

2025 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL NEW BUSINESS FORM

Date Submitted: 8/20/2025

Agenda Item #: 15D/Aug 2025

(completed by staff)

Please follow the instructions on the right-hand side. The back of this page provides the Guidelines for Council Resolutions, the APA priorities most recently identified by Council and a space for co-sponsors to sign. **If you have questions, consult a staff person or a member of the Council Leadership Team.**

INSTRUCTIONS
Title: Concise title that accurately reflects the spirit/intent of the main motion.
Mover(s): Identify the author(s) of the item.
Representing: Identify the constituency the author(s) represent.
Issue: Provide a rationale for the motion as well as relevant background information. Avoid extraneous detail.

Title: Updating 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice

Mover(s): Tiffany O'Shaughnessy, PhD, Jordan Dunn, PhD, and Dana Charatan, PsyD

Representing: Division 35 and Division 39

Issue: Council is asked to 1) archive the 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice (Main Motion 1) and 2) adopt as APA policy the 2026 Resolution on Antisemitism (Main Motion 2)

This new business item presents a timely and intersectional revision to the APA's 2007 resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice. In the intervening years, significant scholarly work has been generated to aid us in adopting more effective approaches to combatting antisemitism. It is therefore imperative that APA update this resolution to ensure greater clarity, accuracy, and utility.

The APA Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice approved in 2007 relies heavily on outdated statistics and on a definition of antisemitism similar to the one drafted in 2007 by Kenneth Stern and adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Following problematic use of the IHRA definition to suppress free speech, Kenneth Stern, who never intended for it to be used to punish or suppress scholarship or activism but only to track bona fide antisemitic discrimination, now opposes its use as a definition of antisemitism (Stern, 2019; Press, 2024). Lack of clarity in defining antisemitism limits the APA's ability to provide educational resources, advocate effectively to eradicate antisemitism, and constructively respond to allegations of antisemitism. A clear and current resolution will enable APA to integrate critical awareness of antisemitism into the APA's mission to address systemic racism (APA, 2021a) and all forms of oppression. Furthermore, the IHRA resolution was adopted as federal civil rights policy by the Trump administration in 2019, making it politically contentious and partisan (Exec. Order No. 13,899, 2019). In spite of being federal policy, the following years have observed an increase in antisemitism and a decrease in common ground about how to determine what is antisemitism. Thus, it is time for the APA to replace this dated

**Please describe, in detail, the way in which the NBI may impact historically and/or currently marginalized or diverse groups (e.g., race, ethnicity, color, culture, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, religion, spirituality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, immigration status, national origin, language, military or veteran status, and intersectionality), and/or how people from these groups have been considered and addressed in the NBI.*

a. Please identify specific groups you believe may be impacted.

b. Statements may reference historic or current disparities and any efforts to address them. Specific links to APA strategic goals—particularly related to EDI and global concerns—are encouraged.

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and flawed resolution on antisemitism with one that can guide psychology as an empirically grounded and anti-oppressive science.

The proposed updated Resolution on Antisemitism will allow APA to meet its “ethical obligation to challenge systemic injustices and advocate for policies that promote human welfare” (APA 2017a; 2021b; 2025) while also maintaining our commitment to “free and open academic inquiry and debate” (APASI, 2022). At present, the outdated resolution cannot meet these obligations, as evidenced below:

Antisemitism operates as a core component of white supremacy, intertwined with racism and other exclusionary ideologies in the United States and around the globe (Ward, 2017). The ideology that Jews (and Muslims) are racially different from Christian Europeans can be traced to the Spanish Inquisition (Kivel, 2017). Antisemitism has been a way for dominant groups to blame social conditions on Jews, something which in modern times has crystallized in conspiracy theories that social change and increasing cultural diversity are linked to Jewish efforts to subvert Western society (Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, 2017). A current US manifestation is the Great Replacement Theory (Beirich, 2021; Winston, 2021), which holds that Jews seek to undermine the white/Christian character of the United States. Survey research locates the “epicenter” of antisemitic beliefs to be held among individuals on the far right of the political spectrum (Hersh & Royden, 2022). The dangers of these white supremacist beliefs are evident in recent acts of violence affecting Jews and other minority groups (Milwicki, 2024). According to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC, 2024), there is a rise in multiple forms of hatred and violence based in antisemitism ranging from mass shootings, bomb threats at synagogues, and the spread of conspiracy theories such as the “great replacement” theory. In addition to targeting Jewish communities, adherents to this ideology targeted Black and Latinx people in mass shootings in El Paso in 2019 and Buffalo, NY in 2022. These examples demonstrate how antisemitism and white supremacy are interlocking ideologies that must be addressed jointly for the safety of racial and ethnic minority communities. Because of these shared dangers, it is especially important for antisemitism not to be addressed in ways that are fractious, that undermine social justice for any other group, or that further draw on systemic racism that disproportionately criminalizes people of color (APA, 2021a). For example, the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) has acknowledged the dynamic of weaponized antisemitism, which is the strategic and bad faith use of accusations of antisemitism, observing that it has been used in particular to silence and punish people of color (SPLC, 2024). This is also associated with an approach to antisemitism which has been observed to be harmful to Jews as it assumes that all Jews share the same beliefs about the state of Israel and it has had negative consequences for Jews exercising their rights to free speech such as scholarship and activism for human rights and social justice (Segal, 2024).

