



Commission on Human Rights

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NYC COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS LAUNCHES TIMELY NEW TRAINING ON UNDERSTANDING JEWISH EXPERIENCES AND ANTISEMITISM

The Jewish Experiences training seeks to promote knowledge and understanding of the City's diverse Jewish communities and the New York City Human Rights Law

NEW YORK – The Commission on Human Rights developed a new training, “Understanding Jewish Experiences and Antisemitism,” to strengthen inclusion and acceptance and intergroup relations across all of New York City, consistent with our founding mandate. The training is grounded in a human rights lens and addresses antisemitism and its harmful impacts on our society, particularly on Jewish New Yorkers. The training also develops cultural competence and understanding of New York’s diverse Jewish communities. It introduces diverse Jewish cultures and religious practices, and outlines ways to effectively understand and respect Jewish identity. The training also distills the protections of the New York City Human Rights Law - one of the most robust civil rights laws in the country - which applies to all New Yorkers.

“Hate has no place here, and this new training will help provide New Yorkers with many of the tools to recognize and stand up to antisemitism,” said **New York City Mayor Eric Adams**. “Over the last few years, we’ve seen an increase in discrimination, intolerance, and hostility, and I applaud the Commission on Human Rights for developing a training that addresses antisemitism and its harmful impact on our society, particularly on Jewish New Yorkers. It is vital that we understand that there is always an opportunity to demonstrate compassion and understanding of the unique cultures and religions that live amongst us, and this training will help us develop a stronger cultural competence and understanding of New York’s diverse Jewish communities.”

“We are thrilled to launch this new training, which builds on our successful 2020 ‘Jewish New Yorkers’ campaign,” said **Annabel Palma, commissioner and chair, NYC Commission on Human Rights**. “In a time of rising antisemitism, we have heard from so many New Yorkers of all stripes who wish to better understand their Jewish neighbors and learn how to stand up for them against antisemitism. This training will increase their cultural competence and awareness of Jewish cultures, and affirms Jewish New Yorkers as an essential part of the fabric of New York City. This launch marks an ongoing invitation for non-Jewish New Yorkers to stand in solidarity against antisemitism and support their Jewish neighbors.

A soft launch of the training was hosted this week by the Wagner College Holocaust Center, which collaborated on developing the training. Wagner College students were invited, as well as community members from local organizations, Communities United for Respect and Trust, and the Staten Island Task Force for Racial Inclusion and Equity. Beginning next week, the training will be offered by the Commission upon request.

One of the versions of the training, “Understanding Jewish Experiences and Antisemitism: With Focus on Cultural Competency with Traditional Orthodox Communities,” provides in-depth training on the experiences and customs of New York’s Hasidic and other traditional Orthodox communities, who have disproportionately borne the brunt of recent antisemitic attacks. The Commission is grateful to the Cornell University Jewish Studies Program, the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council, the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and the Boro Park Jewish Community Council for their review and feedback during the drafting process of that version of the training.

“It is critical for New Yorkers to become more knowledgeable about the diverse populations in their own communities,” said **Professor Lori Weintrob, director of the Wagner College Holocaust Center**. “Too often we fear what we don’t understand. The training by the NYC Commission on Human Rights on ‘Understanding Jewish Experiences and Antisemitism’ promises to help strengthen the City and nation—and make more caring New Yorkers out of us all. We need to openly discuss the reality of prejudice against Jews and others and the impact it has, in order to empower each other as upstanders, rather than bystanders, to stand up against hate in the world today.”

“In today’s fractured world, it is so important that we sensitize our young people to the different cultures and faith communities of the students with whom they may be sharing a classroom,” said **Rabbi Eli Cohen, executive director of the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council**. “I appreciate also how this workshop will help health care and other professionals understand and accommodate the religious and cultural needs of their clients.”

"In light of the rash of antisemitic hate crimes being perpetrated in the City, I am happy to see that the NYC Commission on Human Rights is taking important steps to combat anti-Orthodox Jewish sentiments by responding to the growing hate especially targeting the Orthodox and Hasidic Jewish community," said **Rabbi David Niederman, president of the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and North Brooklyn**. “We are grateful to the Commission for working to enlighten the public on how harmful this hate is to their fellow New Yorkers. I am very hopeful that the Commission's efforts will help foster a greater environment of tolerance and understanding for one another."

“Approximately one in every nine New Yorkers identifies as Jewish, yet over half of reported hate crimes are committed against the Jewish community. Orthodox Jews, which represent a large and growing segment of our diverse community, are increasingly concerned for their physical safety,” said **Gideon Taylor, executive vice president and CEO of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York**. “We welcome this new training developed by the Commission on Human Rights. We hope it becomes a significant tool to generate greater

understanding and inclusion of Jewish people, our traditions, customs, and norms as we progress toward greater cultural competency in our City. We urge all public officials and community leaders to utilize this important curriculum to create a more interconnected community where all people are respected and afforded dignity.”

“Increasing awareness of Jewish culture and the harmful impacts of antisemitism on society and on New Yorkers in particular, is an ongoing effort that is very much a part of the BPJCC and who we all are as New Yorkers and Americans,” said **Avi Greenstein, CEO of the Boro Park Jewish Community Council.**

Please contact the Commission at trainings@cchr.nyc.gov to request the training.

The New York City Commission on Human Rights enforces the New York City Human Rights Law—one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Law includes 27 protected classes in housing, employment, and public accommodations. If you have witnessed or experienced discrimination, contact the Commission at 212-416-0197 or www.nyc.gov/reportdiscrimination.