



2020 was a trying year. Fear and uncertainty fueled antisemitism, anti-Israel conspiracy theories, and all types of hate. But American Jewish Committee (AJC) did not let the turmoil slow us down. The progress we made during those dark days speaks to the brighter world that AJC works to build every day.



**AJC Helps Pave the Way for Historic Peace Accords**

History was made in 2020 when Israel established diplomatic relations with four Arab nations—the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco. These agreements fulfill a vision that AJC has vigilantly pursued for more than a quarter-century. Since our first consultations in 1994, AJC has made frequent visits to the Arabian Gulf and North Africa. We met quietly with senior officials from many countries in the region and cultivated ties between Israel and the Arab world. This is an example of how AJC’s effective diplomacy can help forge new paths toward peace.



**AJC Partners with Facebook to Stop Online Hate**

AJC played a key role in convincing Facebook to ban content that denies or distorts the Holocaust from its platform of two billion users. This was a dramatic shift in policy and a victory in the fight against antisemitism. In announcing its decision in October 2020, Facebook noted AJC’s role in bringing it about. For several years, AJC has engaged directly with Facebook, advocating for a tougher stance against antisemitism. Following Facebook’s decision, Twitter imposed a similar ban on Holocaust denial and YouTube cracked down on the antisemitic QAnon conspiracy theory.



**AJC Mobilizes Jews and Allies to Confront Antisemitism**

On January 5, 2020, following a surge in antisemitic attacks in the New York area, AJC co-organized the 25,000-person “No Hate, No Fear” march in protest of rising hatred against Jews. AJC designated the following day, January 6, as #JewishandProud Day—a day to celebrate Jewish identity openly in a show of solidarity. AJC’s initiative reached over 200 million people on social media. Jews and non-Jews—including members of Congress, world leaders, and celebrities—participated. This profound public display demonstrated that the Jewish people and countless allies stand united in the face of antisemitism.



**AJC Is Writing a New Chapter in Muslim-Jewish Relations**

In January 2020, AJC and the Mecca-based Muslim World League led a historic joint visit of Muslim and Jewish leaders to Auschwitz 75 after its liberation. Sixty-two Muslim representatives from 28 countries participated, including 25 prominent religious leaders. The mission

represented the most senior Islamic leadership delegation to ever visit a Nazi death camp. While knowledge of the Holocaust is deeply deficient throughout the Arab world, AJC is educating influential leaders—an essential step in ensuring that such horrors never happen again.



**AJC Report Drives Action on Antisemitism**

In October 2020, AJC released its first-ever *State of Antisemitism in America* report—and the alarming results are compelling our leaders to act. Based on parallel surveys of American Jews and the general public on Jew-hatred in America, the report found that while Jews continue to feel vulnerable and under attack, there is a stunning lack of awareness among Americans of the distress felt by their Jewish neighbors. In fact, nearly half of Americans do not even know what antisemitism means. The findings should trouble us all. But with this data, AJC is more effectively targeting its education and advocacy efforts to address the problem.

# AJC IMPACT: 2020 YEAR-IN-REVIEW



## AJC Advocates Adoption of Antisemitism Definition

In 2020, AJC continued to urge governments to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. Originally drafted by AJC, and formally adopted by the IHRA, the definition provides a universal standard for what constitutes antisemitism, making it easier to track and prosecute antisemitic crimes. With AJC's help, a growing list of countries have adopted the definition, including eight last year alone. And we successfully advocated for local and state bodies in America to take this step as well.



## AJC Strengthens Black-Jewish Unity

For more than a century, AJC has been engaged in the unfinished civil rights struggle for full and equal opportunity and protection under the law. That work continued in 2020. AJC opened two new domestic offices in Louisville and Minneapolis-St. Paul in memory of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. We built closer ties with the Congressional Black-Jewish Caucus, first launched at AJC Global Forum 2019, and held a weeklong Black-Jewish Unity initiative with the National Urban League to bolster understanding and joint advocacy. The campaign, which addressed rising racism and antisemitism, quickly became a widespread statement of partnership and strength.



## AJC Works to Make Our Communities Safer

Jews represent less than 2% of the American population, yet they are the victims of more than 60% of religious-based hate crimes. And this grossly underestimates the real number, since it's based on voluntary data. Our leaders cannot combat hate crimes if they don't understand the scope of the problem. That's why, in 2020, AJC continued to lead the charge—in partnership with our interfaith and interethnic allies—to convince Congress to pass the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act, which would improve hate crimes reporting. AJC was instrumental in building bipartisan congressional backing for this urgent bill, which was signed into law in May 2021.



## AJC Connects Millions Worldwide Amid the Pandemic

Even as the health crisis kept so many of us apart, AJC continued to bring us together—virtually. At the start of the pandemic, we launched *Advocacy Anywhere*, bringing AJC online content to you at home. AJC's work couldn't stop. In many ways, our mission took on even greater urgency as we saw new waves of antisemitism and hate surface in response to COVID-19. Through *Advocacy Anywhere*, our community has been able to keep learning and advocating on the issues that matter most via regular webinars with world leaders, public figures, and expert analysts. More than five million viewers have already tuned in to our programs.



## AJC Cracks Down on Hezbollah Terror

During 2020, AJC made major progress in our effort to weaken Hezbollah, the antisemitic and anti-Israel Iranian terror proxy. For two decades, AJC has advocated for the international community to designate all of Hezbollah a terror organization. Many countries grant it partial legitimacy by recognizing only its "military wing"

as a terrorist entity. But in 2020, ten new nations, including Germany—the most powerful EU member state—joined the list of countries that have banned the terror group in its entirety. Following Germany's decision, the AJC Transatlantic Institute in Brussels united lawmakers from both sides of the Atlantic in a declaration urging the EU to ban Hezbollah in its entirety.