

# ACROSS THE WORLD: CALLING EVIL BY ITS NAME

The October 7 attacks exposed the darkness of a morally indefensible genocidal Islamist group. They then exposed the darkness of the antisemites who defended that group, celebrated its actions or denied their occurrence in the worst tradition of Jew-haters. Yet, the attack by Hamas also inspired strong demonstrations of friendship with the State of Israel. It spurred unequivocal commitments to the right of the Jewish people to have their nation state. It resulted in fearless condemnations of the crimes and decisive action against the antisemitic wave that swept the world in their aftermath.

All of those who joined the righteous cause deserve praise. The following is a partial list.

On October 10, US President Joe Biden gave a passionate speech that left many eyes teary across the Jewish world. He unsparingly described the horrors as acts of pure evil, recognized their being a link in a historical chain of crimes committed against the Jewish people and made clear: “We stand with Israel.” Biden also walked the walk by sending American aircraft carriers and troops to the Middle East, supplying Israel with crucial arms, and warning its Iran-backed enemies about the price they would pay for entering the war. The American President showed himself to be a true friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, who will forever remain indebted.

On October 9, Biden joined the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom in issuing an exceptional joint statement expressing their “unequivocal condemnation of Hamas and its appalling acts of terrorism.” The leaders who joined him also issued separate and strong statements of condemnation.<sup>1</sup> Among the first international leaders to speak out against the attack were Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Indian officials, including those from Modi’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky declared Israel’s right to defend itself “indisputable” and called on the world to unite against terrorism.<sup>2</sup> The Swiss government, usually an epitome of neutrality and caution, declared Hamas a terror organization. The leaders of Bulgaria, Romania, Canada, Australia, Argentina, and the European Commission, among others, also voiced their unequivocal condemnation of

<sup>1</sup> “Joint Statement on Israel,” The White House, October 9, 2023, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/09/joint-statement-on-israel/>.

<sup>2</sup> Hannah Ellis-Peters, “India Takes Strong Pro-Israel Stance Under Modi in a Departure from the Past,” *The Guardian*, October 31, 2023, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/31/india-pro-israel-narendra-modi-bjp-government>, and Agencies and TOI Staff, “Zelensky: Israel has ‘Indisputable’ Right to Defend Itself from Terror,” *Times of Israel*, October 7, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/zelensky-israel-has-indisputable-right-to-defend-itself-from-terror/>.

Hamas.<sup>3</sup> The Czech Republic was at the forefront of expressing solidarity with Israel, with various government ministers and leaders continually supporting Israel’s right to defend itself and urging the EU to take a clearer stance in support of Israel and against Hamas.<sup>4</sup> In a unanimous vote, the 284 members of the Romanian Parliament issued a declaration condemning Hamas and expressing total solidarity with Israel.<sup>5</sup>

Governments around the world also made symbolic displays of solidarity with Israel. Israeli flags were raised and projected in capitals across Europe and the Americas. Dignitaries from Europe and North America visited Israel to express their support and solidarity. Along with American President Biden, these included UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak; German Chancellor Olaf Scholz; French President Emmanuel Macron; Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni; Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer; Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala; Bulgarian Prime Minister Nikolay Denkov; Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu; European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen; Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte; as well as leaders and foreign ministers from Greece, Cyprus, and other countries.<sup>6</sup>

In Vienna, the Israeli flag flew over the Federal Chancellery and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Austrian Parliament was illuminated in Israel’s national colors.<sup>7</sup> In Berlin, the Israeli flag was projected on the Brandenburg Gate; in Brussels, onto the European Commission Building; in London, above number ten Downing Street; in Brasilia, on Brazil’s National Congress

<sup>3</sup> Cleary Waldo, Gabriel Epstein, Sydney Hilbush, and Aaron Y. Zelin, “Policy Watch 3793 – International Reactions to the Hamas Attack on Israel,” *Washington Institute for Near East Policy*, October 11, 2023, <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/international-reactions-hamas-attack-israel>; Klaus Iohannis (@KlausIohannis), “Romania Strongly Condemns this Morning Rocket Attacks...,” X, October, 7, 2023, [https://twitter.com/klausiohannis/status/1710570418753474952?s=61&t=E1kmdRRFPt\\_LZn2NqH9X7A](https://twitter.com/klausiohannis/status/1710570418753474952?s=61&t=E1kmdRRFPt_LZn2NqH9X7A); and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria [Bulgarian], Facebook, October 7, 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=622474406766795&set=a.259159609764945>.

