

AJC NY

Annual Report

2019-2020



AJC New York

DEAR FRIEND OF AJC NY,

Jewish Americans in 2020 never thought a day would come when we would fear for our own security and that of our Jewish neighbors. We couldn't imagine that synagogues would not be houses of worship, but monuments of attacks. Combating antisemitism has been and continues to be a top AJC priority. From advocating for advancing hate crimes legislation, to bridge-building with other communities, and educating diplomats and elected officials, AJC NY has been on the front lines working 24/7 to combat antisemitism.

Toward that end, in 2019 AJC NY established a prominent group of interfaith and intergroup partners called the Community of Conscience. These partners have been outspoken against the uptick in antisemitic incidents and work together to combat all forms of hate. AJC NY also advocated for Israel at home and abroad, and countered radicalism and extremism, while promoting pluralism, with diplomats from across the globe and elected officials on the local, state and federal levels.

As we all work together during this fragile time to remain healthy and safe from the pandemic, AJC NY has continued its 24/7 advocacy in all five boroughs and throughout the state. While we pray that the coming year will bring health to all and no more hate and divisiveness, we stand ready with our partners to meet any challenges that arise.

Warm regards,
AJC New York



"For years, AJC NY has been a leader in advancing the Jewish community and protecting our collective values. They have been an invaluable partner in our efforts to combat antisemitism and all forms of hate against any of our communities. Today and every day, I stand with AJC NY through our joint Black Jewish Clergy Roundtable, and with the Jewish community of New York and beyond."

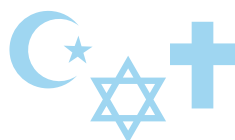
New York State Attorney General Letitia James

AJC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. AJC neither supports nor opposes candidates for elective office.

WHAT DID AJC NY ACHIEVE IN THE 2019-2020 YEAR?

25,000+

People participated in the No Hate, No Fear
March and Rally Across the Brooklyn Bridge



200+

Interfaith and intergroup
leaders engaged throughout
the five boroughs

20

20 Community of
Conscience Partners
spoke out on antisemitism
and all forms of bigotry



110

Diplomats and Interfaith
partners supported
our Diplomatic and
Interfaith Seder



75

Diplomatic Meetings to advocate for the well-being of
the Jewish people and Israel, and to advance human
rights and democratic values for all



41

Meetings with elected officials, including:

Governor Andrew Cuomo
Mayor Bill de Blasio
Attorney General Letitia James
Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Congressman Gregory Meeks
Congresswoman Grace Meng
Congressman Max Rose
Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez
NYS Senator John C. Liu
NYS Senator Julia Salazar
NYS Assembly Member Marcus Crespo
NYS Assembly Member Carmen De La Rosa
NYS Assembly Member Simcha Eichenstein
NYS Assembly Member Nily Rozik
NYC Council Member Fernando Cabrera
NYC Council Member Chaim Deutsch
NYC Council Member Helen Rosenthal
NYC Council Member Eric Ulrich

IT'S UP TO US.



Community of Conscience

At Global Forum 2019 in Washington DC, Dr. Bernice King, Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter, and faith and community leaders from around the country representing millions of Americans stood together to establish AJC's Community of Conscience.

AJC NY launched our local Community of Conscience in November 2019 with the support of leaders from many of New York's diverse religious and ethnic communities. Since then, the group wrote a letter of support to the Satmar community after the attack at the Jersey City supermarket, walked over the Brooklyn Bridge together in solidarity with the Jewish community after a rash of antisemitic hate crimes, held a forum where each community spoke about discrimination and bias directed towards their group, and advocated for hate crimes legislation. As COVID-19 has brought an increase in anti-Asian rhetoric, our Community of Conscience has spoken out. The Community continues to grow as does our signature bridge-building advocacy.



"The Korean American Association of Greater New York (KAAGNY) is proud to support and uphold the values of AJC NY's Community of Conscience. We applaud AJC for leading our communities, city and country into cultivating more pluralism, diversity and peace for more than a century. We look forward to working with AJC to continue fighting for justice in our world."

