

# Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Survey of American Jews Since Recent Violence in Israel

In the past month, the American Jewish community has been under increased threat of violence and harassment. Early data from ADL suggests anti-Semitic incidents have increased significantly, both online and offline, after the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians returned to the national spotlight.

We wanted to follow up on the survey we conducted earlier this year of Jewish Americans to learn about their experiences with anti-Semitism, online and off, to help determine whether those experiences changed following the recent violence in Israel that began on May 10, 2021. From May 25 to June 1, 2021, we polled a nationally representative sample of American Jewish adults on our behalf, asking questions about their recent experiences with antisemitism. Their responses indicate that American Jews have witnessed more anti-Semitic incidents, are concerned for their safety, and feel there is more that leaders should be doing to address this.

### Increased Concern about Anti-Semitism and Safety

We asked American Jews whether their concerns have changed because of the recent violence. The vast majority (77 percent) of those polled specified that they were much more or somewhat more concerned about anti-Semitism in America because of the recent violence. Similarly, 75 percent were more worried about anti-Semitism in other countries because of the recent violence. Of particular concern, 41 percent of American Jews surveyed indicated they are more concerned about their personal safety because of the violence.

### Majority of Jews have Witnessed Recent Anti-Semitism

We also asked American Jews about their experience with anti-Semitic behavior and comments as a result of the recent violence. We found that 60 percent of Jews in America have witnessed behavior or comments they deem anti-Semitic either online or in-person as a result of the recent violence. This share is particularly striking given that the time period in question was only three weeks from the start of the violence through the end of the survey period. As a point of comparison, our survey of Jewish American's experience with anti-Semitism from January this year found roughly the same share (63 percent) had experienced or witnessed anti-Semitic behavior or comments at some point in the prior five years. Consistent with that, we found that over half of Jews (53 percent) have witnessed more behavior or conduct deemed anti-Semitic in the three-week period at issue than before the recent violence. Additionally, 18 percent have seen one or more of their

personal relationships suffer because of conversations about the recent violence.

### A Majority of Jews View Certain Types of Anti-Israel Critiques as Anti-Semitic

The Israel-Palestinian conflict gave rise to often-intense emotions among supporters on all sides, sometimes leading to harsh language. We asked American Jews to share their opinions on whether they consider certain types of statements or behaviors that have occasionally appeared at protests or online to be anti-Semitic. Two-thirds or more of American Jews considered the following to be definitely or probably anti-Semitic: saying that Israel should not exist as a Jewish state (75 percent); comparing Israel's actions to those of the Nazis (70 percent); or protesting Israeli actions outside an American synagogue (67 percent). Calling Zionism racist (61 percent); calling for companies and organizations to boycott, divest from or sanction Israel (56 percent); or calling Israel an apartheid state (55 percent) are also considered by the majority of Jews to be definitely or probably anti-Semitic.

### American Jews Want Politicians and Groups to Do More to Address Anti-Semitism

We also asked American Jews to what extent they think various groups have helped address recent anti-Semitism in America. The overall scores were fairly low. President Biden and his administration received the best marks, with 42% of Jews saying that actions from the Administration have greatly or somewhat helped.

The majority of Jews want all groups measured to do more to address recent anti-Semitism, with at least three-quarters wanting President Biden and his Administration (76 percent), Democrats in Congress and states (78 percent), Republicans in Congress and states (79 percent), civil rights groups (77 percent), and non-Jewish faith leaders (76 percent) to do a lot more.

### Methodology

The survey was conducted by YouGov, a leading public opinion and data analytics firm, on behalf of ADL. The survey of Jewish American adults over the age of 18 (who were aware of the current conflict between Israel and Palestinians) was conducted online from May 25 through June 1, 2021. We asked about their experiences and perceptions since the recent violence in May between Israel and Palestinians. A total of 576 responses were collected from Jewish Americans, 18 and older, and weighted to reflect the demographic makeup of Jewish people across the United States, according to Pew Research Center. Participants are rewarded for general participation in YouGov surveys but were not directly