<sup>4</sup> Itamar Eichner, “Czech Republic Stands by Israel During War with Hamas,” *Ynetnews*, October 11, 2023, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rj18qaqmt>, and “Czech PM Says His Country Will Back Israel’s Right to Self-Defense,” *Radio Prague International*, October 26, 2023, <https://english.radio.cz/czech-pm-says-his-country-will-back-israels-right-self-defence-8798270>.

<sup>5</sup> Sebastian Rotaru, “Parliament Adopts a Declaration of Solidarity with Israel [Romanian],” *Euractiv.ro*, October 11, 2023, <https://www.euractiv.ro/politic-intern/parlamentul-a-adoptat-o-declaratie-de-solidaritate-cu-israel-63923>.

<sup>6</sup> Jonathan Lis, “Visiting Israel, Leaders of Czech Republic, Austria Pledge Solidarity against Hamas,” *Haaretz*, October 25, 2023, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-10-25/ty-article/.premium/visiting-israel-leaders-of-czech-republic-austria-pledge-solidarity-against-hamas/0000018b-6763-d979-a3bb-ef77992a0000?lts=1700250298963>, and “The Dignitaries Who have Visited Israel so Far,” *The Wall Street Journal*, October 24, 2023, <https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/israel-hamas-war-news-gaza-palestinians/card/dignitaries-visits-to-israel-JbqAlbSX8QTXQppPewIV>.

<sup>7</sup> “Israel’s Flag Hoisted on the Federal Chancellery and Foreign Ministry [German],” *Die Presse*, October 7, 2023, <https://www.diepresse.com/17723937/israels-flagge-auf-bundeskanzleramt-und-aussenministerium-gehisst>.

building; in New York City, the Empire State Building was illuminated in blue and white; in Sofia, Bulgaria, the National Assembly Building was illuminated in blue and white.<sup>8</sup>

Determined and quick steps were taken to enhance security and police presence to protect Jewish communities and Jewish institutions from harm in, among others, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom (UK), Austria, Argentina, Bulgaria, and Spain.<sup>9</sup> The UK government announced £3 million in additional funding to protect Jewish communities in the country, bolstering the efforts of the Community Security Trust (CST) to place additional guards at schools, community buildings, and synagogues to deter attacks.<sup>10</sup>

Beyond increasing security at Jewish institutions, France's government vocally declared a zero-tolerance policy for any antisemitic acts perpetrated by those who want to use the Hamas attacks on Israel as a pretext for harassing, threatening, or attacking French Jews.<sup>11</sup> French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin called for the immediate expulsion of non-French nationals responsible for acts of antisemitism in the country.<sup>12</sup> Darmanin cited the "heightened anxiety among [France's] Jewish community" and detailed more than one hundred antisemitic incidents recorded in the country since Hamas' attacks on Israel at the time he made the statement. He also banned all pro-Palestinian demonstrations. The Palestinian cause is "an absolutely respectable one," but support for Hamas and antisemitism will not be tolerated, he emphasized.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> See, for example: Marcus M. Gilban, "Israeli Flag 'Kippah' Laser Projected on Brazilian National Congress Dome," *Jerusalem Post*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/article-767535>; Bulgarian National Television (BNT), "The Façade of the Parliament was Lit in the Colors of the Israeli Flag [Bulgarian]," *BNT News*, October 8, 2023, <https://bntnews.bg/news/osvetiha-fasadata-na-parlamenta-s-cvetovete-na-flaga-na-izrael-1250922news.html>; and "Brandenburg Gate in Berlin Lights Up with Israeli Flag in Solidarity," *Times of Israel*, October 7, 2023, [https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog\\_entry/brandenburg-gate-in-berlin-lights-up-with-israeli-flag-in-solidarity/](https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/brandenburg-gate-in-berlin-lights-up-with-israeli-flag-in-solidarity/).

