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#HaltAntisemitism #DontImportConflict

Points to Consider

The following messages can be used and tailored for engagement on social media, for outreach to media and elected officials, and to help you better understand and talk about the situation.

As a community, we are deeply sympathetic to all those impacted by the conflict between Israel and Hamas, on both sides of the border. It is heartbreaking, and we must express that grief. At the same time, we are deeply concerned by a toxic and horrifying increase of antisemitism in Canada. However, we will not be intimidated. We will stand against antisemitism.

We must speak our truth clearly, firmly, and respectfully.

- Israelis and Palestinians deserve to live in peace, security, and with dignity.
- Jewish Canadians are heartbroken to see the death and destruction on both sides.
- We are horrified and deeply concerned by the shocking rise in antisemitic incidents reported across the country in connection with the conflict in Israel and Hamas.
- Like all Canadians, the Jewish community values the rights to free expression and to peaceful assembly and protest. However, when actions cross over to hate speech, threats, and violence, they must be condemned by both civil society and political leaders.
- The Jewish community is strong, resilient, and united. We stand together against antisemitism.
- In Montreal, during a peaceful rally that included neither slogans nor signs, members of the pro-Israel community were pelted with rocks.

- There are multiple reports from Edmonton, Toronto, and Montreal of anti-Israel protestors aggressively harassing residents of Jewish neighbourhoods. These hostile actions include anti-Israel activists driving through predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods shouting at residents, waving flags, and yelling slogans including *Death to Israel*. In several instances, these actions were promoted and celebrated on social media.
- That these incidents in Canada are occurring away from protests and rallies represents a disturbing new threshold crossed.
- These antisemitic action and messages are not happening in a vacuum. There are reports from the U.K. of gangs of Arab youths driving through Jewish neighbourhoods calling over a megaphone for the *murder and rape* of Jewish women and girls.
- We welcome the statements made by, among many others, [Prime Minister Trudeau](#), [the Leader of the Official Opposition O’Toole](#), [Premiers Ford](#) and [Kenney](#), ON [Minister Lecce](#), [Parliamentary Secretary Housefather](#), [Minister Charette](#), and Mayors [Tory](#), [Iveson](#), and [Plante](#).
- We condemn violence, regardless of who perpetrates it.
- We denounce unequivocally any action that provokes or inflames the situation any further.
- To a significant degree, Canada was built by people who fled violence or oppression in other parts of the world. We do not want, nor should any Canadian accept, the importation of overseas conflicts to Canadian soil.
- We encourage our community members to report any harassment to police. If it is possible to photograph safely the individuals or their vehicle license plates, please do so, and include the images in your police report.
- Do not engage the anti-Israel activists harassing you.
- We call on the leadership of all communities to condemn this harassment, demand calm from their community members, and do everything possible to encourage public order.
- We demand that Canadian media cover this aspect of the story unfolding in Canada.

- We express our gratitude to law enforcement for their significant efforts to keep our community safe, and we call upon them to enforce the law in the face of this troubling situation.
- Canadian elected officials from all three levels of government must continue to condemn antisemitism and hate

HAMAS

- **Hamis is a terrorist group that glorifies murder and martyrdom; its agenda is fundamentally at odds with the creation of a pluralistic, democratic, and peaceful Palestinian state.** Since 2002, the Government of Canada has listed Hamas as a banned terrorist entity – meaning it is illegal in Canada to provide material support to Hamas. Hamas has also been designated a terrorist group by other Western governments, including those of the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.
- During this conflict, **Hamas has launched thousands of missiles aimed at Israeli communities**, striking residential buildings and schools. Thousands of Israelis are evacuating to bomb shelters across the country. More than two hundred have been killed and many other civilians injured.
- One deadly missile landed a direct hit on the home of an elderly woman and her caregiver who could not get to a bomb shelter in time.
- **Every day that Hamas fires a missile into Israel is another day in which Israeli and Palestinian children alike are denied an opportunity for peace and prosperity.** Today Hamas is the single greatest obstacle to the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people and the establishment of a peaceful two-state solution that will benefit both sides.
- Israel’s missile defence system – the Iron Dome – can intercept some, but not all, incoming missiles.

Israeli effort

- Israelis want peace. Since 2000, Israel has tabled three comprehensive peace proposals. All have been rejected without counteroffer. Palestinian leaders are failing the Palestinian people.



- Israel's military is focused on degrading Hamas' capabilities and targeting the organization's missile launchers, weapons manufacturing, and other military sites. The IDF has distributed Arabic-language messages to Gazans warning them to get away from Hamas military sites.
- For Israelis and the Jewish community, Palestinian casualties are painful tragedies. For Hamas, Palestinian casualties are cynically leveraged as public relations achievements. Shifting the blame to Israel encourages Hamas to fuel violence further, makes peace harder to reach, and it imposes additional hardships on Gazans – who are the primary victims of Hamas' tactics.
- There is no justification in targeting civilians. Hamas has, yet again, chosen destruction and death over peace and a de-escalation of violence. Hamas terrorism must be confronted and condemned by all peace-loving nations.
- Israelis and Palestinians deserve a future of peace and security. The terrorist group Hamas is abusing its power to make that future impossible.