



COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT

## Municipal Antisemitism Action Index: Driving Change and Accountability

**Founded five years ago, the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) made a strategic decision to collaborate with mayors, municipal leaders, and local governments to combat antisemitism through rapid and actionable solutions. While national and federal legislative processes can be slow and complex, cities have the ability to respond quickly and make a tangible impact.**

Since October 7, the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents worldwide has further underscored the critical role of local governments in taking decisive action. In response, CAM is announcing the launch of the Municipal Antisemitism Action Index—a comprehensive classification system designed to assess and inspire municipalities to take meaningful steps in combating antisemitism. This index serves not only as a tool for evaluation but as a catalyst for cities to implement proactive, impactful measures that foster inclusive, hate-free communities.

Through this classification, municipalities will be evaluated based on their policies, programs, and actions aimed at combating antisemitism, promoting education, fostering interfaith dialogue, and ensuring strong law enforcement responses to hate crimes. The Municipal Antisemitism Action Index provides a clear roadmap for local governments to strengthen their communities against hate and intolerance.

City leadership plays a pivotal role in setting the tone for tolerance and mutual respect. By providing clear metrics and examples of best practices, CAM aims to inspire mayors, city councils, and local officials to prioritize the fight against antisemitism.

At the upcoming Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Beverly Hills, CA, from December 11-13, 2024, the Municipal Antisemitism Action Index will be officially unveiled and presented to the attending mayors. CAM will issue a call to action for cities across the country to submit information based on the index's classification criteria. Mayors will also be invited to share successful programs their cities have implemented, allowing other municipalities to learn from and adopt these initiatives.

Lisa Katz, CAM's Chief Government Officer and a former mayor, is leading the engagement with mayors and municipalities, ready to assist local governments in developing better policies and programs to counter antisemitism in their communities. She can be reached at: [lisa@combatantisemitism.org](mailto:lisa@combatantisemitism.org)



**The Municipal Antisemitism Action Index is designed to classify and rank municipalities based on their commitment and effectiveness in combating antisemitism, providing a clear framework to measure progress, identify gaps, and promote best practices in local government action.**

### **1. Legislation and Policy:**

The Legislation and Policy section of the Municipal Antisemitism Action Index provides a comprehensive evaluation of how effectively municipal governments are crafting and implementing laws and policies to combat antisemitism. CAM will evaluate legislative and policy actions taken by municipalities, including the following recommended examples of positive initiatives taken by municipalities across North America:

- 1.1 Adoption of IHRA Definition and Hate Crime Legislation: Integrate the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, including its examples, into the city code, and adopt hate crime legislation that explicitly includes ethnicity and antisemitism, as defined by the IHRA, in the identification and investigation of potential hate crimes.
- 1.2 Enhance Penalties for Hate Crimes: Inclusion of provisions in hate crime legislation such that violation of such statute would elevate the charge to a higher level. For instance, if an assault would normally be classified as a Class C felony, adding a hate crime element would raise it to a Class B felony, which carries more severe penalties.
- 1.3 Amend Existing Racial Discrimination Policies: To the extent that a municipality has racial discrimination policies, amendment of such policies to include those of Jewish ethnicity as a recognized minority group within the city's policies and classifications, and treatment of discrimination motivated by or including antisemitic intent in the same manner as discrimination motivated by race or ethnicity.
- 1.4 Bubble Zone Legislation: Adoption of an ordinance exercising time and manner restrictions that prohibit protests within proximity to sensitive areas such as schools and houses of worship.
- 1.5 Anti-BDS Policy: Adoption of a policy whereby the municipality will not do business with companies that boycott or divest from the State of Israel, Israelis, or any other discrimination based upon ethnicity or national origin.
- 1.6 Establishment of an Antisemitism Task Force / Committee: Establishment of a task force composed of individuals with diverse expertise from law enforcement, educators, residents, and Jewish community leadership to address antisemitic hate in the municipality, while fostering awareness, education, and unity among all residents. Transparently report on city progress in addressing antisemitism.



1.7 Anti-Masking Legislation: Adoption of an ordinance prohibiting the wearing of masks at public protests, except for demonstrable health-related safety reasons.

## 2. Education and Awareness:

**CAM will evaluate educational activities driven by municipalities, including the following recommended examples of positive educational initiatives taken by municipalities across North America.**

### 2.1 Education Programs:

2.1.1 Support the inclusion of Holocaust and Jewish American Heritage education in public school curriculum.

2.1.2 Discipline educators who teach Holocaust and/or October 7th denial and distortion.

2.1.3 Include the history of Israel and the Middle East as part of the curriculum within World History or Government.

### 2.2 Establishment of the Committee for Public Awareness on Antisemitism:

The city will establish a dedicated committee to lead public awareness campaigns aimed at educating the community about antisemitism. This committee will also ensure that city leadership provides a prompt and effective public response to any antisemitic incidents. The committee could lead:

2.2.1 Jewish American Heritage Month: Recognition and celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, with public events and educational initiatives. In partnership with CAM, sponsor an essay or digital media competition during JAHM, culminating in presentations at city hall to foster deeper understanding of Jewish heritage.

2.2.2 Holocaust Commemoration Events: Establishment of city-wide commemoration events to honor Holocaust victims and survivors.

2.2.3 October 7 Event Commemoration: Establishment of an annual event to remember the October 7 massacre and honor its victims, fostering awareness about contemporary antisemitism and violence.

## 3. Community Engagement

**3.1 Support for Interfaith Initiatives:** The city will support programs that foster dialogue and cooperation between diverse religious and ethnic groups, including events like interfaith festivals, cultural exchanges, and workshops.

**3.2 Jewish Representation in Public Events:** Prioritize the inclusion of Jewish history and culture in city-organized cultural and historical events.

**3.3 Sister City Relationship:** Enter into a sister city relationship with a municipality in Israel to learn from each other and exchange cultural, educational, informational and trade ideas.



#### 4. Law Enforcement and Judicial Action

- 4.1 Training for Law Enforcement:** Include annual antisemitism awareness in training for police and law enforcement officers.
- 4.2 Protection of Jewish Institutions:** Enact measures to ensure the safety of synagogues, Jewish schools, and community centers.
- 4.3 Incident Reporting System:** Create (or include if already existing) easy-to-use platforms for reporting and monitoring antisemitic incidents in collaboration with the task force.
- 4.4 Investigation and Prosecution:** Ensure that antisemitic crimes are investigated and prosecuted and that laws protecting citizens are enforced.
- 4.5 Data on Antisemitism:** Collect and publicly disclose data on antisemitic incidents, including frequency, types of incidents, and locations.