

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019

JCPA | JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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INTRODUCTION

This year the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) celebrated our 75th Anniversary with a gala where we launched a new path forward for the community relations network to meet today's current challenges and emerging issues on the horizon. Despite increasing polarization, mounting public policy challenges to the JCPA's policy priorities, as well as growing antisemitism and hate violence in America, JCPA strengthened our role as the national network hub of the community relations field. JCPA's mission to build consensus around today's pressing issues and engage in the larger American society in common cause with other diverse communities was again crucial to the safety and security of the Jewish people, and JCPA was ready with a new infrastructure in place and a vision for the organization's future.

JCPA's strategic goals for 2018-2019:

- Implement a strategy to ensure the community relations field is prepared and effective in responding to emerging challenges on the American landscape.
- Strengthen the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) network by providing trainings and resources to support their work at the local level and engagement in the JCPA network. Advocate on their behalf to reflect the strength, relevancy, and leadership of the field.
- Strengthen national agencies' collective engagement around policy and elevate and activate the Network's advocacy on domestic policy priority concerns.
- Increase our involvement and leadership in diverse coalitions to ensure a strong Jewish voice.

Highlights of the year:

- Over 300 people gathered for JCPA's 75th Anniversary Gala during the JCPA2019 National Conference to celebrate the success of the community relations field and honor past JCPA Chairs, Executive Directors, and founding organizations. JCPA prepared a timeline of its work and videos to mark the impact of JCPAs work on shaping America. These materials were the culminations of months of research and review of archival information and represent information never before published. Click here to watch our <u>anniversary video</u> and read our <u>story and timeline</u>.
- Publicly launched the JFNA/JCPA/IAN Blue Ribbon Task Force on Community Relations recommendations and the Reut/JCPA Strategic Plan for the JCRC Network to ensure its relevancy and preparedness to meet emerging challenges.
- Mobilized the community relations field on growing antisemitic violence, family separation and detention, criminal justice reform, human needs and support for Israel that included two advocacy days on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., with 100 participants.
- Established a national network of criminal justice experts with sixty-five people from sixteen states.
- Expanded lay and professional leadership opportunities including an Israel mission, a civil rights mission, and increased convenings of Frank Fellows and JCRC Chairs throughout the year.

Setting a Path Forward for the Community Relations Field



JCPA unveiled a strategic path for the future of the community relations field to meet today's current and emerging challenges during its JCPA2019 National Conference in February. These recommendations were based on a series of studies and analyses that took place over the course of the previous year.

For the past year, JFNA/JCPA/IAN facilitated a Blue Ribbon Task Force on Community Relations made up of twenty-five participants in the Federation system who undertook a year-long assessment of the relevance of community relations with an eye toward the future.

The Task Force's final recommendations underscored the importance of community relations work and concluded that it should be supported by the wider Jewish community. To read the JFNA/JCPA/ IAN Blue Ribbon Task Force Report on Community Relations, <u>click here</u>.

The second report was a *Conceptual Framework on Community Relations* prepared by the Reut Institute, which was a result of their study on the impact of the delegitimization of Israel. The Reut study concluded that the community relations network is a Jewish American success story, and that if it did not already exist they would recommend its creation. The report argued that strengthening the community relations field would be the key to addressing challenges within the Jewish community, as well as the most effective platform for combating contemporary anti-Israel movements. As a result, the Reut Group delved into the community relations field further and helped JCPA develop a strategic framework with concrete recommendations and a four-year strategic plan for strengthening the network hub and each of the JCRCs locally. To read *New Frontiers of Community Relations Conceptual Framework* by the Reut Group, <u>click here</u>. To read the Reut/JCPA Strategic plan, <u>click here</u>.

These two separate studies resulted in an unmistakable conclusion: it is critical that the Jewish community increase its work on civic engagement with other ethnic and religious communities. They contend that the community relations engagement-based approaches and methodologies can continue to shape the role of American Jews in an increasingly diverse society. This approach remains as crucial now as it was seven decades ago for the security and well-being of Jewish communities in the U.S. and beyond. The two reports underscore that the community relations field is the most effective platform for combating today's challenges, and called on the need for a significant expansion in the resources and staff capacity of both the national hub (JCPA) and the JCRCs around the country.

To showcase the results of the reports, the past four JCPA executive directors: Larry Rubin, Hannah Rosenthal, Steve Gutow, and David Bernstein worked together to write an op-ed entitled "75 Years Later, National-Local Jewish Community Relations Still Key to Jewish Wellbeing." <u>To read, click here</u>.

STRENGTHENING THE JCRC NETWORK

Strengthening, supporting and coordinating the JCRC Network is a priority pillar for JCPA. To this end, JCPA produced a number of new resources to support the JCRC network and implemented a professional development series. JCPA increased its efforts to engage the field in national advocacy opportunities and regularly works with individual JCRCs to support their local efforts, strategic planning and engagement with Federations,



onboard new professionals, and provide high-level education, content, advocacy and leadership opportunities. Some examples include:

- Provide hands-on support to individual JCRC professionals
- Ensure that the JCPA national conference is relevant and highlights the JCRC network
- Convene JCRC professionals to grapple with current affairs and share best practices
- Conduct JCPA Leadership Missions to Israel
- Enhance opportunities for local engagement in national initiatives

During this time period, the community relations network grew as approximately 10 new JCRCs were created. JCPA worked closely with the communities to set up their operations, map out priority issues, decision making protocols, and build their leadership.

Additionally, the number of new JCRC professionals who were hired to replace retiring directors in the last two years doubled to 80 new JCRC directors. JCPA strengthened its onboarding for new directors by producing a JCRC Professionals Playbook and providing professional development for the newish directors to ensure they had the skills and training to be effective in their positions. We also produced an extensive resource manual for seasoned professionals.

