

# EDUCATING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM PREVENTION

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Antisemitism neither began nor ended with the Holocaust. Today, its legacy of hatred and prejudice against Jewish people is still a reality across the nation, and it undermines both individual student safety and school culture.

SHINE  
A LIGHT  
on Antisemitism

## TEACHING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS

**“The only way to build a culture of safety is to see racism, oppression and violence as permanently intertwined. This gives all of us a stake when fighting the twin social diseases of antisemitism and racism”**

Shane Burley, NBC News OpEd<sup>[1]</sup>

Antisemitic incidents in the US increased 34% over the previous year, reaching the highest number on record since the ADL began tracking this in 1979.<sup>[2]</sup> 1 in 4 American Jews report that they experienced hatred in the last year.<sup>[3]</sup>

### WHAT IS SHINE A LIGHT?

In response to **the sharp rise in antisemitism in the US**<sup>[4]</sup> in 2021<sup>[5]</sup>, the **Shine A Light** initiative was formed to raise awareness about modern antisemitism through education, community partnerships, workplace engagement, and advocacy. Today, Shine A Light comprises an unprecedented coalition of 65 Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, more than 60 corporations, and 15 US state governors who are committed to addressing rising antisemitism.

### WHEN IS SHINE A LIGHT 2022?

Shine A Light draws inspiration from the story of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, to champion the message that one light can dispel darkness and hate. **Shine A Light 2022** will launch in December with

a month of programming, media, and events to spotlight modern antisemitism.

### WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN SHINE A LIGHT?

**Do you understand what modern-day antisemitism looks like and why it persists?<sup>6</sup>**

ARTICLE



As an educator who is committed to an inclusive and tolerant society, how are you addressing the rise in antisemitism in the US?

Please join us to learn more about modern antisemitism, how it is intertwined with other forms of hate, and how you can take steps to combat hate in your classroom.

# TEACHING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN SCHOOLS

## WHAT CAN WE DO IN OUR SCHOOLS?

### USE THE BELOW RESOURCES IN YOUR CLASSROOMS

Shine A Light educators from the Anti-Defamation League, Facing History and Ourselves, Institute for Curriculum Services, The Jewish Education Project, and USC Shoah Foundation have curated a list of curricula that best addresses antisemitism - its history, its modern mutations, its effects on others, and how to respond.

#### LESSON PLANS FOR GRADES 6-8

- [Antisemitism Explainer](#) (FHAO)
- [Antisemitic Incidents: Being an Ally, Advocate and Activist](#) (ADL)

#### LESSON PLANS FOR GRADES 9-12

- [Addressing Hate Online Countering Cyberhate](#) (ADL)
- [Comprehensive Unit on Contemporary Antisemitism](#) (ADL)
- [Countering Hate Through Social Media](#) (USC Shoah)
- [Skittles, Deplorables and “All Lives Matter”: Leadership and Media Literacy](#) (USC Shoah)

## TEACHER RESOURCES FOR UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO ANTISEMITISM

- [Empowering Young People in the Aftermath of Hate](#) (ADL)

## REGISTER FOR AND PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS

- December 5<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>:  
[Teaching about Contemporary Antisemitism Course for Educators](#) (Echoes and Reflections)
- December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> :  
[Two-Part Series: Teaching About Historical And Contemporary Manifestations of Antisemitism](#) (ICS and Echoes and Reflections)
- Available Anytime:  
[Confronting Hate: The Perpetuation of Hate on Social Media](#) (FHAO)

# TEACHING ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## SPEAK OUT AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Join states and cities across the US, Jewish and non-Jewish organizations, and Fortune 500 companies, in speaking out about antisemitism the week of Chanukah 2022. Share your commitment through:

- Supporting [Shine A Light on Social Media](#)
- Attending relevant professional development courses (as listed above)
- Creating relationships with local Jewish educators, schools, and synagogues. Reach out to [Prizmah](#) or your local Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) to find out how!
- Using holiday messaging to Shine A Light on antisemitism. Sample language below:

**Happy Holidays! The holidays are a time to recharge and reflect. This year, we invite you to take moment to learn more about the recent rise in antisemitism and gain strategies to champion antisemitism prevention in your classroom.**

Shine A Light is a national initiative to spotlight modern-day antisemitism. It draws inspiration from the Story of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, to champion the message that one light can dispel the darkness. For more information, please visit [shinealighton.com](#)

## TAKE ACTION!

Head over to [shinealighton.com/resources](#) to explore the entire library of resources dedicated to education around antisemitism.

**TOGETHER** we can **SHINE A LIGHT** on antisemitism!

1. [How Buffalo suspect's hateful propaganda connects Black Americans and Jews](#), NBC News OpEd
2. [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021](#), ADL
3. [The State of Antisemitism in America 2021](#), AJC
4. [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2021](#), ADL
5. [Officials Say Hate Crimes Against Jews Are Growing In The Aftermath Of Gaza Violence](#), NPR
6. [Why So Many People Still Don't Understand Anti-Semitism](#), The Atlantic