<sup>9</sup> Shira Li Bartov et al., "European Countries Increase Synagogue Security as Jews Brace for Antisemitism after Hamas Attack," *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.jta.org/2023/10/10/global/european-countries-increase-synagogue-security-as-jews-brace-for-antisemitism-after-hamas-attack>; "Alberto Fernández Orders Increased Security at Jewish Institutions and Communicated with Israeli President [Spanish]," *Perfil*, October 7, 2023, <https://www.perfil.com/noticias/actualidad/alberto-fernandez-orden-reforzar-la-seguridad-en-lugares-de-la-comunidad-judia.phtml>; "Police Guard Jewish Institutions [German]," *Burgenland*, October 18, 2023, <https://burgenland.orf.at/stories/3228806/>; and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria [Bulgarian], Facebook, October 17, 2023, <https://www.facebook.com/Government.of.Bulgaria/videos/845414257050387>.

<sup>10</sup> AFP-Agence France Press, "UK Boosts Funding for Security of Jewish Community after Antisemitism Spike," *Barron's*, October 12, 2023, <https://www.barrons.com/news/uk-boosts-funding-for-security-of-jewish-community-after-anti-semitism-spike-1123ee83>.

<sup>11</sup> Le Monde with AFP, "Israel-Hamas War: 'We Will Not Tolerate Any Antisemitic Act or Remarks in France,' Declared Elisabeth Borne before the National Assembly [French]," *Le Monde*, October 10, 2023, [https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/10/10/guerre-israel-hamas-nous-ne-tolererons-aucun-acte-aucun-propos-antisemite-en-france-a-declare-elisabeth-borne-devant-l-assemblee-nationale\\_6193578\\_823448.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/10/10/guerre-israel-hamas-nous-ne-tolererons-aucun-acte-aucun-propos-antisemite-en-france-a-declare-elisabeth-borne-devant-l-assemblee-nationale_6193578_823448.html).

<sup>12</sup> Le Monde with AFP, "Gérald Darmanin Calls for the 'Immediate Expulsion' of Foreign Perpetrators of Antisemitic Acts [French]," *Le Monde*, October 11, 2023, [https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/10/11/gerald-darmanin-demande-l-expulsion-immediate-des-auteurs-etrangers-d-actes-antisemites\\_6193815\\_823448.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/10/11/gerald-darmanin-demande-l-expulsion-immediate-des-auteurs-etrangers-d-actes-antisemites_6193815_823448.html).

<sup>13</sup> Noémie Lair, "France Bans All Pro-Palestinian Demonstrations and Will Arrest Any 'Troublemaker' [French]," *Radio France*, October 12, 2023, <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/la-france-interdit-toute-manifestation-pro-palestienne-et-interpellera-tout-facteur-de-troubles-1641785>.

Germany also enacted similar measures, banning pro-Palestinian rallies and banning the anti-Israeli group Samidoun from operating after it handed out sweets in Berlin to celebrate the attack.<sup>14</sup> Authorities also targeted the Islamic Center of Hamburg (IZH) on suspicion of supporting Hizballah, raiding and searching 54 locations connected to the IZH across seven federal states.<sup>15</sup> Other national and local governments in Europe have cracked down on pro-Palestinian protests over concerns that certain slogans and symbols, such as “from the river to the sea” that calls for the annihilation of Israel, constitute a threat for violence or an expression of antisemitism.<sup>16</sup>

In response to anti-Israeli and pro-terror marches, a number of demonstrations have been held in major cities throughout the world expressing solidarity with Israel and the Jewish community and demanding the release of all hostages held by Hamas. From New York City to Los Angeles, Prague to Paris, Buenos Aires to Mexico City and Seoul to Tokyo, Jews and non-Jews came together to vocally condemn Hamas’ barbarism and declare that the ideology Hamas stands for poses a threat to liberal societies and peace.<sup>17</sup> In Washington DC, the biggest Jewish rally in the history of the capital demonstrated the resolve of Jews across the Union to stand against the enemies of Israel and against antisemitism.

In Seoul, South Korea, and Tokyo, Japan, demonstrators gathered to express support for Israel and denounce Hamas’ terrorism.<sup>18</sup> In Prague’s Old Town Square, Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala declared his country would be Israel’s voice in Europe. The government’s Minister for Human Rights called to honor the victims of October 7 and demanded the release of Israeli hostages.<sup>19</sup> After Hamas called for a “day of rage,” more than 300 demonstrators gathered outside Berlin’s Fraenkelufer Synagogue to symbolically protect it and Jewish worshippers.<sup>20</sup>

Vigils have been held to commemorate Israeli victims in London, Prague, Berlin, and Vienna, among other cities throughout Europe, as demonstrators strove to keep the memory of the tragedy that occurred on October 7 at the forefront of people’s minds and take a stand against

<sup>14</sup> “Germany Bans Pro-Palestinian Group Samidoun,” *Reuters*, October 12, 2023, <https://www.reuters.com/world/germany-bans-pro-palestinian-group-samidoun-2023-10-12/>.