JCPA launched a Professional Development Institute for JCRC professionals from June – August 2018. The Institute included 11 classes and consisted of three levels: JCRC 101, The Building Blocks, JCRC 202, Strengthening the JCRC's Core, and JCRC 303, Growing the JCRC's Impact. These webinars covered a range of topics from a newish JCRC Professionals virtual retreat, to strengthening lay-professional relationships to crisis management, and more. Sixty participants learned valuable skills and resources to strengthen their daily JCRC work.

JCPA implemented its second year of the JCRC Chairs initiative with forty-eight people participating. The Initiative began with a three-part Virtual Retreat for JCRC Chairs, which included a training guide sent to all JCRC Chairs, a listserv for Chairs, and culminated in an in-person meeting at the JCPA conference. the Initiative aimed to support JCRC Chairs in their important leadership role and provide important networking and relationship-building opportunities

JCPA'S PROGRAM INITIATIVES

JCPA Civil Rights Mission

JCPA aims to ensure that our leaders are informed with firsthand knowledge and experience on critical issues, which enhances our collective advocacy. JCPA organizes time-sensitive fact-finding missions that position our leaders to be better advocates when they return home. In April 2019, JCPA led a group of fifty-six community relations leaders to Georgia and Alabama to mark the first anniversary



of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, commonly known as the "Lynching Memorial," remembering the thousands of victims of racial terror lynchings in the United States.

Participants learned about Jewish leaders in the 1960s who were proximate with impacted communities and took risks to be a significant voice for justice, which made a difference in the civil rights movement. The participants reviewed models that can be used today in our criminal justice and racial equity work. They were delighted to be hosted for an evening program by the Atlanta JCRC and Federation of Atlanta.

- <u>Click here for the Facebook photo album</u>.
- Click here to watch our webinar, Civil Rights Movement: Then and Now.
- Click here for a recommended reading and resource list.
- "Civil rights journey to the South opens eyes and hearts," Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle.
- "Thinking about civil rights in the Deep South," Simone Wilker, Jewish Standard.
- "Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) Civil Rights Mission to Georgia and Alabama," Bob Hornstein, PowerPoint Presentation.
- Sermon, Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt, Congregation B'nai Tzedek.

Intended to help inspire engagement in today's civil rights movement, participants left more committed to working on criminal justice and voting rights.



Criminal Justice Reform Initiative



JCPA launched its Criminal Justice Initiative in 2016, hiring a professional criminal justice reform manager and consultant, and enlisting organizations that serve Black communities to help us frame out and implement our programming. JCPA's Criminal Justice Initiative adopted a multi-pronged approach that included educating the Jewish community, conducting advocacy, and engaging with diverse faith and Black communities to pursue systemic change.

In 2018 JCPA continued to carry out its federal advocacy alongside our bipartisan coalition partners, which include the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition, Justice Roundtable, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Justice Task Force. We worked together to lobby for important sentencing reform provisions, some of which were ultimately included in the First Step Act of 2018, including the retroactive application of the Fair Sentencing Act and reduced mandatory minimums for nonviolent drug offenses. We also helped ensure the inclusion of Second Chance Act reauthorization, providing grants for important reentry services for the formerly incarcerated. JCPA's participation in the process was critical to improving problematic language in the First Step Act that would have undermined the separation of church and state by enabling state-sponsored proselytization.

JCPA advocated with Congress and the Administration to facilitate proper oversight and funding of the First Step Act, as well as build support for more robust sentencing reform. We worked with partners in the education space to garner support for including in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act several bills that improve education outcomes for currently- and formerlyincarcerated people.

Highlights of our 2018-2019 criminal justice work:

• JCPA created educational materials and webinars to prepare our field to join coalitions and build alliances with people of color working in criminal justice reform at the state and local level. When we started, only one JCRC was doing work on criminal justice. Since then, JCPA has engaged more than a dozen JCRCs around the country to add criminal justice reform to their policy priority agendas and join local leaders of color and diverse coalitions working on reform.



IN YOUR BACKYARD A Toolkit for Addressing Criminal Justice at the Local and

JCPA FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

• JCPA has increased our leadership in federal legislative advocacy and is a prominent member in our national coalitions—the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition,



the Justice Roundtable, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Criminal Justice Task Force.

- JCPA held two Capitol Hill Lobby Days for over fifty of our top leaders to advocate for sentencing reform and other criminal justice priorities.
- JCPA staff spoke at a Congressional briefing on Quelling the Crisis: The Case for Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Reform on July 18, organized by the Leadership Conference, ACLU, and The Sentencing Project.
- For a second year, as part of an annual meeting with the Senate Democratic Caucus, JCPA's Executive Director, along with other national Jewish organization presidents, briefed twenty-two senators on the priorities of our Jewish organizations. JCPA focused primarily on criminal justice and the critical need to reduce mandatory minimums.
- JCPA sits on the strategy team of a national initiative to create a multi-faith, congregational grassroots movement against mass incarceration, organized by the Auburn Theological Seminary in New York and the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta.
- JCPA participated in a local advocacy day on bail reform organized by the JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland, which brought together twenty-five Jewish, black, and Latino leaders to lobby state lawmakers and influencers as part of an interfaith coalition of Cleveland-based community organizations. The Federation cohort was joined in Columbus by several community groups including Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry, the United Black Fund, Hispanic Alliance, Inc, Towards Employment, and the NAACP of Greater Cleveland. We met with several state legislators to voice concerns and recommend changes to a pending bill. To read the news coverage, <u>click here</u>.
- JCPA launched a national Jewish network on criminal justice reform in December 2018. The network included more than forty-five prominent Jewish experts in criminal justice reform from sixteen states. At their first meeting the network framed a national Jewish agenda around

which the Jewish community can organize its advocacy. The meeting included surveying the existing landscape of Jewish leadership efforts, sharing principles of Judaism that move us to engage on criminal justice reform, and beginning to develop strategy and a charter for Jewish advocacy. The meeting was chaired by former U.S. District Attorney for New Jersey Paul Fishman and featured the Hon. Stuart Rabner, Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court. To see a list of attendees, <u>click here</u>.



