

Open Letter from Zohran Mamdani to Jewish New Yorkers

Greetings! I hope that you had a great and meaningful, restful holiday season. This is Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani—I'm the Democratic nominee for Mayor of New York City.

Over the past weeks, I have had the honor of meeting with members of the Orthodox Jewish community. And while I still have much to learn, it has been a wonderful introduction to a vital and cherished part of what makes New York great.

And just as I have started to be introduced to the community, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. You likely heard a lot about me, and some of it might be a distorted image of who I am. So it's important for me to reach out to you directly on key issues and set the record straight:

Public Safety: I'm fully committed to making sure that every single New Yorker—no matter their religion, ethnicity, and their political and geopolitical views—feels safe on our streets, on our subways, in their homes, at their schools, and in their houses of worship.

Despite what you may have heard, I will not defund the NYPD. I will work with the police to create true public safety, allowing them to focus on serious crimes while deploying trained public health workers to respond to the mental health crisis, so that the NYPD has more time and resources to keep our streets safe and protect New Yorkers.

Combatting Antisemitism: I am committed to doing everything in my power to root out the scourge of antisemitism. I know that the Jewish community is a top target for hate crimes, and it's rising at a frightening rate. This is especially true for Orthodox Jews. That's why I have committed to maintaining police protection at synagogues and Jewish institutions, while also increasing funding to combat antisemitism by 800%.

I also believe that tolerance is not the end goal; celebration is. As mayor, I'll fully fund and expand our city's Hidden Voices program, which teaches students about some of the countless New Yorkers who have shaped our city's history and identity.

Housing Affordability: Over the past decades, housing costs have skyrocketed. I know how most new and growing families struggle with unbearable rent prices and many are squeezing into overcrowded apartments without space for their family members to thrive. We must build significantly more affordable housing that puts families – not investors – first. I will put our public dollars to work and triple the City's production of permanently affordable homes – constructing 200,000 new units over the next 10 years. Any 100% affordable development gets fast-tracked: no more pointless delays.

We must also finally tackle the unfair property tax system, where hardworking families in modest homes often pay much higher assessments than people in luxury condos.

Child Care: After rent, the biggest cost for New York's working families is childcare. It's literally driving them out of the city: New Yorkers with children under six are leaving at double the rate of all others. And I've heard from community members and leaders how families—especially large ones—struggle with the rising cost of child care. I will deliver universal childcare that will bring relief to every family and ensure that options are accessible to all communities.

It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve as your next mayor, and I hope that you will consider casting your ballot for me this November. Together, we can build a city for all of us.

Thank you,
Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani