

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

# AJC

by the numbers

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**The American Jewish Committee** protects the rights and freedoms of Jews the world over; combats bigotry and anti-Semitism and promotes human rights for all; works for the security of Israel and deepened understanding between Americans and Israelis; advocates public policy positions rooted in American democratic values and the perspectives of the Jewish heritage; and enhances the creative vitality of the Jewish people. Founded in 1906, it is the pioneer human-relations agency in the United States.



We recently celebrated the centennial anniversary of the American Jewish Committee.

The occasion prompted me to reflect on AJC's past accomplishments and our future challenges and, in Jewish fashion, to ask a question.

After over 100 years of protecting the welfare and promoting the vitality of the Jewish people worldwide, how does AJC remain so effective, efficient, and essential?

This executive summary, *AJC by the Numbers*, provides answers. It highlights important features of our organization, describes our impact, and expands on these measurements of our success:

- 1. We're dynamic and growing, with offices from New York to Mumbai;**
- 2. We've earned the highest ratings for integrity and fiscal responsibility; and, most important**
- 3. We make a difference.**

Fighting hate and terror ... Advocating for Israel ... Strengthening Jewish identity ... Advancing lasting mutual understanding.

We navigate our complex global society with thoughtful diplomacy that earns the respect of world, national, and community leaders, and achieves results—results that are especially critical today, when we face a growing existential threat to Israel and the resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere.

Please take a moment to learn more about the important work of the American Jewish Committee and the ways that AJC can strengthen your investment in the future of the Jewish people.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David A. Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David A. Harris  
Executive Director



## leadership

AJC leaders gather in Washington, in 1911, to deliver congressional testimony protesting Russian discrimination.

A small group of Jewish American communal and business leaders established the American Jewish Committee in 1906, in an act of conscience triggered by the bloody pogroms threatening the seven million Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe. The group won its first major victory five years later when, with broad support, it convinced Congress to protest Russian discrimination against American citizens of Jewish background by abrogating an 1832 bilateral commercial treaty.

## 100 years

For more than a century, AJC has followed this successful strategy, confronting injustices with moral suasion and sophisticated diplomacy leveraged by public opinion.

AJC today numbers 175,000 members and supporters, with a talented staff of more than 300 individuals worldwide. Lay leaders and professionals work in creative partnership, sharing the vision, passion, and knowledge that produce sustained success.

**175,000**  
members  
and supporters

Actively involved throughout the United States, in **33 chapters**, members develop the local political, ethnic, and religious alliances that strengthen advocacy for Israel and public policy affecting the Jewish community.



Members of the New York Chapter attend a program with national staff.

AJC staff and lay leaders visit roughly 60 countries in a typical year, meeting with heads of state, foreign ministers, and other government officials, to cultivate the long-term diplomatic relationships that make AJC a uniquely effective voice for Israel and the Jewish people.

## 60 countries visited annually

In an annual diplomatic marathon, when the United Nations General Assembly reconvenes, AJC meets privately with the presidents, prime ministers, and foreign ministers of at least

## 70 UN member states.

An AJC delegation in Buenos Aires discusses the deadly 1994 bombing of the Jewish Community Center with Argentina's justice minister and his aides.



# religious leaders

Pope Benedict XVI and Rabbi David Rosen, AJC director of international interreligious affairs, greet each other in St. Peter's Square.



Believing that religion can serve as a force for advancing mutual understanding and peace, AJC members and staff meet regularly with local, national, and international leaders of all faiths, including the Pope, the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Muslim clerics.

## 100+ meetings

In the U.S., AJC maintains ongoing relationships with **21 denominations**, advocating collaboratively on issues of shared concern and engaging candidly about disagreements.



Javier Solana, high representative for the common foreign and security policy of the European Union, addresses the dedication dinner of the Transatlantic Institute, in 2004.

AJC maintains affiliations with Jewish organizations in 23 countries and operates offices and bureaus in 8 cities—Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Jerusalem, Mumbai, Paris, Rome, and Warsaw.

## global 24/7

In Brussels, our Transatlantic Institute advances the shared democratic values of North America and Europe; Geneva is home to our UN Watch, which monitors United Nations actions regarding Israel and other issues relevant to the Jewish people. Together, these **31 international posts** help provide the on-the-ground knowledge and contacts necessary for advancing AJC's mission globally 24/7.

In three years, since its inception in 2004, our Engaging America program has prepared 350 AJC members and professional staff to be effective as domestic diplomats, engaging leaders of other ethnic groups and faiths in discussions that move beyond polite dialogue to frank exchanges and,

# 350 domestic diplomats

when possible, to alliances that help achieve shared political and public policy objectives. We maintain ongoing relations with **200 organizations**, both local and national, representing America's broad diversity.



AJC members attend an Engaging America workshop with individuals from several of New York's ethnic and religious communities.

During the past 25 years, AJC has introduced its Hands Across the Campus curriculum in at least 1,250 schools, educating more than 65,000 high school students about diversity, democratic values, and civic involvement.

## 65,000 students

In a recent Thanksgiving initiative, AJC has placed into 1,000 classrooms a special curriculum guide, and more than 30,000 copies of a booklet called *America's Table®*, which celebrates our diverse roots and shared values.



**A Brooklyn middle school choir performs at the *America's Table®* Thanksgiving event produced by the New York Chapter.**

Richard Foltin, AJC legislative director and counsel, left, with Senators Rick Santorum (R-PA) and John Kerry (D-MA) during a press conference about the Workplace Religious Freedom Act.



AJC meets each week with at least 10 members of Congress or their staff. With this strong Capitol Hill presence, we help pass legislation that advances our mission and defeat legislation that opposes it.

## 400+ meetings with Congress

Recent successes, for example, include passage of the Voting Rights Act Extension, which protects minority representation at the polls, and defeat of several bills that would have eroded religious pluralism.



University leaders view the Mount of Olives, while visiting Jerusalem during a Project Interchange travel seminar.

In 25 years, AJC's Project Interchange (PI) has introduced more than 4,000 civic, religious, media, business, and student leaders from **50 states** and **22 countries** to Israel, with 300 weeklong educational travel seminars that help current and emerging policy-makers and opinion-shapers appreciate the complexity and challenges of Israel as a modern, democratic, and pluralistic Jewish state. **4,000 leaders visit Israel**

In 2007 alone, PI expects to organize 26 seminars: 14 from the U.S., and 12 from Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Disturbed by the lack of understanding about Israel and Israeli society among college students, and determined to make a tangible impact on the problem, AJC and Brandeis University developed a program that prepares professors from America and abroad to teach about modern Israel at their home campuses.

## 60 colleges add Israel courses

In just three years, since the program began in 2004, 60 colleges have introduced courses, reaching more than **1,500 students**, a number that is expected to grow exponentially as at least 20 new courses are added annually.



Professors, selected by their dean or provost, learn about modern Israeli society, in the program developed by Brandeis and AJC.



French officers graduate from the AJC program that trains EU police and prosecutors in hate crime investigation and prevention.

Alarmed by the dramatic increase in anti-Semitic incidents across Europe, AJC urged the 56-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to take concrete action.

## 25,000 police fight hate crimes

In 2004, the organization asked AJC to develop a curriculum for fighting hate crimes and to train European law enforcement officers. By the end of 2007, 25,000 officers from **15 European nations** will have been trained.



Jewish émigrés from Russia attend a leadership seminar organized by AJC's Berlin office.

Soon after the Holocaust, AJC anticipated the importance of a German democracy in the heart of Europe and understood that a better future would require genuine understanding. With the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, AJC established an exchange program that, since 1980, has introduced American Jews to Germany and Germans to American Jewry. Programs with other German foundations followed.

## 27 years of German-Jewish dialogue

In 1994, AJC initiated a unique dialogue with elite officers of the German armed forces. Four years later, the agency opened its Berlin office, the first American Jewish organization with a permanent presence in Germany. AJC and Poland inaugurated an exchange program in 1996.

In 2006, its first year in operation, AJC's program for young people in their 20s and 30s, grew rapidly to 300 members. Called ACCESS, the program also expanded to 6 cities and 4 AJC campus societies, at Colgate, Cornell, Harvard, and Princeton.

## 2 missions to New Orleans

Members participated in 2 relief missions to New Orleans, and in delegations to Berlin and Buenos Aires for meetings with national officials and the local Jewish communities. They planned a trip to Poland and, each month, participated in local diplomatic initiatives and programs on Jewish identity and social action.



During 2006, ACCESS, AJC's program for members in their 20s and 30s, organizes two New Orleans relief missions.



AJC Executive Director David A. Harris broadcasts his weekly radio commentary.

AJC reaches more than 35 million individuals, from Maine to Hawaii, with a weekly commentary by Executive Director David A. Harris carried on 400 stations of the CBS radio network. Each 60-second broadcast focuses on a topical subject of agency concern, such as energy independence, the Middle East, and anti-Semitism. Launched in 2001, the program reflects a historical commitment to radio, dating from the establishment of an AJC radio department, in 1937, to battle Nazi propaganda.

## 35 million listeners hear AJC

Today, AJC records programs at its headquarters radio studio, the Lerner Media Center, which was completed in 2006.

The American Institute of Philanthropy, an independent and rigorous charity watchdog, rates AJC grade “A” for fiscal responsibility, based on the especially high proportion of donations that the agency dedicates to programs rather than overhead. For its overall financial health and institutional efficiency, AJC earns 4-stars, the highest ranking, from Charity Navigator, also an independent evaluator of

charities. **4-star**  
charity rating

The agency has enjoyed 16 consecutive years of fund-raising campaign growth and has operated with net positive results in each of those years.



***American Jewish Committee***

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165 East 56 Street  
New York, NY 10022*

*The American Jewish Committee publishes in these areas:*

- *Hatred and Anti-Semitism*
- *Pluralism*
- *Israel*
- *American Jewish Life*
- *International Jewish Life*
- *Human Rights*

*www.ajc.org*

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