• JCPA and fifty-one other faith-based organizations sent a letter urging Congress support the inclusion of the REAL Act, which would lift the ban on Pell Grants for incarcerated students in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act. Studies have shown that recidivism rates drop significantly for people who earn a post-secondary degree and can help formerly incarcerated individuals overcome obstacles, prepare for the workforce, and successfully reintegrate into society. Lifting the ban would also save \$365 million per year through reduced incarceration.

New York Times Biased Reporting on Israel

JCPA joined with the JCRC of Greater Washington to conduct a review of the New York Times' unbalanced reporting on Israel and antisemitism, which resulted in a meeting with its editorial board sharing our findings and concerns. We thank the JCRC of Greater Washington for helping prepare the analysis of the New York Times editorials that generated a positive dialogue with the Times' management. To read David Bernstein's op-ed click here.

JCPA sent a letter to the New York Times Executive Editor condemning an antisemitic cartoon published



on April 25, 2019. The letter was signed by fifty-four local JCRCs, fourteen national member agencies, and thirteen other Jewish organizations. The letter urged the New York Times to take tangible steps to ensure that such inflammatory material not be published in the future. To read the letter, <u>click here.</u>

POLICY, ADVOCACY AND MOBILIZATION



2018-2019 continued to present significant challenges from Congress and the Administration to JCPA's core policy priorities and historic commitment to protecting and improving our immigration system, social safety net, separation of church and state, and democratic institutions.

JCPA developed and implemented policies that focused on anti-discrimination, fairness, and justice in common cause with others. By sharing our Jewish values, JCPA continued to build strong and trusting relationships with leaders of minority, faith, and civic organizations at the local and national levels. We maintained our active Jewish presence and voice within key civil rights and interfaith coalitions both in Washington and around the country, including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) and Washington Interreligious Staff Community, the largest interfaith coalition in Washington, D.C. Due to the unique advocacy challenges our communities faced, JCPA joined many new coalitions and short-term working groups in response to the record number of attempted rollbacks to our policy priorities and those of our partners.

Our public policy priorities included immigration, criminal justice reform, poverty and food security, religious liberty, international human rights, and the census, among others. The JCPA Policy Advisory Committee continued to oversee this work, as well as the development of the new Delegates Assembly, the highest deliberative body on public policy matters for the community relations field. JCPA worked closely with JCRCs to ensure that all communities would have both lay and professional representation.

Committed to expanding leadership opportunities in policy advocacy, JCPA organized a fall Advocacy Day on immigration and criminal justice reform, as well as a Congressional luncheon in the spring with top Jewish representatives.

2018 Fall Advocacy Day

In October, JCPA organized an Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, where over 50 participants advocated for our top immigration priorities, including rescinding the "zero tolerance" policy, passing a Clean Dream Act, protecting the refugee resettlement program, and blocking the public charge rule. The day included expert panels on immigration and criminal justice reform followed by a luncheon featuring Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ), followed by twelve Hill visits with top staff from Democrat and Republican offices.



Background materials for the program included:

- General Talking Points
- Issue Brief on Family Separation and Detention
- Issue Brief on Refugees
- Issue Brief on Dreamers
- Issue Brief on the Public Charge Proposal
- Issue Brief on Criminal Justice Reform
- <u>Click here to read a reflection on the day and the</u> <u>commandment to care.</u>



Religious Liberty and Anti-Discrimination Law

JCPA continued fighting for the separation of church and state in the U.S. in the face of increasing efforts to use religious liberty to curtail civil rights. JCPA elevated actions alerts from JFNA and the Orthodox Union opposing a provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that would have required tax-exempt organizations to file federal tax returns and pay taxes on the cost of parking and transit subsidies provided to employees. This new tax law would have entangled the IRS and these nonprofits for the first time in our history. JCPA opposed a Health and Human Services (HHS) Department waiver allowing South Carolina foster agencies to discriminate on the basis of religion. In January 2019, HHS granted a waiver authorizing Miracle Hill Ministries, a government-funded South Carolina foster agency, to discriminate against prospective foster parents on the basis of religion. The waiver sanctions taxpayer-funded discrimination and harms foster children, one of society's most vulnerable populations.

- Read JCPA's statement.
- Read the Coalition Against Religious Discrimination's Letter.
- Review the complaint filed by Americans United.

Helping the Most Vulnerable

JCPA worked with the Domestic Human Needs Coalition and other Jewish groups to support a faithful government budget. Over the past several years, our impact has been primarily in the social safety net programs we have worked to protect from funding cuts and rollbacks. Through our educational programing, we helped ensure that public support for social safety net programs remained strong while working to combat misinformation and negative stereotypes about those who receive benefits.

JCPA actively participated in coalition efforts and built relationships with our partners, elevating poverty issues with Members of Congress and providing opportunities for our field to weigh in on legislation and federal rulemakings. Throughout the year, we educated the Jewish community and our community relations field on issues related to poverty and hunger, enabling us to quickly mobilize the community when programs were under threat. For example, JCPA quickly mobilized

the field, in partnership with JFNA, to oppose a proposed rule that would have restricted the scope of states' flexibility to provide SNAP benefits, particularly harming communities with high unemployment or insufficient jobs. The proposed rule ignored the realities of millions of Americans and sought to circumvent the bipartisan congressional decision to omit such restrictions in the Farm Bill.

Over the last year, we also closely collaborated with the newly-created Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies. We have worked together to offer more joint programing and to facilitate closer working relationships between JCRCs and their Jewish human service agencies. This is particularly important given that many JCRCs advocate on issues impacting the populations Jewish service agencies serve.

