



Dear Friend,

“Is It Time for the Jews to Leave Europe?”

This troubling headline from *The Atlantic*, April 2015 edition, left many around the world asking, could it possibly be true?

And in the time since that article was published, the situation has only gotten worse ... the vandalism has grown more frequent ... the harassment is more threatening ... and the violence is deadlier than ever.

After reviewing the enclosed *Guide to Antisemitism in Europe: Revealing the Hate*, you'll understand why Jews in Europe are living in fear ... and why it's so important that you make a gift today.

Make no mistake ... the safety and security of European Jewry is precarious. There are many critical actions that European Union (EU) member nations can and must take to protect their Jewish communities.

One such step that can be taken right now is the adoption of **the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA's) definition of antisemitism**, which reads, in part:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To date, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Greece, the United Kingdom and Portugal are the only European countries within the EU to formally adopt the IHRA definition. **What about those that have not? What are they waiting for?**

A shared, internationally accepted definition of antisemitism strengthens the ability of nations and world bodies to identify, measure and combat this baseless, age-old hatred.

All EU member states must show the world that they are fully committed to joining the fight against antisemitism. Adopting this definition is an important and necessary first step.

History teaches us that complacency leads to disaster. We must never be silent. We must never be indifferent. We must act with unity and determination. And we must act now!

I urge you to join our efforts to protect and defend the Jewish people by taking the following two steps today:

FIRST: Sign the enclosed, registered International Petition to European Council President Charles Michel asking him to do everything in his power to encourage all EU member states to immediately adopt the IHRA and EU's recommended definition of antisemitism.

SECOND: Please send an urgent contribution to the World Jewish Congress, American Section, today. Your donation of \$18, \$36, \$72, \$100 or more will help support the WJC's campaign to protect and defend Jews — and will greatly enhance the WJC's vital efforts throughout the year on behalf of the Jewish people worldwide.

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And because your support is so critically needed, WJC President Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder will personally match any gift you make today — up to \$250,000. Your contribution to the World Jewish Congress, American Section, will go twice as far to enable the important work of the WJC to speak out for Jews everywhere.

Your gift of \$18 will immediately grow to \$36 to safeguard vulnerable Jewish communities against any threat, a gift of \$36 will become \$72 and do even more to confront and combat antisemitic hatred wherever it manifests itself, and a gift of \$72 will automatically double to \$144 to help us stand in solidarity with Israel on the global stage, and so much more.

As I write this message, too many countries across Europe are facing a dangerous resurgence of antisemitic hatred and violence. In fact, the results of one recent study have indicated that 1-in-4 Europeans hold antisemitic beliefs. Once isolated within a handful of European countries, antisemitism has now spread to regions where such incidents of hate, like those below, would have been unimaginable just a few short years ago.

- In Halle, Germany, where a heavily armed gunman killed two innocent bystanders after unsuccessfully attempting to break into a synagogue
- In Denmark, where yellow stars were placed on headstones in a Jewish cemetery on the anniversary of Kristallnacht
- In Sweden, where antisemitic attacks have reached an all-time high
- In Italy, where Holocaust survivor and national leader Lilita Segre was placed under police protection after facing death threats for calling on her government to confront antisemitic hate
- On social media, where an antisemitic post is uploaded every 83 seconds

These are just a very few examples of what is happening on a regular basis around the world. Is it any wonder why so many Jews are living in fear? No Jew should ever be afraid to live or worship openly as a Jew. The time has come for Europe's leaders to match words with action NOW.

Individually, these stories don't come close to painting the full picture. They merely provide evidence of the real suffering and tragedy that have resulted from this resurgence of antisemitism. That's why I've sent your *Guide to Antisemitism in Europe: Revealing the Hate*.

As you'll see, after decades of hibernation, antisemitic extremism has reemerged with a vengeance, threatening the Jewish people with a boldness not seen in a generation. But we will not stand idly by while Jews in far too many corners of the world are in urgent need of help.

The World Jewish Congress is sounding the alarm and using all our diplomatic might during these perilous times when the threat of antisemitic violence has spread across the world. You can give us the strength to ensure that our Jewish communities are safe and secure — that means Jewish lives, Jewish property and sacred Jewish culture and traditions.

As the newest member of the WJC, you'll join a proud cadre of loyal supporters who stand with us to defend Jewish rights and freedoms, no matter the obstacles we face.

Since our founding in 1936, the WJC has been at the forefront of fighting for the rights of Jews around the world. It doesn't matter the need or the size of the community — we will **always** rise to the challenge when it comes to protecting and defending global Jewry.

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It doesn't matter if Jews are threatened close to home or half a world away, one Jew in peril or an entire community. The World Jewish Congress must always stand prepared to expose the threats and take action. **Because if we won't, who will?**

You've seen the work of the World Jewish Congress — we're the organization that stands tall with Israel on the world stage... confronts far-right extremist groups ... demands that governments take every action to protect their Jewish citizens and punish perpetrators of hatred and violence... calls on social media giants to block and ban antisemitic posts... works to promote Holocaust education and remembrance and ensure the dignity of Holocaust survivors ... nurtures and cultivates new generations of passionate Jewish leadership... and protects the religious freedoms of Jewish communities large and small.

With key partners and allies on the ground in over 100 countries on six continents, the WJC is working tirelessly to secure a safer and brighter future for the Jewish people everywhere.

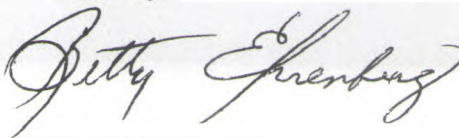
But today's situation is more urgent than ever. Incidents of antisemitic violence and hatred have become a part of everyday life in almost every corner of the world and Jewish communities are turning to the WJC for help.

So please grab a pen and help us write the Jewish future by signing your petition and joining our campaign to protect and defend Europe's Jews. And don't forget that WJC President Ambassador Ronald S. Lauder will personally match your gift — **dollar-for-dollar** — in recognition and grateful appreciation of your new commitment as a member of the World Jewish Congress, American Section.

When you become a member of the World Jewish Congress, American Section, you are there when global Jewry needs you most.

I can assure you that your support will make a real and lasting difference for the Jewish people in years to come.

Sincerely,



Betty Ehrenberg
Executive Director
World Jewish Congress North America

P.S. For too long, Europe's leaders have not paid serious attention to the world's oldest and most pernicious form of racism ... antisemitism. Today, we're seeing the dire consequences of that neglect. This must change. All countries within the European Union need to (1) adopt a common definition of antisemitism and (2) take a firm and unequivocal stand to protect and defend their Jewish citizens.

P.P.S. Please sign your registered International Petition today ... and return it with your most generous, tax-deductible gift of \$18, \$36, \$72, \$100 or more to the World Jewish Congress, American Section, in support of the WJC's vital global work.