# Confronting Antisemitism April 19, 2023

Presentations by:

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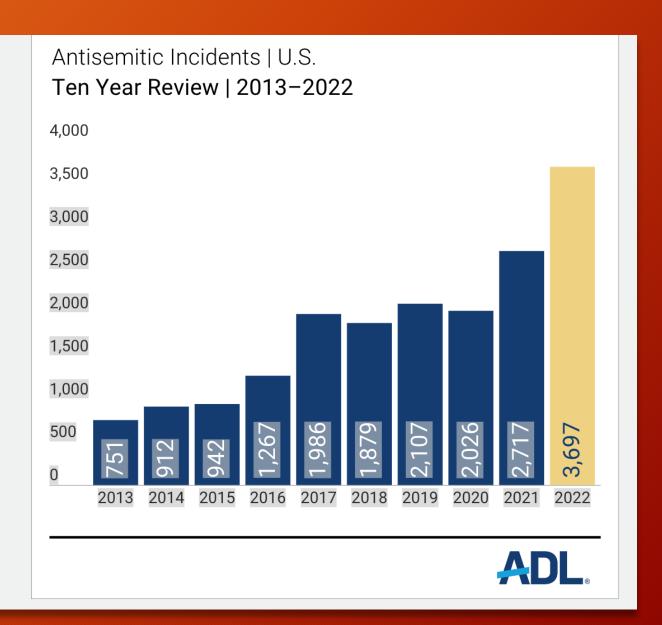
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## Current Data: Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022

#### Anti Defamation League

#### Major Audit Categories:

- Antisemitic vandalism increased 51%
- Antisemitic assaults increased 26%
- majority w/o deadly weapon; one fatality
- ➤ 53% targeted Orthodox Jews
- Source: Center on Extremism, Antisemitism in the United States: Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022. Published 3/23/3023 by the Anti Defamation League.



## Additional Analysis of Data

- 36% increase in incidents involving known white supremacist networks engaged in coordinated efforts to spread antisemitic propaganda
- 49% increase in incidents in K-12 schools
- 41% increase in incidents on college campuses
- 91 incidents reported of bomb threats towards Jewish institutions: highest number since 2017

Source: Center on Extremism, *Antisemitism in the United States*: <u>Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022</u>. Published 3/23/3023 by the Anti Defamation League.

# Highest number of antisemitic incidents reported by state in 2022

• These five states account for 54% of the total incidents in 2022:

• New York: 580

California: 518

New Jersey: 408

• Florida: 269

Texas: 211

• Source: Center on Extremism, *Antisemitism in the United States*: <u>Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022</u>. Published 3/23/3023 by the Anti Defamation League.

## Why have there been increases in antisemitic violence in the United States?

According to ADL's 2023 report, Antisemitic Attitudes in America:

- 20% of Americans believe 6 or more antisemitic tropes
- A trope is a figurative use of a word or expression. Expressions such as "Wealthy Jews control the government" is an example. This is not a statement of fact; it is an anti-Semitic trope.
- The ADL concludes that antisemites have become "emboldened to act on their hatred in the current environment." According to the FBI's 2021 hate crime data, Jews remain the single most targeted religious minority in America.
- Note the 36% increase in incidents involving known white supremacist networks engaged in coordinated efforts to spread antisemitic propaganda. (Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022)

Source: Center on Extremism, *Antisemitism in the United States*: <u>Antisemitic</u> <u>Attitudes in America</u>. Published 1/12/3023 by the Anti Defamation League.

## White Supremacist Groups Active in NYS

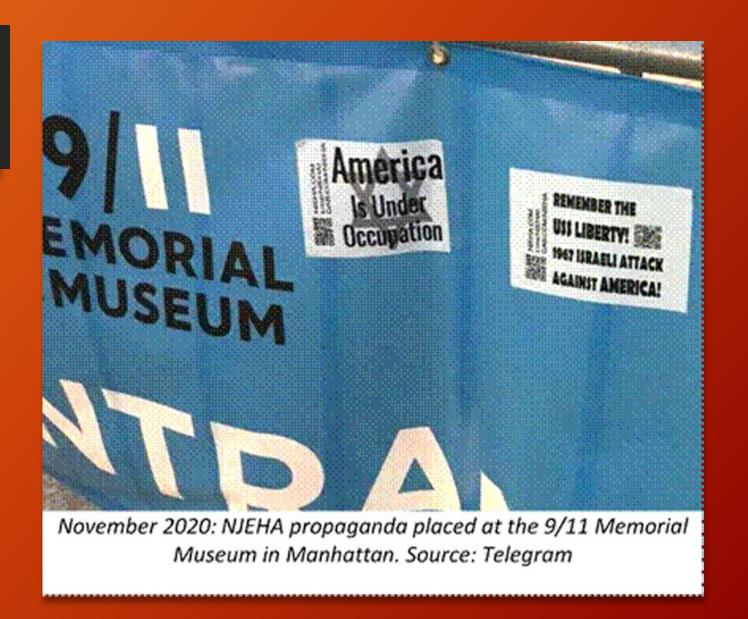
- White supremacist organizations operating in NYS who profess antisemitism:
- Patriot Front
- New Jersey European Heritage Association
- White Lives Matter
- Oath Keepers
- New York Watchmen
- QAnon

Source: Anti-Defamation League. *Hate in the Empire State: Extremism and Antisemitism in New York*, 2020-2021. Published 5.31.2022.