Reproductive Rights

In 2018-2019, states around the nation took up extreme anti-abortion bills. Though Alabama's law was the most extreme so far, other states, such as Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Mississippi, had adopted or were close to adopting bills that effectively ban abortion, including "heartbeat" and other similarly restrictive laws. JCPA called on the courts to immediately enjoin these bills, as



they clearly violated settled Supreme Court precedent. JCPA, deeply concerned about the growing effort to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and limit women's reproductive health care access, organized an emergency meeting to discuss the strategy for addressing the situation. <u>Click here to read JCPA's full statement</u>.

JCPA endorsed the Women's Health Protection Act, which would guarantee providers an affirmative statutory right to deliver care free from medically unnecessary restrictions.

Civic Engagement and Voting Rights

JCPA's Senior Policy Associate joined interfaith partners on a special webinar exploring how faith communities can engage in the elections. She shared best practices for candidate forums, as well as an innovative program administered by the Federation of Greater Pittsburg that engages teens in civic life.

JCPA published its 2018 Candidate and Voter Engagement Guide, which offered the community relations field resources, tools, and best practices to assist JCRCs and Jewish advocates with organizing candidate engagement programs, voter education, Get Out the Vote campaigns, and voter protection programs. <u>Click here for the full guide</u>.

June 2019 marked six years since the *Shelby County v. Holder* decision, which gutted the Voting Rights Act, subjecting millions of voters to discrimination and disenfranchisement. JCPA joined the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights coalition in a week of action from June 24-30 to urge Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act.

2018 CANDIDATE AND VOTER ENGAGEMENT GUIDE



JCPA urged Congress to Support the For the People Act. JCPA sent a letter to House members ahead of the vote on the bill, which would have enacted sweeping democracy reforms. The bill would have helped improve elections, advance voting rights, and reform campaign finance and ethics rules. The House of Representatives passed the legislation in March 2019.

International Human Rights

Save the Date

Breaking Bread for Rohingya

Refugees: An

Interfaith Iftar

As part of its advocacy for the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act and BURMA Act, JCPA's Senior Policy Associate and other leaders of Jewish Rohingya Justice Network (JRJN) met with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom Sam Brownback in Washington, D.C. to ask for his support. These bills would enable the U.S. to impose targeted sanctions on senior military

officials and help provide humanitarian aid to the Rohingya people. Passing these bills would send a powerful message that the U.S. will not be silent or idle in the face of mass atrocities.

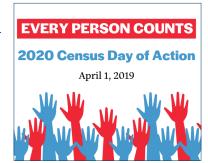
To mark the reintroduction of the Senate's Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act, JCPA and other members of Jewish Rohingya Justice Network organized a national Jewish call-in day.

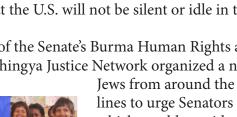
> Jews from around the country flooded office phone lines to urge Senators to cosponsor and pass the bill, which would provide critical humanitarian aid to the Rohingya refugees and sanction the military leaders responsible for the genocide. Click here to read JCPA's 2019 Resolution on the Genocide of the Rohingya <u>People</u>, which the Delegates Assembly passed earlier this year.

The 2020 Census and the Citizenship Question

JCPA joined over 140 organizations to urge the Department of Commerce to remove the citizenship status question from the 2020 Census form. <u>Click here to read the letter</u>. For more information, <u>read</u> the Leadership Conference's recent Nation article.

JCPA also participated in and promoted a Census Day of Action on April 1, 2019, which marked one year out from when the 2020 Census would be in full swing. JCPA believes that having a census is integral to our democracy and that we need to educate our communities about its importance.









Featured Issue: Immigration



The treatment of migrants—particularly asylum seekers, is of importance to, and a priority for JCPA. In 2018, immigration became one of our highest priority issues when the Administration both instituted the zero tolerance family separation policy and increased efforts to dismantle the U.S. asylum system. To handle these concerns, JCPA renewed our commitment to compassionate immigration reform in today's worsening crisis.

JCPA took a leadership role in mobilizing the Jewish community's advocacy against the zero tolerance family separation policy. We increased advocacy and launched numerous sign-on letters. JCPA's Senior Vice President and Senior Policy Associate traveled to San Diego and Tijuana to witness the crisis firsthand as part of a Jewish Leadership Border Mission, led by HIAS and ADL. They met with the Mexican Consul General, government officials, immigration lawyers and advocates; visited detention centers; and attended an Operation Streamline hearing. They came away with a deeper understanding that the U.S. immigration system is profoundly broken and in dire need of reform. <u>Click here to read their reflections</u>.

JCPA organized a lobby day for leaders to advocate with Members of Congress on our top immigration priorities, including rescinding the "zero tolerance" policy, passing a Clean Dream Act, protecting the refugee resettlement program, and blocking the public charge rule.

JCPA filed joint amicus briefs opposing the Muslim travel ban, submitted testimony in support of Dreamers Temporary Protected Status holders, and advocated for higher refugee admissions, while fighting to end family separation and detention, the criminalization of migrants and asylum seekers, and the rollback of child health and welfare standards. We also helped defeat a number of anti-immigrant bills that conflicted with our core policy and values.

An overview of this work includes:

Family Separation and Detention: JCPA prioritized ending the "zero tolerance" family separation policy since the news first broke earlier that year that the U.S. had forcibly taken thousands of migrant children from their guardians.

- JCPA organized a <u>letter signed by over 350 Jewish</u> <u>organizations</u> urging the Administration to immediately end the "zero tolerance" policy separating families.
- In response to the executive order seeking to replace family separation with family detention, JCPA <u>issued a statement</u> voicing opposition to family detention and urging the Administration to reunite families immediately.



