


A Law Enforcement Guide to Countering Antisemitism:
**Implementing the U.S. National
Strategy to Counter Antisemitism**



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The U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism outlines a whole-of-society effort to address anti-Jewish hate. [American Jewish Committee's Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism is excited to work with all stakeholders, including law enforcement, in this important mission](#)¹. The Strategy stands on four pillars, each of which presents opportunities for law enforcement agencies, which are often on the front line of responding to incidents of antisemitism, protecting Jewish communities, and supporting American values. This guide provides suggestions for possible actions law enforcement agencies could take to implement the four pillars.

¹ [A.J.C.org/NationalStrategy](https://www.ajc.org/NationalStrategy)

Pillar 1

Increase awareness and understanding of antisemitism, including its threat to America, and broaden appreciation of Jewish American heritage

The Strategy urges “states and localities to offer trainings to help people understand Jewish communities, antisemitism, and ways to counter antisemitism in their neighborhoods” and to “utilize materials published by Jewish organizations to help identify antisemitic tropes, words, and symbols that can hide in plain sight.”

Increase understanding of Judaism and the Jewish people. [The Secure Community Network \(SCN\)](#)², the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America, has an invaluable “[Introduction to Judaism for law enforcement officers and security professionals](#)”³.”

Deepen awareness of antisemitism. Partner with AJC to plan trainings to help members of law enforcement agencies recognize antisemitism, raise awareness, and address it using a variety of tools. AJC regularly trains elected officials, corporations, sports teams, higher education institutions, and nonprofits. To schedule a training, contact trainings@ajc.org.

Use resources to acquire useful intelligence and successfully prosecute antisemitic crimes. [AJC’s Translate Hate glossary](#)⁴ which helps law enforcement and others identify and expose antisemitic tropes, words, and symbols, can be shared on law enforcement websites to broaden community awareness. It can also be a valuable tool in helping law enforcement pinpoint and seek out specific things in an investigation and buttress testimony to successfully prosecute an antisemitic hate crime. Law enforcement and prosecutors may want to maintain a list of qualified experts on antisemitism should testimony be required.

² www.securecommunitynetwork.org

³ www.securecommunitynetwork.org/intro-to-judaism

⁴ AJC.org/TranslateHateGlossary

Pillar 2

*Improve safety
and security
for Jewish
communities*



The Strategy calls for increased coordination among local government, law enforcement, and the Jewish community. It cites [AJC's State of Antisemitism in America 2022 report](#)⁵ that found 63% of American Jews believe law enforcement is effective in responding to the Jewish community's needs, a sharp drop from 81% in 2019.

Ensure collaboration. Law enforcement agencies, regardless of staffing size, can designate an appropriate senior official to be a central point of contact for local Jewish communities on security needs. [AJC's Guides to Countering Antisemitism](#)⁶ for rabbis and congregations, public or private schools, or others, may be useful to share when building collaboration.

Utilize local or regional Jewish security programs and professional(s). Through the Secure Community Network and the network of local and regional security programs nationwide, there are Jewish security professionals who law enforcement should know and engage. These security professionals can cement relationships and deepen trust, and serve as the point of contact between local Jewish communities and law enforcement.

Encourage the Jewish community to access grants for target hardening and planning. Encourage religiously affiliated institutions to [apply for nonprofit security grants](#)⁷ from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as well as state level funds where they exist, to fund training and physical security enhancements. As the Strategy states, "Federal resources only reach as far as local actors' ability to utilize them." The nonprofit security grants require a threat, vulnerability, and risk assessment (TVRA), which institutions may ask local law enforcement to support. If able to do so, local law enforcement should offer that resource.

⁵ [AJC.org/AntisemitismReport2022](https://www.aicj.org/AntisemitismReport2022)

⁶ [AJC.org/Guides](https://www.aicj.org/Guides)

⁷ www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security

The Strategy calls on local governments to intensify efforts to improve hate crime reporting. Law enforcement is particularly urged “to discuss antisemitism and hate crimes, create a diverse network of community leaders, and encourage reporting of hate incidents.”

Build trust with the Jewish community. Many hate crimes go unreported to law enforcement by victims. To build trust and encourage victims and witnesses to report hate crimes, [AJC's 25 regional offices](#)⁸ around the U.S. can help facilitate cooperation between local law enforcement and Jewish communities in their jurisdictions.