<sup>15</sup> “German Police Raid Suspected Pro-Hezbollah Islamist Groups,” *DW*, November 16, 2023, <https://www.dw.com/en/german-police-raid-suspected-pro-hezbollah-islamist-groups/a-67413510>.

<sup>16</sup> Kate Brady et al., “European Bans on Pro-Palestinian Protests Prompt Claims of Bias,” *The Washington Post*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/26/palestine-protest-ban-france-germany/>.

<sup>17</sup> See, for example: Jewish Daily News Central, “Demonstrations Against Hamas Terrorism in Mexico City [Spanish],” *Diario Judio*, October 30, 2023, <https://diariojudio.com/noticias/manifestacion-en-contra-del-terrorismo-de-hamas-en-la-ciudad-de-mexico/456814/>.

<sup>18</sup> Lee Jung-Youn, “Israel Supporters Hold Rally in Seoul,” *The Korea Herald*, October 17, 2023, <https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20231017000584>, and Israel in Japan (@IsraelinJapan), “On Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, a Rally was Held in Front of Shibuya Station... [Japanese],” X, October 11, 2023, <https://twitter.com/IsraelinJapan/status/1712065801648497131/history>.

<sup>19</sup> “The Czech Republic will be the Voice of Israel in Europe, Fiala Said at an Event in Support of Israelis [Czech],” *Ceske Noviny*, November 1, 2023, <https://www.ceskenoviny.cz/zpravy/2434945>.

<sup>20</sup> Toby Axelrod, “Hundreds of Germans Form ‘Human Shield’ to Protect Synagogue,” *Jerusalem Post*, October 16, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/antisemitism/article-768540>.

antisemitism.<sup>21</sup> In Baku, Azerbaijanis laid wreaths and flowers on the gates of the Israeli embassy in the city to express their sympathies with the victims.

A focal point of activism of Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and individuals around the world has been to draw attention to the plight of the Israeli hostages in Gaza. The families of hostages and their supporters launched an organized campaign for their release, adopting a variety of tactics. Among these was an organized “Kidnapped” campaign with posters featuring the photos and stories of each victim. These posters were plastered on walls in cities throughout the world and placed in empty strollers and chairs. In cities across the globe, including Rome, London, Copenhagen, Sydney and New York City, empty Shabbat tables were set up for those held captive. Each poster or symbol highlighted their plight and echoed the past when supporters of freeing Soviet Jews left an empty seat open for prisoners.<sup>22</sup> At the iconic Obelisco de Buenos Aires near the city’s Colón Theatre, the faces of Argentinian citizens kidnapped by Hamas were projected on a big screen and their posters adorned the fence around it.<sup>23</sup>

Media organizations and sports clubs also took a clear moral stand in condemning Hamas’ atrocities. Following the attacks, prominent national newspapers such as Australia’s *The Australian*, Germany’s *Die Welt* and the UK’s *The Sun* and *Daily Telegraph* dedicated their front-pages in whole or in part to publishing the names and pictures of Israeli victims from the attack. The covers drew valuable attention to the atrocities committed by Hamas.<sup>24</sup> The German mass-circulation *Bild* began screening images of Israeli hostages on its building in response to Hamas supporters tearing down such posters around Berlin. It also published a 50-point manifesto taking a stand against rising antisemitism and expressions of support for Hamas in the country. *Bild* declared the acts of hate to be against the country’s values and that

<sup>21</sup> Daniel Ben-David, “Thousands Turn Out for Israel Vigil in London to Demand Return of Hostages,” *The Jewish Chronicle*, October 16, 2023, <https://www.thejc.com/news/news/thousands-turn-out-for-israel-vigil-in-london-to-demand-return-of-hostages-3mGccTvuYdYsMRXfBWQs0b>; “Daily Vigil Against Antisemitism [German],” *Wien*, October 19, 2023, <https://wien.orf.at/stories/3229011/>; Sylvie Corbet and Jill Lawless, “European Cities See Vigils to Oppose Antisemitism and Rallies Seeking Relief for Gaza,” *AP News*, October 22, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/israel-palestinians-global-protests-7c23ec677d36df580d9a79144c56db95>.

