



**Jewish Community
Relations Council**
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

2017 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents

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The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation has just completed its 2017 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents. Focused on the greater Milwaukee area, but including incidents from across the State of Wisconsin, the audit tracks the continuation of an increase of overall incidents.

Of particular concern, the JCRC notes a sharp rise in incidents categorized harassment, threats or assault. “We’re seeing a shift in how anti-Semitism is expressed,” said Ann Jacobs, JCRC Chair. “Until the last two years, the vast majority of anti-Semitic incidents involved verbal or written expression. But for the last two years, we’re seeing bold, direct, and personal acts. The difference is stark and worrisome.”

“This year’s findings shine a light on the unmasking of hate in our community,” said Cynthia Herber, chair of the JCRC’s Anti-Semitism and Constitutional Law Task Force. “We see that people feel emboldened and are acting on it. The audit helps us understand where we need to focus our work.”

JCRC sees the continuation of two trends, with steadily increasing numbers of incidents in two particular areas:

- Almost one third of all incidents take place in schools or on college campuses.
- More than 25 percent of all incidents involved the use of social media.

“The proliferation of hate via social media is a phenomenon that affects us all, including the companies that provide social media platforms, legislators who set guidelines, and all of us who use these media,” said JCRC Director Elana Kahn. JCRC will focus its June 21 annual meeting on this issue by hosting journalist Yair Rosenberg, whom the New York Times has called “a digital Nazi hunter.”

The JCRC strongly encourages individuals and institutions to report all incidents. We ensure full confidentiality.

- Email elanak@milwaukeejewish.org
- Call 414-390-5736

Each reported incident is corroborated and reviewed before any action is taken. The audit is reviewed by the JCRC’s Anti-Semitism & Constitutional Law Task Force and the JCRC Board before the final approval process of the JCRC Community Council.

We are particularly pleased that working collaboratively with schools, law enforcement and national agencies, many of this year’s reported incidents were addressed or resolved with positive outcomes.

If you have any questions about the audit, or would like additional resources, please contact Elana Kahn at elanak@milwaukeejewish.org or 414-390-5736.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation envisions a just community that reflects American and Jewish values. The mission is to speak as the representative of the Jewish community on issues of public affairs and public policy by convening and mobilizing the Jewish community through education, advocacy, social justice, and support for Israel.