- JCPA created a backgrounder for JCRCs to use in their advocacy: <u>End Family Separation and</u> <u>Detention</u>.
- JCPA opposed the Muslim Travel Ban, concerned about it's discriminatory nature and the suffering it would inflict on both American citizens and those seeking refuge in the U.S.
- JCPA joined ADL in filing an amicus brief urging the Supreme Court to uphold lower court rulings that blocked the President's prohibition on travel to the United States from six majority-Muslim nations.
- JCPA issued a statement about a Supreme Court Ruling upholding the travel ban.
- JCPA and seventeen other Jewish organizations sent a letter urging Congress to pass the NO BAN Act, which would end the discriminatory Muslim travel bans, amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, and limit Presidential authority to enact similar bans in the future. <u>Click here to read the full letter.</u>



Refugee Admissions: In September 2018, the President announced that the U.S. would cap FY19 refugee admissions at 30,000, which is the lowest in the program's history. Despite the unprecedented refugee crisis—68 million people displaced—the U.S. is resettling the fewest number of refugees in the history of the Refugee Resettlement Program. JCPA urged the Administration to reconsider and circulated an action alert urging Members of Congress to support a refugee admissions ceiling of at least 75,000 refugees. JCPA also cosponsored HIAS's annual National Refugee Shabbat and encouraged JCRCs and other local Jewish organizations to participate. <u>Click here to read statements from JCPA and other Jewish groups</u>. JCPA also created a backgrounder for JCRCs to use in their advocacy: <u>Keep Our Nation's Doors Open to Refugees and</u> <u>Asylum Seekers</u>,

Public Charge Rule: Under the law, a "public charge" is a legal immigrant deemed likely to become primarily dependent on the government for subsistence, and therefore is ineligible for a green card or visa. In 2018, the Administration published a new proposal that would significantly expand the definition of a "public charge" to include even modest use of federal safety net programs (nutrition, housing, and health benefits like Medicaid). The rule would apply to visa and green card (law permanent resident) applicants, both new overseas applicants and those applying for



changes or extensions in the U.S., and their dependents—even U.S. citizen children. If enacted, the rule could harm millions of vulnerable immigrants as well as Jewish social service agencies that serve them. JCPA took to Capitol Hill to urge Members of Congress to enact a legislative solution that would protect immigrants from the new proposed rule. <u>Click here to read</u> JCPA's full regulatory comment opposing the proposed rule. Click here to read our backgrounder: <u>Oppose the New "Public</u> <u>Charge" Rule Change</u>.

Featured Issue: Responding to the Tree of Life Synagogue Massacre and Growing Antisemitic Violence

JCPA spoke out against the horrific Tree of Life synagogue shooting in Pittsburgh in October 2018, the worst massacre in American Jewish history. The outpouring of love and support for Jews by diverse racial, faith, and ethnic communities was significant, in many cases due to strong relationships JCRCs had built across their communities. According to Rabbi Doug Kahn, "One of the most visible and powerful components of the vigils—the tremendous response of non-Jewish leaders—was largely connected to one of the least



visible activities in the Jewish community: JCRCs' daily work building relationships beyond our community."

As a response to the alarming increase in violent antisemitism, JCPA:

- Joined with the LCCHR and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and eightythree other civil rights organizations in placing a full-page ad in the Sunday New York Times and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette to show solidarity with victims of recent acts of hate and bigotry across our country. <u>Click here to see the ad</u>.
- JCPA organized a <u>"Special Briefing on Pittsburgh: White Nationalism and Anti-Semitism</u>" with Eric Ward of the Western States Center to showcase this support and to help the Network process this situation.
- JCPA's CEO and Senior Vice President co-wrote an article placed in the Pittsburgh Jewish Chronicle <u>Tragedy Aftermath Highlights the Power of Intergroup Relations.</u>
- Doug Kahn, consultant to JCPA, wrote an op-ed "Where did all the Non-Jewish Leaders Come from at Our Vigils <u>To read the op-ed, click here</u>.
- David Bernstein and Jackie Congedo, Cincinnati JCRC Director, co-authored an op-ed, <u>"Why Communities Must Change Everything to Combat Antisemitism."</u>
- <u>Fighting Anti-Semitism Isn't Just About Jews. It Kills Non-Jews, Too</u> by Rori Picker Neiss, JCRC Director, St. Louis
- An Open Letter to My Non-Jewish Friends by Ben Friedman, JCRC Director, Orlando
- We'll Never Be Royals by Abby Michelson-Porth, JCRC Executive Director, San Francisco
- Jewish Communal Public Diplomacy by Paul Rockower, JCRC Director, Phoenix
- Why We Must Rehabilitate Anti-Semites by David Bernstein
- <u>Why I'm A Litmus-Test Minimalist</u> by David Bernstein

• After significant advocacy by JCPA and its members, Elan Carr was sworn in as the U.S. Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, a position JCPA had long urged the Administration to fill. JCPA attended the swearing-in ceremony at the Department of State in April 2019.



JCPA increased its focus on Congressional actions regarding antisemitism including:

- Co-authored a letter with ADL, signed by dozens of local and national Jewish groups, urging timely Congressional action on two important global antisemitism bills before the end the 2018 session of Congress: the <u>Combating European Anti-Semitism Act</u> and the <u>Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act</u>. As a result of our collective advocacy, the Combating European Anti-Semitism Act was passed into law just over a month later in January 2019.
- Responded to concerns that elected leaders were using antisemitism as a wedge issue to score political points. JCPA joined nineteen other religious and faith-based groups in a letter raising these concerns with Members of Congress and urging them to recommit to a constructive bipartisan approach to combating antisemitism. <u>Click here to read the full letter.</u>
- Advocated with JFNA, Hadassah, and more than 300 national, state, and local Jewish organizations from every state in the nation sending a letter to the House Education and Labor Committee requesting a hearing and expedited markup of the Never Again Education Act to expand access to Holocaust and anti-hate education. <u>Click here to read the</u> <u>full letter.</u>



ISRAEL



JCPA has been a leading force in Israel Advocacy since the country's creation, ensuring support from the non-Jewish community by sharing the nuances and complexities that a young national state contends with. JCPA is a co-founder of the IAN that works to fight Boycotts, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS), and continues to educate and lead the field in response to issues related to Israel and the diaspora. JCPA also leads an annual Leadership mission to Israel.

