

Session 4: Antisemitism

A Cyclical Scourge



Pre-Workshop:

✚ Watch the video clip, [Antisemitism Explained](#), (6:03 min.) Read/watch **two or more items** from “Reading & Viewing Materials” list below, noting any questions.

✚ *Facilitator:* If possible, invite a guest speaker from the Jewish community to join you for this workshop or for a follow-up session to answer questions.

Intro: Although Judaism encompasses many different racial groups, Jews as a group have long been the target of hate crimes. The goal of this session is to illuminate the modern resurgence of a very old form of prejudice and discrimination, its transmission aggravated by the widespread use of social media.

Videos: Watch as a group. Ask participants to take note of the parts that they consider important or that surprised or disturbed them in any way.

- [Types of Jews: Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Mizrahi and More](#), (1:40 min.)
- [The St. Louis - story of the ship 900 Jews fleeing Nazi Germany 1939](#), (2:34 min.)
- [Is Antisemitism a Problem in Canada?](#) (1:02 min.) CPAC, 2020

Small Group Discussion:

- What stereotypes & attitudes towards Jewish people were common in the place you grew up? How has this changed over the years?
- What is your personal reaction to antisemitism in our history and the present day? What were some of the things that surprised or disturbed you?
- According to the IHRA¹ definition, an example of antisemitism would be “Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel”. How do you come to terms with this in your own thinking and your own life?



¹ International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

*Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge
against anyone among your people, but
love your neighbour as yourself.*

– [Judaism, Leviticus \(Wayiqra\) 19:18](#)

*Knowledge is the best treasure that
a man can secretly hoard up in life.
Learning is the revered of the revered.*

– [Hindusim, Garuda Purana](#)

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the
Lord is one. Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your strength.
These commandments that I give you
today are to be on your hearts.*

- [Deuteronomy \(Devarim\) 6:4 to 6:9.](#)

Debriefing: Quotes and
discussion questions to promote
reflection and action

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- How did workshop (including preparation) change your conception of Judaism?
 - What recommendations would you have for addressing antisemitism in our community?
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Suggested Reading & Viewing Material:

- [Fighting Antisemitism across Canada](#), (5:34 min.) CTV News, 2021 Increased incidents of antisemitism following the Gaza conflict – Canada
- [Antisemitic Attacks Spread like Wildfire across the US](#) (7:15 min.), PBS News, 2021 Antisemitic attacks worse in terms of quantity and quality this year – US
- [The IHRA definition of antisemitism website](#) International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
- [What is Judaism and What do Jews Believe?](#) YouTube, (5:27 min.) Origins and types of Judaism & responses to questions such as the meaning of the phrase ‘the Chosen People’
- [13 Principles of Jewish Faith Explained](#) YouTube, (3:52 min.) Judaism’s fundamental truths as formulated by Maimonides, one of the great codifiers of Jewish law
- [Jewish History in Canada \(1880 - 1981\) pdf, 21 pages](#) By Bernard Vigod, University of NB
- [Humanist Common Ground: Judaism website](#) A brief overview of the history & branches of Judaism and description of the common bond of *tikkun olam* or *world repair*
- [Jewish Canadians, the Canadian Encyclopedia website](#) History of the Canadian Jewish community, now the fourth largest in the world
- [Sephardic, Ashkenazic, Mizrahi & Ethiopian Jews, article](#) Jewish ethnic diversity explained
- [Why is Antisemitism still around?](#) YouTube, (6:34 min.) 2021 Jews experience many of the world’s hate crimes, despite being less than 0.2% of the world’s population
- [What is Zionism? History of Israel Explained](#) YouTube (10:58 min.) 2019 Overview.
- [Can the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict be Solved?](#) YouTube (15:01 min.) 2019 Overview.