Charles Yoon, President, KAAGNY



Antisemitism at Our Front Door

One of AJC's core priorities is combating antisemitism at home and abroad. On the one-year anniversary of the Pittsburgh attack, October 25-26, we joined with our partners of all faiths to #ShowUpForShabbat in synagogues in all five boroughs. On October 27, we held *A Day of Action to Combat Antisemitism*. Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, and Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke to hundreds of advocates at Central Synagogue, while hundreds more watched on live stream. Governor Cuomo issued a proclamation declaring October 27 *A Day of Action to Combat Antisemitism* in NYS and lit state buildings and bridges blue and white in solidarity with the Jewish community.

In April, AJC NY advocated for the passage of the *No Hate in Our State* legislation, which successfully resulted in the passage of the *Josef Neumann Domestic Terrorism Act*, renamed after the victim of the December 2019 antisemitic attack in Monsey, NY. This act, a first-in-the-nation piece of legislation, defines hate-fueled murder as an act of domestic terrorism. In addition to virtual meetings with officials, we advocated with all 63 NY State Senators and 150 State Assembly Members (91 of whom are in NYC) asking them to support this important legislation.



"I spoke at AJC NY's Diplomatic Tour in Crown Heights on Black-Jewish Relations and have worked with AJC NY's ACCESS program and on the One Crown Heights Festival. As someone who has been a community leader in Crown Heights for decades, I can say that AJC NY has been a serious interlocutor that gets to the root cause of hate and seeks out pragmatic solutions."

Geoffrey Davis, Founder, James E. Davis Stop Violence Foundation



Promoting Israel and Countering Extremism

Promoting Israel's place in the world is a top AJC priority. AJC NY does so at the United Nations, on college campuses, with Consuls General and elected officials. This year, AJC NY led the first of its kind Project Interchange alumni mission to Israel. Alumni, including elected officials, a university president, Muslim, Christian and Latino leaders joined together for a deeper dive into the complexities and wonder of Israel. As a result, these PI leaders are already speaking out in support of Israel.

AJC NY also advocated for policies that protect America, Israel, and our allies. For decades we have spoken of the threat of Hezbollah's worldwide terror network. We continue to advocate that the European Union classify Hezbollah in its entirety a terror organization with 11 European countries and the EU Mission to the UN. We thanked the Argentine mission to the UN and Argentine Consulate, whom we work closely with, on the 25th anniversary of the deadly Buenos Aires JCC (AMIA) bombing for classifying Hezbollah as a terror organization. We will not rest until the entire European Union does the same.



"AJC NY has been an invaluable partner in the Argentine UN Mission's work for many years. This year, together with AJC NY, we marked the 25th anniversary of the AMIA bombing, and the recognition by the AJC of our government's decision to declare Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. AJC has been on the forefront of countering extremism for many years and I look forward to further collaborations."

Argentine UN Ambassador Martín García Moritán



ACCESS

For over 15 years, ACCESS NY, AJC's young professionals division for those aged 22-40, has been at the forefront of leading a new generation of AJC advocacy. Through pioneering diplomatic, legislative, and interfaith/intergroup work, ACCESS NY has cultivated new relationships and initiatives for AJC. Through ACCESS NY, ACCESS leaders gain invaluable leadership experience and advocacy experience that will further enable them to become the next leaders of AJC NY.

This year, ACCESS NY launched its inaugural ACCESS Leadership Fellowship (ALEF), an eight-part series designed to give an elite group of young professionals an exclusive deep-dive into the work of AJC and ACCESS. ALEF graduates have become highly engaged in ACCESS NY, with many traveling with AJC on advocacy missions.

With rising antisemitism in NY and across the world, ACCESS NY has been a driver in pushing back against antisemitism. ACCESS NY worked with its partners at the New York Urban League Young Professionals to speak about the rising antisemitism in Crown Heights and to promote mutual respect between the Black and Jewish communities. ACCESS NY also launched its "Prep Your Rep" campaign to educate and advocate with local elected officials about rising antisemitism. ACCESS NY has been advocating with its diplomatic partners about combating antisemitism and in adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism.



"Working with ACCESS NY has been very meaningful. From their nuanced, diplomatic approach, to their deep passion in supporting Israel's legitimacy and combating antisemitism, Estonia stands shoulder to shoulder with AJC. I am proud to call ACCESS NY a partner of the Estonian Consulate."

Estonian Consul General Kairi Künka

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