<sup>22</sup> Philissa Cramer, “In Tel Aviv and Beyond, 200-Seat Empty Shabbat Tables are Set for Israeli Hostages,” *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, October 20, 2023, <https://www.jta.org/2023/10/20/israel/in-tel-aviv-and-beyond-200-seat-empty-shabbat-tables-are-set-for-israeli-hostages>; Philissa Cramer, “Empty Strollers in London Call Attention to Child Hostages in Gaza as Families Head to the UN,” *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.jta.org/2023/10/23/global/empty-strollers-in-london-call-attention-to-child-hostages-in-gaza-as-families-head-to-the-un>; and Luke Tress, “Empty Shabbat Table Set Up in Times Square, as Fight for Hostages Extends Abroad,” *Times of Israel*, October 27, 2023, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/empty-shabbat-table-set-up-in-times-square-as-fight-for-hostages-extends-abroad/>.

<sup>23</sup> See: George Deek (@GeorgeDeek), “Thank You to the Azerbaijani People for this Heartfelt Gesture,” X, October 8, 2023, <https://twitter.com/GeorgeDeek/status/1711090643773137400>, and Periódico Comunidades Plus (@ComunidadesPlus), “At the #Obelisco of Buenos Aires... [Spanish],” X, November 7, 2023, <https://twitter.com/ComunidadesPlus/status/1721890396924776814>.

<sup>24</sup> *The Australian*, October 10, 2023; *Die Welt*, October 15, 2023; *The Sun*, November 2, 2023; and *Daily Telegraph*, October 13, 2023.



the time has come to take a stand against antisemitism. Now, it stated, is when democracy and German values are defended.<sup>25</sup>

Every major American sports league, including Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Football League (NFL), the National Basketball Association (NBA), the National Hockey League (NHL), Major League Soccer (MLS), and Professional Golf Association (PGA), issued statements condemning Hamas' terror attacks and expressing sympathy with Israeli victims.<sup>26</sup>

Germany's Mainz 05 and France's Nice soccer clubs suspended players for authoring social media posts with the slogan "from the river to the sea" and antisemitic content. At the same time, French footballer Karim Benzema faced backlash for his posts about Gaza, with the French Interior Minister going as far as suggesting he was connected to the Muslim Brotherhood and a French senator calling for him to be stripped of his citizenship.<sup>27</sup> In contrast to the embarrassing silence of the oil-funded Premier League teams, public-controlled German soccer clubs showed the face of true friendship. Werder Bremen screened photos of Israelis kidnapped and hung a big poster calling for their return in its stadium. At the same time, Borussia Dortmund invited a delegation of families from the Gaza border to a match.

Much attention and opprobrium have justifiably been given to the dramatic rise in antisemitism on university campuses across the United States. University leaders and students at so-called elite universities, from Harvard to Columbia, Cornell to Penn, NYU to George Washington University, have failed to issue unequivocal statements against calls for the annihilation of Israel. They have failed to protect Jewish students from acts of intimidation and racist hate.<sup>28</sup> But, these shameful silences were not reflective of American academia at large. Under the stewardship of the presidents of Yeshiva University, Arizona State, Arizona, Baylor, Notre Dame, and Miami, among others, a broad coalition of more than 100 public and private institutions declared that such times require moral clarity and that Hamas' brutal actions were "of hate and terrorism," not "political disagreement."<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> "Bild-Manifesto: Germany, We Have a Problem!," *Bild*, October 10, 2023, <https://www.bild.de/politik/inland/politik-inland/bild-manifesto-germany-we-have-a-problem-85895486.bild.html>, and Ran Boker, "Poster of Hostages Screened on German Paper's Building," *Ynetnews*, November 15, 2023, <https://www.ynetnews.com/culture/article/hyossc11ep>.

<sup>26</sup> Ryan Saavedra, "All Major US Professional Leagues Release Statements Supporting Israel after Terror Attacks," *The Daily Wire*, October 9, 2023, <https://www.dailywire.com/news/pro-sports-leagues-release-statements-supporting-israel-after-terror-attacks>.