Prioritize reporting of hate crimes and submission of tips. Year after year, Jews are the largest target of all religiously motivated hate crimes, despite accounting for just 2% of the U.S. population. Reinforce established protocols for the community to report suspicious activity – to include contacting local law enforcement and/or the relevant suspicious activity reporting authority – as well as the SCN Duty Desk, available 24/7/365 via dutydesk@securecommunitynetwork.org or by calling 844-SCN-DESK. Submit a tip to the FBI online at tips.fbi.gov⁹ or by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324).

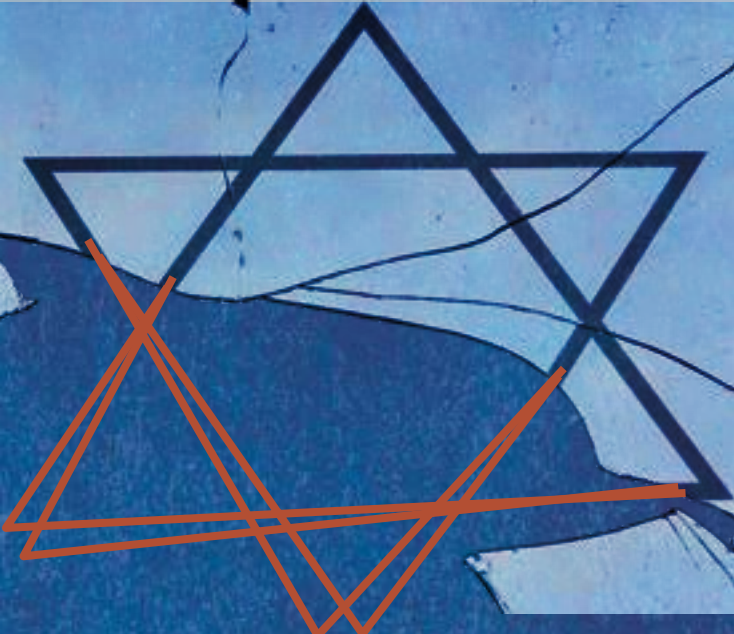
Ensure hate crimes data is shared. Year after year, fewer and fewer law enforcement agencies share hate crimes data with the FBI. It is impossible to address hate crimes when we do not understand their extent. Law enforcement should submit hate crimes data to the FBI via the NIBRS system for the annual report. DOJ grant funds are available to support the NIBRS transition and ongoing compliance.

Utilize DOJ grants to strengthen hate crime identification/reporting. Local law enforcement should leverage Department of Justice (DOJ) resources, such as grants that enable the establishment of state-run hate crime hotlines or to provide hate crimes bias training (via the [Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act Program](#)¹⁰).

⁸ [AJC.org/regionaloffices](https://ajc.org/regionaloffices)

⁹ tips.fbi.gov

¹⁰ www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/grants



Pillar 3

Reverse the normalization of antisemitism and counter antisemitic discrimination

The Strategy calls on civic leaders at all levels, including in law enforcement, to speak out against antisemitism and to recognize and celebrate those in their communities who speak out against antisemitism.

Issue unequivocal condemnations. As with all hate crimes, when an incident occurs, leaders in law enforcement should speak out loudly and clearly using their broad reach, affirming that antisemitism is not just a Jewish problem, but an assault on American values. AJC offers a number of online educational resources surrounding what is rendered antisemitism, which can be found [here](#)¹¹. In addition, our staff experts are available to help suggest relevant language or thinking for strong statements. Email antisemitism@ajc.org for assistance.

Learn from history. During the Holocaust, the police were central figures not just in maintaining public order but also in combating so-called racial enemies of the Nazi state - the epitome of normalization of antisemitism. They played a key role in the concentration, deportation, and murder of Jews in Nazi-controlled Europe. [The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)¹² and other holocaust museums around the country engage law enforcement at the federal, state, and local level to learn about the role of police in Nazi Germany and to reflect on their role in a democratic society today.

¹¹ [AJC.org/Antisemitism](https://www.ajc.org/Antisemitism)

¹² www.ushmm.org/outreach-programs/law-enforcement

Pillar 4

Build cross-community solidarity and collective action to counter hate

The Strategy states it is imperative that non-Jewish and Jewish communities work together and stand up for each other in order to counter antisemitism and other forms of hate. A diversity of voices and actors signals that antisemitism is not just a problem for Jews, but for all.