Throughout the year, JCPA shared briefings and updates to the community relations field on some issues taking place in Israel. We also continued to support advocacy for coexistence and the security of Israel as a strong Jewish state. Here are some examples of our work:

Nation State Bill

In July 2018, JCPA wrote to Prime Minister Netanyahu to express concern about the Nation-State bill, urging the Government of Israel to strengthen the democratic and pluralistic underpinnings of Israeli society as well as to promote harmonious relations between Israeli citizens. JCPA applauded the Government's efforts to strengthen the Arab-Israeli community in their economic plan. However, JCPA expressed concerns that the new policy, if enacted, could tear apart Israel's vibrant democracy comprised of diverse, religious, ethnic and national groups, increase hostilities between Israelis and Arabs, secure the Arabs place as second-class citizens, and lessen women's equality and freedom of expression in prayer. Additionally, we shared our concern with the Israeli government that these policies would damage the country's reputation on the global stage.

Eco-terrorism

JCPA and the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL) strongly condemned Hamas eco-terrorism attacks against Israel and its people. We urged Hamas to cease its attacks and engage in negotiated dispute resolutions aimed at the betterment of their people. Hamas has carried out eco-terrorism attacks against Israel and its people with the use of incendiary devices attached to kites, balloons, and even protected birds. These acts of arson have set fire to approximately 8,000 acres of land, causing devastating damage to fragile ecosystems, some 1,500 acres of important farmland, and human communities. JCPA called on governmental and environmental organizations, here in the U.S. and around the world, to join with us in condemning these attacks and spurred efforts to stop them before the damage spreads further.

Palestinian Partnership Fund Act of 2018

In October 2018, JCPA, along with several of our member agencies, endorsed the bipartisan "Palestinian Partnership Fund Act of 2018" along with its Senate companion bill. This legislation would help preserve a two-state future by creating people-to-people partnerships and joint opportunities for economic development among Israelis, Palestinians, and their American counterparts. The bill was revised and reintroduced



in June 2019 as the "Partnership Fund for Peace Act of 2019". <u>Click here to read the press release.</u> As an original endorser, JCPA worked with the Alliance for Middle East Peace, JFNA, and IAN to secure cosponsors from both sides of aisle. Our strong support for this bill is based on our JCPA2018 Conference resolution, <u>Resolution on Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence</u>.



JCPA's Mission to Israel included a 19-person delegation

(including eight from St. Louis). The first half of the Mission overlapped with the JFNA General Assembly in Tel Aviv. At its conclusion the JCPA delegation visited the Gaza-Israel border to understand the impact of the eco-terrorism violence on the Israeli local communities. This visit included a stop at a local Trauma Center and meetings with civil society leaders. Highlights of the Mission included:

- Meetings with Foreign Ministry, Knesset Members, and Muslim and Christian faith leaders
- A visit to BINA Secular Yeshiva, which teaches Torah to citizens of Israel and instills in them Jewish values of *Tikkun Olam* and social justice while giving them opportunities for hands-on advocacy experience.
- Meeting with advocates working on behalf of the Sudanese and Eritrean refugees seeking asylum in Israel.
- A visit to East Jerusalem for a meeting with Ramadan, the first Palestinian man living in East Jerusalem to run for a seat on the Jerusalem Municipality.

The impact of the newly passed Nation-State law was a major focus of the Mission. We met with Arab-Israelis and the faith-based communities that shared how the law caused a great deal of pain for many in Israel. We heard how the passage of the bill undermined the recent efforts of the government to be more inclusive by increasing funds to Arab Israelis so they can better

benefit from professional employment opportunities, and upgrade their community's infrastructure, transportation, and general quality of life. The participants met with Knesset members to discuss this concern including Tamar Zandberg (Meretz), MK Nachman Shai (Zionist Union), Rachel Azaria (Kulanu) and Tzipi Livni (Zionist Union). Each spoke about efforts to draft a companion bill to reflect Israel's intention of equality and peace. For more details on the mission here is a link to the <u>Mission agenda</u>.





NATIONAL CONVENINGS

JCPA2019 National Conference



JCPA convened over 250 Jewish professionals and civic leaders February 9-12 in Washington, D.C., for our JCPA2019 National Conference and 75th Anniversary Gala. Participants tackled today's most challenging issues in a series of powerful plenaries and workshops, and left with the skills, training and network they needed to be successful in their crucial community relations work nationwide. <u>Click here for a full recap</u>. Click here for press coverage in the <u>Jewish Week</u>, <u>JTA</u>, <u>Washington Jewish Week</u>, & JBS TV

Program highlights included:

- Setting a Strategic Path Forward for Community Relations, which launched the two new independent studies: the JFNA/JCPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) on Jewish Community Relations Report and The Reut Group's "The New Frontiers of Community Relations" and "Strategic Framework for the Jewish Community Network field." Together, they provided a roadmap for the organized Jewish community, recommending significant investment in augmenting the community relations field's resources and capacity, as well as expanding the network at the national and local levels.
- A criminal justice reform track that included a plenary on Jewish advocacy, a two-part workshop on jumpstarting local engagement, and a documentary screening and discussion of *The Sentence* with the Cindy Shank, the mother of three young children who received a fifteen year sentence in federal prison for her tangential involvement in a Michigan drug ring years before, whose story the documentary follows.
- Panels with top experts and advocates fighting antisemitism and countering BDS.
- An off-the-record discussion on our strategy post Women's March.
- Civic engagement training for community relations leaders.
- Presenting the JCPA Albert D. Chernin Award to Nancy K. Kaufman, CEO of the National Council of Jewish Women.



