in providing these trainings.

"The San Diego Police Department is committed to keeping our communities safe and free from hate. We value the ADL's partnership in working towards these shared goals and look forward to continued collaboration."
– San Diego Police Chief Nisleit.

Jewish Community Security Committee Meetings

ADL San Diego hosted its quarterly Jewish Community Security Committee meetings. These meetings bring together the directors and heads of security of all the Jewish organizations in San Diego in an effort to keep institutions informed on security threats and new trends.



San Diego Education

140,000

Students reached
through the No Place for
Hate® Program

5,000

Educators/Staff
participated in
workshops on
antisemitism and anti-
bias

184

Schools participating in
No Place for Hate®

155

Educators participated
in Holocaust education
through the Echoes and
Reflection Program

15

Young Professionals
participating in the
Glass Leadership
Institute

300

Employees received a
Training on Antisemitism
in the Workplace

Highlights



No Place for Hate®

Los Penasquitos Elementary School was one of several to celebrate 5 years as a designated No Place for Hate® school and is already on their way to a 6th in the 2023-24 school year.



Lighthouse Awards

Congratulations to Molly Engblom for receiving this year's No Place for Hate® Lighthouse Award at the San Diego County Equity Conference. Molly embodies all the characteristics of a fantastic coach, leader and educator that supports the mission of a No Place for Hate® school.



We are the Light Conference

ADL San Diego was thrilled to be a part of the first annual "We are the Light Conference" held at UCSD in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District Black Student Union Coalition, the NAACP San Diego Youth Council and Urban League.



ENLACE PROGRAM

In July, ADL partnered with ENLACE Research Summer Program at UCSD for the fourth year in a row. Our team provided a full-day anti-bias and allyship workshop through the lens of Holocaust education. After experiencing the workshop, students had the opportunity to hear Holocaust survivor Lou Pecci's story and ask him questions.

Glass Leadership Institute

ADL San Diego's Glass Leadership Institute (GLI) Class of 2024 began on September 5th with a cohort of 15 participants. The GLI leadership development program is a 9-month program which empowers professionals to fight antisemitism and hate in their own communities. GLI offers participants an insider's perspective of ADL's programs and a deep understanding of the cutting-edge strategies employed to confront antisemitism and hate. Participants engage in dynamic, interactive sessions on a broad range of topics, exposing them to the important work of fighting hate for good.



San Diego Advocacy

30

Briefings of local elected officials on 2022 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents

1st

San Diego County Board of Supervisors Resolution to Condemn Antisemitism, co-drafted by ADL San Diego

\$305M

for Federal Nonprofit Security Community Grant Program

\$50M

for California Nonprofit Security Community Grant Program

AB449

Requires every state and local law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes policy

\$1.5M

in renewed funding for the California Teachers Collaborative for Holocaust and Genocide Education

Highlights



JPAC Advocacy Day 2023



Audit Briefings for San Diego local
Elected Officials



Advocating for the first
ever San Diego County
Resolution to Condemn
Antisemitism



Lobby Day on Capitol Hill

Community Engagement

Vigil in Support of Israel Sponsor



Towards Freedom Inclusive Seder Co-Host





Stop Asian Hate
Rally

LGBTQ+ Rally Against Antisemitism Co-Host



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REGIONAL BOARD CHAIR

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