

In Response to the Tree of Life Synagogue Mass Shooting

October 27, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

Today there was a mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As we reflect on the news of this horrific tragedy, we also are faced with questions about the roles and responsibilities of educators and educational leaders in addressing the growing tide of hatred and discrimination across our nation. I wanted to share the following resources on how to confront antisemitism. **The word *antisemitism* means prejudice against or hatred of Jews.**

"I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." (Elie Wiesel's Acceptance Speech, on the occasion of the award of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, December 10, 1986)
https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1986/wiesel-acceptance_en.html

Addressing Anti-Semitism through Education (2018 Report)
http://www.erinnern.at/bundeslaender/oesterreich/e_bibliothek/antisemitismus-1/neues-handbuch-von-odihr-und-der-unesco-zu-bildungsarbeit-gegen-antisemitismus

USHMM

Antisemitism <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/antisemitism>

Confront Antisemitism <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism>

Antisemitism Today <https://www.ushmm.org/confront-antisemitism/antisemitism-the-longest-hatred/film/antisemitism-today>

Educators play a powerful role in society, and the USHMM program *Oath and Opposition: Education under the Third Reich* examines the question- What role did teachers play during the Holocaust? <https://www.ushmm.org/educators/teaching-about-the-holocaust/oath/overview/education-under-the-third-reich> There are a number of case studies that you could use with a class <https://www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/20160229-Oath-and-Opposition.pdf>

Yad Vashem

Working Definition on Antisemitism <http://www.yadvashem.org/holocaust/holocaust-antisemitism/terms-working-definition-on-antisemitism>

ADL

ADL <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources> and <https://www.adl.org/anti-semitism?gclid=Cl6n6qyzdUCFUWeGwodzOkEcg>

USC Shoah Foundation

USC Shoah Foundation Antisemitism and the Bystander Effect (Secondary Lesson Plan)
<http://iwitness.usc.edu/SFI/Activity/Detail.aspx?activityID=2613&retainFilter=true>

USC Shoah Foundation 100 Days of Respect <http://iwitness.usc.edu/SFI/Sites/100days/>

Related News Stories

Pittsburgh synagogue shooting <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/27/us/pittsburgh-synagogue-active-shooter/index.html>

More hate crimes are reported against Jews than any other religious group, FBI statistics show
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/27/us/jewish-hate-crimes-fbi/index.html>

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