• JCPA Congressional Luncheon on Capitol Hill where we had the honor and pleasure of speaking to and hearing from Representatives Ted Deutch (D-FL), Max Rose (D-NY), Eliot Engel (D-NY), and Jamie Raskin (D-MD) about several priority issues to the community relations field such as criminal justice reform, immigration, Israel, religious liberty, securing the safety net, and civic engagement.



The Delegates Assembly voted to adopt four new resolutions that are now policy for the community relations field:

- <u>Resolution Condemning the Genocide of the Rohingya People</u> Denouncing the genocide being perpetrated against the Rohingya people and calling on the U.S. government and the international community to take immediate action.
- <u>Resolution on Holocaust and Genocide Education</u> Calling for the Jewish community to support federal legislation that strongly encourages Holocaust and genocide education and at the state level, to advocate for mandatory Holocaust and genocide education.
- Amendment to the 2010 Civility Resolution Amending our 2010 Civility Resolution, which urges American Jews and the broader American society to practice civility in all our affairs, to include a call for civil and honest discourse in the American Jewish-Israeli conversation on sensitive topics.
- <u>Amendment to the 2014 Minimum Wage Resolution</u> Issued from the floor of the Delegates Assembly, this amendment revised the 2014 Minimum Wage Resolution to update the statistics and call for a \$15 minimum wage.



JCPA Celebrates with 75th Anniversary Gala

As part of the JCPA2019 National Conference, JCPA marked our 75th anniversary with a gala attended by over 300 people to celebrate the success of the community relations field and honor past chairs, executive directors, and founding organizations. Past leaders and organizational founders came from all over the country to be recognized and enjoy this moment together.

- Watch our special <u>anniversary video</u> highlighting JCPA's work over the years.
- Read our story & timeline to learn more about how JCPA's work has impacted our society.
- To view the JCPA Gala photo album, <u>click here</u>.
- Watch the tribute to Past Chairs & CEOs.





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CPA JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS







COMMUNICATIONS

JCPA enhanced our outreach to our constituents through regular educational webinars. We held more than thirty webinars during the years, covering topics that included the Tree of Life shooting, the 2018 Elections, the U.S. approach to Gaza, Jews of Color, Immigration, and much more.

JCPA also continued our popular CRCast, featuring interviews with guest experts or practitioners about the most pressing topics that are affecting the Jewish community and the Community Relations field.



For a list of the CRCasts and webinars from 2018-2019 <u>click here</u>.

JCPA launched a JCPA Community Relations Blog page to highlight the op-eds and articles produced by national and local leaders on community relations. To visit the page, <u>click here</u>.

Sign-on Letters (July 2018-June 2019)

2018

July

- *Church World Service* Letter Opposing Family Incarceration & Family Separation
- Leadership Conference Pretrial Risk Assessments Statement of Concern
- *ADL* Letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Support of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act and the Combating European Anti-Semitism Act
- *Muslim Advocates Interfaith Amicus Brief in State of Texas v. United States of America, Karla Perez, and State of New Jersey* in Support of DACA
- *American United for the Separation of Church and State* Letter Supporting Amendments to Strike Johnson Amendment Language from the Financial Services Appropriations Bill
- *Prevention and Protection Working Group* Letter Urging Allow the Senate to Consider the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act

August

- Leadership Conference Comments on Proposed Information Collection on 2020 Census, Docket # USBC-2018-0005
- Domestic Human Needs Letter to Farm Bill Conferees Opposing Cuts to SNAP
- HIAS Letter to the President Urging an FY19 Refugee Admissions Cap of at Least 75,000
- *Justice Roundtable Reentry Working Group* Letter to Farm Bill Conferees Opposing Lifetime Ban on SNAP for Formerly Incarcerated People
- AARP Letter to Farm Bill Conferees Opposing Cuts to SNAP for Seniors

September

- *NALEO* Educational Fund Comments Opposing the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Proposal to Collect Citizenship and Country of Birth Information About State and Local Prisoners
- FRAC Letter to Farm Bill Conferees Outlining Priorities for SNAP
- *Amigos* Letter Opposing Legislative Efforts to Expand Family Detention and Overturn Child Welfare Protections
- *Interfaith Working Group On Foreign Assistance* Letter Urging Congress and the President to Raise the Refugee Admissions Cap

October

• The Leadership Conference Education Fund Ad on Solidarity for Victims of Hate

November

- Interfaith Immigration Coalition Letter on the Dignity of the Sojourner
- Interfaith Coalition Letter in Support of VAWA Reauthorization
- Interfaith Coalition Letter on 2018 Lame Duck Priorities
- *Americans United* Letter Opposing Government Funding for Religious Programming Provisions in the FIRST STEP Act

December

- *Steering Committee of the Interreligious Disability Steering Committee (IDAC)* Faith Leader Letter on Inclusivity of People with Disabilities
- JCPA Regulatory Comments Opposing Proposed Public Charge Rule
- *Faith Voices Coalition* Faith Leader Letter Opposing a Tax Bill Provision Undermining the Johnson Amendment
- *Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition* Letter Opposing Cotton/Kennedy Amendment to the FIRST STEP Act
- Justice Roundtable Letter Opposing Cotton/Kennedy Amendment to the FIRST STEP Act

2019

January

- *Trust for America's Health* Letter Highlighting the Health Impacts of the Prolonged Government Shutdown
- *Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance* Letter on the Shutdown's Impact on International Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Programs

February

- *Americans United* Letter to the New Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committee Urging Support for the Johnson Amendment
- *ADL* Amicus Brief in *Ramos v. Nielsen* in Support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Recipients and Their Families

