

TALKING POINTS: COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

- **There is no inclusive democracy without Jewish safety – and no Jewish safety without inclusive democracy.** We reject this false choice being advanced by extremists on both ends of the political spectrum.
- **Antisemitism functions as a conspiracy theory that undermines democracy.** It uniquely operates as an insidious lie about Jewish power, designed to pit communities against one another, erode trust in democratic institutions, and sow societal distrust.
- **There is a feedback loop between democratic decline and rising antisemitism.** As democratic norms falter, antisemitism flourishes—and antisemitic hate, in turn, continues to fuel broader extremism.
- **Before October 7th we were already facing a crisis on antisemitism, hate, and extremism,** including a cycle of antisemitic and white supremacist violence targeting Jews and many others and record-level hate crimes.
- **Post-October 7th, antisemitic conspiracy theories have surged.** Lies about “Jewish” or “Zionist” control have proliferated, continuing to animate broader hate and reinforce democratic erosion. While critique of Israeli policy is not only fair but important to our democratic discourse, holding Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the Israel government is antisemitism - period.

TALKING POINTS CONT.

- **Jewish safety depends on inclusive, pluralistic democracy.** We must advance inclusive, multiracial democracy in service of Jewish safety, and we must combat antisemitism in service of inclusive, multiracial democracy.
- **The conversation on antisemitism remains too siloed.** Understanding antisemitism as a narrow issue - rather than as a threat to our democracy that fuels, animates, and connects with other forms of hate and extremism - misses the chance to build coalitions and solidarity with other communities—especially at moments when shared safety and democracy are at risk.
- **Building bridges and coalitions is essential.** Extreme voices are telling us to turn inward and pitting us against one another. We must reject zero-sum, binary thinking and partner across lines of difference—understanding that Jewish safety is inextricably linked with the freedom and safety of all Americans. Standing for Jewish safety should never come at the expense of others—and advocating for others should never mean erasing Jewish safety or dignity. Allyship rooted in shared values enables both/and commitments.
- **Allyship Requires Risk and Discomfort.** True allyship often means showing up even when it's inconvenient, uncomfortable, or when one's own identity or narrative is being challenged. Growth and trust emerge through sustained presence, not perfect agreement.
- **Stay in the Room—Even When It's Hard.** Walking away from hard conversations and challenging coalitions too quickly cedes space to extreme voices and narratives. Staying engaged—even in tough conversations—allows for dialogue, humanization, and long-term influence.