<sup>27</sup> Yusra Asif, "Muslim Footballers Face Suspension, Criticism for Supporting Palestinians Online," *Al Arabiya English*, October 19, 2023, <https://english.alarabiya.net/News/middle-east/2023/10/19/Muslim-footballers-face-suspension-criticism-for-supporting-Palestinians-online>, and Matt Ford, "How German Football is Responding to Israel-Hamas Conflict," *DW*, October 23, 2023, <https://www.dw.com/en/how-german-football-is-responding-to-israel-hamas-conflict/a-67182890>.

<sup>28</sup> Marc Zvi Brettler and Michael B. Poliakoff, "Why was it So Hard for Elite Universities to Condemn Hamas Terrorism?," *The Highland County Press*, October 21, 2023, <https://highlandcountypress.com/why-was-it-so-hard-elite-universities-condemn-hamas-terrorism#gsc.tab=0>.

<sup>29</sup> "100+ Colleges and Universities Across the Nation Form Coalition Standing with Israel Against Hamas," *YU News*, October 26, 2023, <https://blogs.yu.edu/news/over-100-u-s-colleges-and-universities-join-rabbi-ari-bermans-initiative-to-issue-statement-in-solidarity-with-israel/>.

Also adding their moral voice to public discourse were a number of prominent individuals from the entertainment industry, each and every one eschewing criticism and potentially losing fans to take a clear stand against Hamas and to demand the release of Israeli hostages. More than 700 Hollywood actors and executives signed an open letter organized by the non-profit Creative Community for Peace (CCFPeace) condemning Hamas' terrorism. High-profile names included Jerry Seinfeld, Amy Schumer, Michael Douglas, Mark Hamill, and Jamie Lee Curtis.<sup>30</sup> In December, Seinfeld, the greatest television comedian of all time, made a high-profile visit to Israel with his family. So, too, did a number of other television and movie stars.<sup>31</sup>

While the vileness of so-called social justice advocates reveals that something rotten and deeply misguided has taken hold in parts of liberal societies, the clarity and firmness with which others have taken a stand reveal all has not been lost. A light shines in the darkness, and the light will not be overcome.

## Policy Recommendations

1. **Simple question, simple answer.** The chasm between governments, organizations and individuals who unequivocally condemned Hamas and antisemitism and those who celebrated or ignored the October 7 atrocities comes down to one crucial question: Do they accept the right of the State of Israel to exist as the national home of the Jewish people, within any kind of borders, or not? With all due respect to nuance, this is the question that needs to be raised again and again in every debate, action plan or legislation.
2. **Work to Expand Coalitions.** Continued and concerted efforts should be made to build alliances with other faith communities, organizations, governments, and individuals who share a common cause. Broad-based coalitions based on shared values and objectives will enable sustained actions, campaigns and change.
3. **Don't Wait for Bad News.** Combatting antisemitism should be ongoing and decisive rather than retroactive. For example, it should not have taken the events that occurred in the aftermath of October 7 to prompt action on college campuses in the United States against the intimidation of Jewish students. The US Department of Education, in particular, must take a zero-tolerance approach to root out the problem.

– **Dr. Carl Yonker**, with contributions from Maia Bornshtein, Paul Frankel, Rafael Nabizade, Shiven Nath, and Stilian Steffanov

<sup>30</sup> CCFPeace, "Israel Under Attack – Open Letter," CCFPeace, October 12, 2023, <https://www.creativecommunityforpeace.com/blog/2023/10/12/israel-under-attack-open-letter/>; Elizabeth Wagmeister, "Gal Gadot, Chris Pine, and 700 Hollywood Figures Condemn Hamas, Demand Return of Hostages: 'This is Terrorism. This is Evil,'" *Variety*, October 12, 2023, <https://variety.com/2023/tv/news/hollywood-open-letter-israel-support-hamas-war-1235753904/>; and Judy Kurtz, "Hollywood Stars Release Letter Condemning Hamas Amid Israeli Conflict," *The Hill*, October 12, 2023, <https://thehill.com/blogs/in-the-know/4253130-hollywood-stars-condemning-hamas-israeli-conflict/>.

<sup>31</sup> Walla!, "Jerry Seinfeld Lands in Israel in Show of Solidarity," *Jerusalem Post*, December 19, 2023, <https://www.jpost.com/j-spot/article-778514>.