- Interfaith Letter Expressing Support of Extending TPS for South Sudan
- *Americans United* Letter Opposing the Health and Human Services Department Waiver Allowing South Carolina Foster Agencies to Discriminate on the Basis of Religion
- *Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance* Letter Urging U.S. Action to Aid the Central African Republic
- Refugee Council USA Letter Urging Congress to Restore the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program

March

- *ADL* Amicus Brief in *Parents for Privacy v. Dallas School District No. 2* in Support of School District Policy Allowing Transgender Students to Use Bathrooms and Changing Facilities Consistent with Their Gender
- Faithful Democracy Working Group Letter in Support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act
- Domestic Human Needs (DHN) Working Group Faith Letter in Support of the Raise the Wage Act
- *Leadership Conference Hate Crimes* Coalition Letter Urging Inclusive Hate Crimes Legislation in Indiana
- JCPA Letter Urging House Members to Pass H.R. 1, the For the People Act
- Value Our Families Letter Supporting Family-Based Immigration and Diversity Visas
- *JCPA* Statement for House Judiciary Committee Hearing on Protections for Dreamers and TPS Holders
- Coalition on Human Needs Letter Urging FY20 Funding Increases for Labor, HHS, Education Programs
- Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition Letter Welcoming New Members of Congress
- *Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition* Letter Supporting H.R. 1 and Voting Rights Restoration for Formerly Incarcerated People
- *The Sentencing Project* Letter Supporting H.R. 1 and Voting Rights Restoration for Formerly Incarcerated People
- Reauthorization of the *Leadership Conference* Amicus Brief Supporting Plaintiffs in *New York v. United States Department of Commerce* (Census Citizenship Question)
- Jewish Coalition on Disaster Relief Cyclone Idai Relief
- Sentencing Reform Working Group Priorities for the 116th Congress
- Endorsed the Dream and Promise Act of 2019
- Domestic Human Needs Working Group Faithful Budget Priorities
- JFNA Letter in Support of the Never Again Education Act
- ADL Letter in Against BDS and in Support of the Two-state Solution
- *Justice Roundtable's Sentencing Reform Working Group* Sentencing Reform Priorities for the 116th Congress
- *JCPA* Public Comment on USDA's Proposed SNAP Rulemaking on Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
- *Interfaith Prevention and Protection Working Group* Letter in Support of a Robust Diplomacy, Development, and Conflict-Prevention FY20 Funding

- *JCPA* Public Comment on USDA's Proposed SNAP Rulemaking on Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents
- Clean Budget Coalition Letter Opposing Any Poison Pill Riders in FY20 Appropriations
- Endorsed the Beyond the Box for Higher Education Act
- Interfaith Coalition on Domestic and Sexual Violence Letter in Support of VAWA

April

- *AJC's Jacob Blaustein Institute* Letter Urging UN Secretary General to Make Public the Report on UN Activities in Burma
- Interfaith Letter Supporting the NO BAN Act
- *Interfaith Working Group on Foreign Assistance* Letter Supporting More FY20 Appropriations for Various International Aid Accounts
- Americans United Amicus Brief in Trump v. Pennsylvania and Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania

May

- *FCNL* Letter Endorsing the REAL Act and Urging its Inclusion in the Higher Education Reauthorization Act
- *Church World Service* Interfaith Letter Endorsing the GRACE Act to Raise Refugee Admissions to at Least 95,000 Annually
- *RAC* Jewish Organizational Public Comment Opposing the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Proposal to Rescind Ability-to-Repay Requirements Governing Payday, Vehicle Title, and Certain High-Cost Installment Loans
- *FCNL/JustForeignPolicy* Letter Urging the U.S. to End Participation in the Saudi-led War in Yemen
- Alliance to End Hunger Letter Urging the House to Establish a Select Committee on Hunger

June

- NCJW Interfaith Letter Endorsing the Women's Health Protection Act
- Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition Letter on First Step Act FY20 Appropriations
- *JFNA/NJHSA/JCPA* Public Comment Opposing OMB Proposal to Change the Poverty Threshold Calculation

Statements

- JCPA Expresses Disappointment on Passage of Israel's Nation-State Bill, July 19, 2018
- JCPA Condemns Horrific Shootings at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, October 27, 2018
- <u>Civil Rights Groups Show Solidarity with Victims of Hate in National Full-Page Ads,</u> November 5, 2018
- Jewish Council for Public Affairs Marks 75 Years with JCPA2019 National Conference and 75th Anniversary Gala, January 8, 2019

- Nancy Kaufman of NCJW to Receive JCPA Albert D. Chernin Award at the JCPA2019 National Conference in Washington D.C., January 15, 2019
- JCPA Strongly Opposes Administration's Decision Allowing S. Carolina Foster Agencies to Discriminate Against Jewish Parents, January 23, 2019
- JCPA Votes to Adopt Four New Resolutions at 2019 National Conference in D.C., February 19, 2019
- JCPA Condemns the Horrific Shootings of Muslim Worshipers in New Zealand, March 15, 2019
- JCPA Leads Civil Rights Mission on Eve of First Anniversary of the National Memorial on Peace and Justice, April 23, 2019
- JCPA Condemns the Horrific Shooting at the Chabad of Poway, April 27, 2019
- National and Local Jewish Groups Send Letter to New York Times, April 29, 2019
- <u>Review Shows Times' Institutional Bias Against Israel</u>, May 15, 2019
- JCPA is Committed to Protecting Women's Reproductive Freedom, May 17, 2019
- JCPA Appoints Michael Fromm As New Board Chair, June 4, 2019
- JCPA Applauds House Passage of the American Dream and Promise Act, June 5, 2019
- JCPA Applauds Supreme Court Decision to Block Citizenship Question in 2020 Census, June 27, 2019

Resolutions

- <u>Resolution Condemning the Genocide of the Rohingya People</u>
- <u>Resolution on Holocaust and Genocide Education</u>
- Amendment to the 2010 Civility Resolution
- Amendment to the 2014 Minimum Wage Resolution

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