



CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

of Major American Jewish Organizations

Letter from Conference of Presidents and Jewish Federations of North America on Security Needs



Security for Jewish Americans. Security for Israel.

December 14, 2025

Dear United for Security Partners:

On this day, when we will light the first candle of Chanukah, Jews across North America are waking up to the news of the attack on Jews celebrating Chanukah in a public place in Sydney, Australia. While the details are still emerging, we know so far that eleven of our precious brothers and sisters have been murdered, and many have been wounded. Among the murdered is Rabbi Eli Schlanger z”l, a Chabad Shaliach. May the memories of the dead be remembered for a blessing, may the injured receive a complete and speedy refuah shlema, may the mourners be comforted among all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem, and may the entire Australian Jewish community be comforted in their grief.

Across the United States today and throughout the week there will be events of all kinds – in public and in private settings – celebrating Chanukah. All of our Federation-led community security initiatives are on high alert and working closely with every Jewish institution to make sure that all events planned for today and the coming days are protected by the highest security standards. We thank all the local law enforcement officials and community volunteers who help protect our community and urge the highest level of vigilance today and throughout Chanukah. Please see the newly released Community Guide for Event Security for further guidance. In addition, please see the joint security statement released this morning by JFNA, ADL, SCN, CSI-NY, and CSS.

However, today is yet another reminder that, while we will all continue to do everything in our power to protect the safety of every Jew and every community, the primary

responsibility for the security of every American and Canadian in their homes, in their places of worship and in their communal gatherings, including when we gather in public spaces to celebrate Jewish holidays, belongs to the government. Our government officials at every level must know that these threats are real, and that we hold them responsible and accountable for protecting our community during this holiday of Chanukah and always.

- That is why we formed the United for Security coalition and developed our six point plan for government action:
 - Increase the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to \$1B to fully meet the rising threats;
 - Provide additional support for the rising costs of security personnel at private, faith-based events;
 - Provide support to local law enforcement to enable them to expand coverage of local events;
 - Increase support for federal law enforcement working to combat domestic terror;
 - Address the antisemitic incitement and harassment on social media; and
 - Prosecute hate crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

We urge you to continue to prioritize this agenda in all your government relations work and we will be in touch with additional opportunities to respond collectively in the near future. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the progress of this legislative agenda, please contact Rachel Dembo.

Tonight and throughout the coming eight days, let us light our Chanukah candles and place them proudly in our windows. The essence of the holiday is the fight of the Maccabees, a small but determined minority, to stand up against the oppressors that wanted to force our people to abandon our faith. We are standing up today as the Maccabees did in ancient times and we are not afraid – we will grow and flourish here in North America, in Israel and around the world.

We invite you to reach out to us to discuss these critical issues and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Eric D. Fingerhut
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