Partner with the [Community Relations Service](#)¹³. “America’s Peacemaker,” [CRS’s numerous local offices](#)¹⁴ work with communities to resolve conflicts and prevent and respond to alleged hate crimes by providing facilitated dialogue, mediation, training, and consultation to prevent and resolve future conflict. CRS has a specific [Strengthening Police and Community Partnership](#)¹⁵ initiative. Relatedly, the [DOJ’s Community-Based Approaches to Advancing Justice Program](#)¹⁶ supports community-based organizations implementing comprehensive approaches to promote awareness and preparedness.

Engage leaders in community coalitions. Law enforcement should join in and lift up exemplary cross-community partnerships like AJC’s [Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council](#)¹⁷, [Latino Jewish Leadership Council](#)¹⁸, and Christian-Jewish, Black/Jewish and other coalitions in solidarity and action against antisemitism.

Create prevention networks. Partner with the Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships (CP3) within the Department of Homeland Security. CP3 works with the whole-of-society to build local prevention frameworks. Also consider participating in or implementing a program like Tackle!, a customized curriculum to empower public officials to develop local prevention frameworks to protect their communities from threats motivated by extremism or bigotry. Funded in part by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant, Tackle! is a partnership between [Muflehun](#)¹⁹, a resource center, and [AJC](#)²⁰.

In many ways, the [U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism](#)²¹ mirrors [AJC’s Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America](#)²², a guide for all sectors of society to understand, respond to, and prevent antisemitism released in September 2022.

¹³ [justice.gov/crs](#)

¹⁴ [justice.gov/crs/locations](#)

¹⁵ [justice.gov/crs/our-work/facilitation/strengthening-Police-community-partnerships](#)

¹⁶ [justice.gov/hatecrimes/grants](#)

¹⁷ [AJC.org/MJAC](#)

¹⁸ [AJC.org/LJLC](#)

¹⁹ [www.muflehun.org](#)

²⁰ [AJC.org](#)

²¹ [www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/02/the-u-s-national-strategy-to-counter-antisemitism-key-actions-by-Pillar-2](#)

²² [AJC.org/CallToAction](#)





The Secure Community Network (SCN), a nonprofit 501(c)(3), is the official safety and security organization of the Jewish community in North America. Founded in 2004, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated to the safety and security of the North American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities as well as with other key national partners.

Through its 24/7 Jewish Security Operations Command Center (JSOCC) and Duty Desk, SCN provides timely, credible threat and incident information to both law enforcement and community partners, serves as the community's formal liaison with federal law enforcement, and coordinates closely with state and local law enforcement partners. SCN works with communities and partners across North America to develop and implement strategic frameworks that enhance the safety and security of the Jewish people, developing best practice policies, procedures, guidance, and resources, undertaking threat and vulnerability assessments, delivering training and education, offering consultation on safety and security matters, and providing crisis management support during critical incidents.



The National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) is a not-for-profit organization with more than 12,000 members that represents the 3,081 Sheriffs' Offices in the United States, as well as thousands of deputies and other law enforcement, public safety professionals, and concerned citizens nationwide. Chartered in 1940, and headquartered in Alexandria, VA, NSA has been providing law enforcement, correctional, and other criminal justice-related training and technical assistance for over 80 years, in fulfillment of its mission to support and enhance the professionalism of those whose job it is to serve and protect. NSA is a key player in shaping national policy on critical criminal justice and homeland security issues important to the nation's sheriffs, deputies and police in the halls of Congress, U.S. Courts and at the White House.



The Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) is a professional law enforcement association of over 100 of the largest Sheriff's Offices representing counties or parishes with a population of 500,000 or more. MCSA is dedicated to preserving the highest integrity of law enforcement and the elected Office of Sheriff. The Sheriff's Offices represented by MCSA advocate for the safety and security of over 130 million citizens.

American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the global advocacy organization for the Jewish people. With headquarters in New York, 25 offices across the United States, 14 overseas posts, as well as partnerships with 38 Jewish community organizations worldwide, AJC's mission is to enhance the well-being of the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human rights and democratic values in the United States and around the world.

Following the historic unveiling of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism by the White House, AJC CEO Ted Deutch announced the creation of the AJC Task Force to Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. AJC's Task Force is designed to ensure the execution of the National Strategy, which includes dozens of AJC's recommendations closely resembling [AJC's Call to Action Against Antisemitism in America](#), in a meaningful and timely manner. For more information on AJC's Task Force visit [AJC.org/NationalStrategyNews](https://www.ajc.org/NationalStrategyNews).