

# INDIANA JEWISH COMMUNITIES SUPPORT ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HOOSIERS

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021

Dear Asian American & Pacific Islander Hoosiers,

On behalf of Jewish Hoosiers, we, the undersigned Jewish communal organizations, congregations, and leaders express our deepest condolences to Asian American & Pacific Islanders after the despicable and deadly attack in Atlanta on March 16. Such violence is antithetical to the American value of pluralism, even as anti-Asian hate has been a consistent and ugly part of American history.

As Jews, we know violence happens when xenophobic rhetoric is allowed to thrive unchecked. We know the pain of being scapegoated for society's ills. We condemn the peddling of anti-Asian conspiracy theories and decry the increase in violence directed at those of Asian descent.

The Jewish community is committed to denouncing anti-Asian hate as it continues to rise throughout the United States and here in Indiana. We stand united with all members of AAPI communities, including many Jews of Asian descent who call our synagogues home.

Just one week before the attack in Atlanta, the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council proudly signed the Indiana Chapter of National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum letter, which called on Governor Holcomb to combat xenophobia by:

- *Taking official action to recognize and condemn acts of racism, xenophobia, and intolerance against Asian American persons, families, faith communities, businesses, and institutions.*
- *Implementing procedures and programs to help Asian American persons, families, faith communities, businesses, and institutions if they are targeted by acts of discrimination and hate. Asian American Hoosiers need a systematic and accessible mechanism for reporting hate incidents and receiving concrete support. We urge you to pursue restorative justice-based solutions, rather than escalating law enforcement, to prevent further incidents.*
- *Establishing a statewide advisory committee on Asian American and Pacific Islander Affairs to serve as a direct communications pipeline between Indiana's Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the Indiana Governor's office. These types of commissions have proven to be one of the most effective ways to prevent hate incidents.*

Forming a resilient and secure community by establishing relationships and expanding empathy is one of the most effective ways to combat stereotypes, bigotry, and identity-based violence. Jewish communities throughout Indiana are dedicated to building meaningful ways to engage with AAPI Hoosiers. And we are committed to giving voice to Jews whose identities are multifaceted, including Asian American Pacific Islanders.

We see and hear you, and we stand in solidarity with you.

***Signed by the following organizations and individuals as of 12:00pm 5.3.21:***

## **INDIANA ORGANIZATIONS:**

Arthur M. Glick Jewish Community Center  
*Eric H. Koehler, CEO*  
CANDLES Holocaust Museum & Education  
Center, Terre Haute, *Leah Simpson, Director*  
Congregation Achduth Vesholom, Fort Wayne  
*Rabbi Meir Bergeron*  
Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis  
*Rabbi Dennis C. Sasso*  
*Rabbi Jennifer R. Greenspan*  
*Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Emerita*  
*Cantor Melissa Cohen*  
Congregation Beth Shalom, Bloomington  
*Rabbi Brian Besser*  
Congregation Beth Shalom, Carmel  
*Rabbi Justin Kerber*  
*Rabbi Stanley Halpern, Emeritus*  
*Judy Weitzman, President*  
Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, Carmel  
*Rabbi Benjamin Sendrow*  
Hadassah, Greater Indianapolis  
Hasten Hebrew Academy of Indianapolis  
Hillel at Butler University, Indianapolis

Hillel at Indiana University  
*Rabbi Sue Silberberg*  
Hillel at Purdue University  
*Melissa Frey, Incoming Executive Director*  
*Philip Schlossberg, MSW*  
Indiana Board of Rabbis  
Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council  
*Lindsey B. Mintz, Executive Director*  
Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation  
*Rabbi Brett Krichiver*  
*Rabbi Jordana Chernow-Reader*  
*Rabbi Roxanne Shapiro*  
*Cantor Aviva Marer*  
Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne  
*Jaki Schreier, Executive Director*  
Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis  
*Debra Barton Grant, CEO*  
Jewish Federation of Northwestern Indiana  
*Aida Nozick, Executive Director*  
Sinai Temple of Michigan City  
*Rabbi Suzanne Griffel*  
Temple Adath B'nai Israel, Evansville  
*Rabbi Gary Mazo*  
*Gloria Schwartz Mazo, Education Director*

Temple Beth El, Munster  
*Rabbi Leonard Zukrow*  
Temple Beth-El, South Bend  
*Rabbi Karen Compane*  
United Hebrew Congregation, Terre Haute  
Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, Indianapolis  
*Libby Anderson, CEO*

## **REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Midwest, Chicago  
American Jewish Committee (AJC), Chicago  
Regional Office  
Edot Midwest Regional Jewish Diversity & Racial  
Justice Collaborative

## **INDIVIDUALS:**

*Steven Carr, Director of The Institute for  
Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Purdue  
University Fort Wayne*  
*Bob Feferman, Community Relations Director,  
Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley*  
*Moshe Kruger, Executive Director, Jewish  
Federation of St. Joseph Valley, South Bend*  
*Rabbi Aaron Spiegel, Indianapolis*  
*Rabbi Lew Weiss, Indianapolis*