#### New Jersey European Heritage Association

- July 2021 Gina Aversano, a Staten Island-based member of NJEHA, was arrested for distributing propaganda, including placing swastika stickers that read "We Are Everywhere." She allegedly was responsible for creating much of the group's propaganda materials.
- January 2021 A confederate flag was tied to the front doors of Manhattan's Museum of Jewish Heritage. The three perpetrators—two of whom have been identified distributing NJEHA propaganda in other instances—were two New York-based fascists and a neo-Nazi from Minnesota. In sharing this incident on social media, they captioned their post: "The time to fight against the ZOG is now!" ZOG is a white supremacist acronym for "Zionist Occupied Government," which reflects the common white supremacist belief that the U.S. government is controlled by Jews.
- June 2020 Approximately five individuals associated with NJEHA held a flash demonstration on an overpass in Lake Ronkonkoma. The group held banners that read, "Open borders spread disease" and "white lives matter."

Source: Anti-Defamation League. <u>Hate in the Empire State: Extremism and Antisemitism in New York, 2020-2021</u>. Published 5.31.2022.

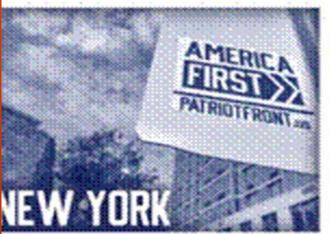


#### Patriot Front

 Patriot Front is active online through social media channels including Telegram, Gab, Twitter, TikTok and private messaging servers like RocketChat. Offline, they are a national leader in white supremacist propaganda. Their aggressive propaganda campaigns include stickering, placing flyers, graffitiing, and dropping inflammatory banners on overpasses and covering up billboards. In addition to promoting their group in cities across the country, Patriot Front specifically targets college campuses with their content. While in 2020 they focused mainly on propaganda efforts, 2021 saw an increase in their staging flash demonstrations across the country. Patriot Front is active online through social



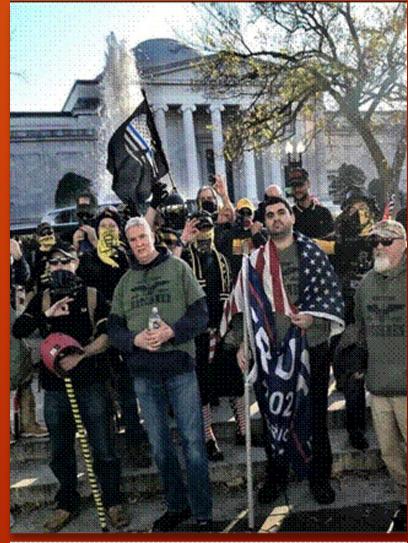






October 2020: Patriot Front stickers found in Ne Rochelle, NY. Source: Telegram

## New York Watchmen - based in WNY



ember 2020: New York Watchmen pose with Proud B Source: Instagram

#### New York Watchmen - WNY group

NY Watchmen have ties to local political figures as well as extremist organizations, including the Proud Boys and one member who formerly belonged to the white supremacist group, <u>Aryan Renaissance Society</u>. Members of the group were also present at the <u>January 6 Capitol insurrection</u>, with one former member arrested for his activity.

Source: Anti-Defamation League. <u>Hate in the Empire State: Extremism and Antisemitism in New York, 2020-2021</u>. Published 5.31.2022.



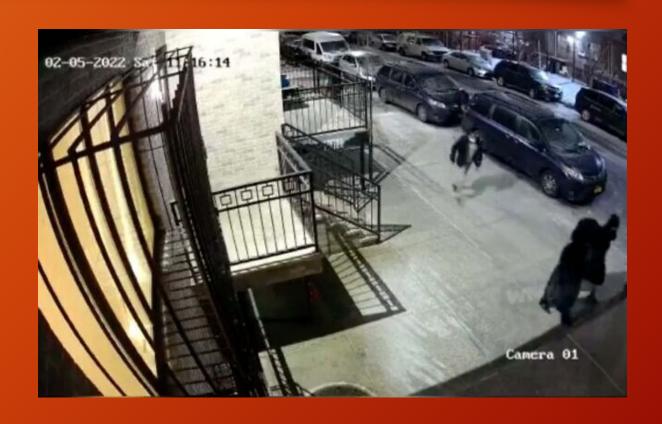
## Syracuse, NY - 2021-22

Numerous incidents of antisemitic violence were reported and investigated on and around Syracuse University campus in 2019-2022



