

SHABBAT MESSAGE
AUGUST 12, 2022



Hi Everyone,

I hope you've had a great week! As I shared in my last message, three weeks ago, I was in Poland, visiting Ukrainian refugees. I was just sixty miles from the Auschwitz concentration camp, where over a million people, mostly Jews, were murdered. When I returned home, I learned about a Tiverton restaurant's appalling, antisemitic meme about Anne Frank and the Holocaust.

I am grateful that so many people outside of the Jewish community were outraged by the incident, and it has led to truly important education work in Tiverton, led by the state representative from the area and the Sandra Bornstein Holocaust Education Center. But sadly, we can no longer say that these antisemitic incidents are the work of isolated bad actors. They are part of a pattern that we must all work to reverse, Jews and non-Jews alike.

In the last few months, we've seen neo-Nazis demonstrate on the East Side of Providence. We've seen the same group of white supremacists drop racist, antisemitic leaflets in East Providence and Cranston. We've seen others display hateful banners proclaiming white, male power on I-95, and too many communities are seeing antisemitic and racist stickers being placed in public places.

It is why I'm grateful that *The Boston Globe* published a guest commentary I wrote last week on this subject. The Jewish community alone cannot push back and eliminate antisemitism. That can only be done with all faiths, and all Rhode Islanders coming together to declare that this is not who we are. That it goes against our state's founding ideals of religious freedom. I encouraged people to educate themselves and then to educate others about the long history of antisemitism and its negative impact on society. People can and should use social media for good to share this information. I encouraged people to stand up and speak out when they see antisemitism like so many did a few weeks ago.

And I want you to know that we continue to work with local and state law enforcement officials to ensure that when antisemitic acts cross the line into lawbreaking, that action is taken immediately.

We all have a responsibility to eliminate antisemitism and hate in greater Rhode Island, and I'm grateful to everyone who does this work with us.

Until next time, I wish you all a safe, peaceful, and joyous Shabbat.

Shabbat Shalom!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam".

Adam Greenman
President & CEO