## NYC -- February 4, 2022

Caption: An assailant ambushes a Jewish couple from behind in NYC in security footage captured on February 4, 2022. (Screenshot)



## New York State: Buffalo, NY May 15, 2022



The shooter, Payton Gendron, 18, killed 10 people of color and wounded three others in a Tops Supermarket parking lot in Buffalo. He posted a manifesto online before the attack which expressed his intense hatred at Jews and support for Nazism. Gendron's manifesto described his support for the antisemitic and racist Great Replacement conspiracy theory, which says Jews are plotting to replace white Americans with non-whites.

Fliers targeting Jewish and transgender officials distributed around Rockville Centre and Oceanside communities. (7.22.2022)



#### CBS News Report -- March 24, 2023

NYPD stats show Jews faced the most hate crimes compared to other populations, by about 70%.

Police are currently searching for a man they say has been responsible for at least six separate incidents involving antisemitic vandalism in Forest Hills and Rego Park, Queens. Some of the locations include the 112th Precinct, Junior High School 157, a residential building and a synagogue.

#### Responses to Antisemitic Incidents in NYS

- 1. Law and order responses: investigations by specialized task forces throughout the state, calls for stronger penalties, more police
- 2. Currently in committee: Senate Bill S126: Establishes an educational program related to the prevention of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia bias and discrimination based on religion race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Sponsored by Democratic representatives
- 3. March 2023: NYS Senate Republican Leader Rob Ortt announcement creation of Anti-Semitism Working Group that will hold roundtables throughout NYS

### Religious Observance Policy Section 224-a of NYS Education Law

In compliance with Section 224-a of the Education Law, students unable, because of religious beliefs, to engage in learning activities – classes, examinations, study, or work requirements – on a particular day or days will not be penalized and will be provided with means to make up for any study opportunities that may have been missed because of absence for religious reasons. Since most study arrangements at Empire State College are individually made between student and faculty, students may schedule meetings and other academic activities so they do not conflict with their religious observances. In cases where group meetings are arranged (e.g., classes, seminars, special examinations such as College

Level Examination Program or New York College Proficiency Examination Program), students who wish to avail themselves of these opportunities, but are unable to participate at certain times because of religious beliefs, should consult with their mentors to make alternate arrangements. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student because of his or her religious beliefs.

Source: Policies and Procedures, SUNY Empire Academic Catalog 2022-23 Edition.

### Microaggressions and Anti-semitism

"Microaggressions are brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership (e.g., race, gender, culture, religion, social class, sexual orientation, etc.). These daily, common manifestations of aggression leave many people feeling vulnerable, targeted, angry, and afraid. " from the description for:

Torino, G. et al (2018) *Microaggression Theory: Influence and Implications*. Wiley Publishers: New York.

### Examples of Antisemitic Microaggressions

- 1. Displaying a swastika also considered a micro assault (Sue et al. 2006)
- 2. "You need to get yourself a Jewish lawyer."
- 3. Questioning a person of color who identifies as Jewish: "You don't look Jewish."
- 4. Talking about Jews as "pushy," "greedy," "money hungry"
- 5. Instead of referring to negotiating a price, saying "Jew him down."
- 6. Jews have space lasers.
- 7. Jews are secretly plotting to take over the world.
- 8. Ignoring or minimizing importance of religious practices and holy days.

#### What You Can Do

1. Educate yourself and learn how to identify and address antisemitism and microaggressions.

Start with the Resources listed on these websites:

**Anti-Defamation League** 

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

2. Speak up. For ideas on how to confront antisemitism as well as racism check out this website:

Facing History and Ourselves Upstander Program

#### What You Can Do Continued

3. Stay up to date on these issues and get involved with organizations organizing against antisemitism and other forms of extremism:

**Anti-Defamation League** 

There are lots of other organizations throughout NYS. Take a look at whose doing what in your community.

Note that there is an Office of the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism in the U.S. State Department which provides up to date information on its policies and activities.

#### READ!!!

Sue, D.W. and Spanierman, L. (2020) *Microaggressions in Everyday Life 2d ed*. Wiley and Sons.

Torino, G., Rivera, D. et al. (2018) *Microaggression Theory: Influence and Implications*. Wiley and Sons.

Useful article on recognizing and responding to microaggressions at work in the Harvard Business Review.

Overview discussion of microaggressions and how to address them in <u>Medical</u> News Today.

## My Personal Favorite Campaign - JewBelong

Does your church need armed guards? 'Cause our synagogue does.

#EndJewHate

jewbelong.com