Estimated Costs/Staff Resources: N/A

Estimated Costs/Staff
Resources: Provide, to the
best of your ability, a realistic

assessment of what this will cost. Consult with a staff person if needed.

Data Needs/Supporting Data: Specify what data exists or needs to be collected to support the need for this business item. In addition, specify what data is needed to assess outcomes or impact of the business item.

Data Needs/Supporting Data:

- Antisemitism has been correlated with higher stress levels and decreased life satisfaction (Rosen et al., 2018)
- A nationally representative survey found that while people in the U.S. hold more favorable than unfavorable views of Jews, 6% of U.S. adults, or 20 million people, still express negative attitudes towards Jews (Pew Research Center, 2023).
- Scientific evidence from an experimental survey with 3500 American participants demonstrates the threat of right-wing antisemitism to vastly outsize that of antisemitic beliefs held by people with left-wing politics (Hersh & Royden, 2022). Young adults with far-right political views are found to be seven times more likely to hold antisemitic views than young adults with far-left political views (Hersh & Royden, 2022). This underscores the danger of a focus on rhetoric of left-wing activists when there is evidence of much wider spread antisemitism, along with an increase in mass shootings, related to right-wing political beliefs, requiring that APA support the identification of and the prevention of these biases.
- Multicultural psychologists identify the need for Jewish religious identity and practice along with Jewish secular identity to be affirmed in psychotherapy (Schlosser et al., 2009). To do so effectively, scholars warn against the pitfall of approaches which have led to a “schism” between Black Americans and Jews and point to the shared interests and shared experiences of Muslim Americans and Jewish Americans (Schlosser et al., 2009; Schlosser et al., 2007).

Diversity Impact: This NBI should have a positive effect in allowing psychologists to more effectively advocate against antisemitism. We anticipate no negative impacts for individuals based on diversity status.

Diversity Impact: Consider the positive, negative or neutral impact of the motion for marginalized populations and provide a rationale of the basis of the assessment.

Main Motion I:

That Council archives the following 2007 Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice:

Resolution on Anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish Prejudice

Adopted by the APA Council of Representatives August 2005/Amended August 2007

WHEREAS prejudice and discrimination based on religion have caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history; and

Main Motion: Describe in succinct language what you are asking for. If requesting the formation of a task force or committee, specify its charge, size and expected duration. If requesting an amendment to the Association Rules or Bylaws, provide the current language and bracket material to be deleted and underline material to be added.

WHEREAS anti-Jewish hostility, usually called anti-Semitism, has taken various forms over the centuries and has been perpetrated by many groups throughout history (Allswang, 1985); and

WHEREAS the intense prejudice, discrimination and hatred that grew out of long-standing anti-Semitism led to the Holocaust, perpetrated in Europe by the Nazis in the 1940s, which eventuated in the brutal annihilation of six million Jews (Charney, 2000); and

WHEREAS anti-Semitic acts of violence in the United States are increasing alarmingly, with 1,821 reported in 2004, the highest level in nine years and an increase of 17% over the number reported in 2003 (Anti-Defamation League, 2005); and

WHEREAS "The increasing frequency and severity of anti-Semitic incidents since the start of the 21st century, particularly in Europe, has compelled the international community to focus on anti-Semitism with renewed vigor" (U.S. Department of State, 2004); and

WHEREAS the United States Congress has approved the Global Anti-Semitism Awareness/Review Act, which acknowledges a disturbing increase in anti-Semitism and establishes an office in the State Department to monitor and combat anti-Semitism worldwide (U.S. Department of State, 2004); and

WHEREAS the 2005 Survey of American Attitudes Towards Jews in America by the Anti-Defamation League found that 14% of Americans or nearly 35 million adults, hold views about Jews that are "unquestionably anti-Semitic" (Anti-Defamation League, 2005); and

WHEREAS much anti-Semitism today takes the form of "modern" or "new" anti-Semitism, in which actual bias against Jews is denied while prejudiced attitudes exist and discriminatory statements or acts are engaged in (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

WHEREAS this form of anti-Semitism may be more difficult for its perpetrators to identify and challenge, as their beliefs about themselves may be that they are not biased against Jews (Gaertner & Dovidio, 1986); and

WHEREAS this form of anti-Semitism may be asserted in the context of discourse regarding the actions of the Government of Israel, thus further disguising the anti-Semitic nature of the discourse (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

WHEREAS the link between extreme anti-Israel rhetoric and deeds directed against Jewish individuals and communities has become an observable global trend and has at times unleashed demonization and dehumanization of Jews; (Anti-Semitism Worldwide, 2004); and

WHEREAS every anti-Semitic act creates a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such therefore, Jews are exposed to

suffering the feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization (Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Valent, 2002); and

WHEREAS anti-Semitic acts also harm the perpetrators by desensitizing them to violence, and raise concerns about their generalizing such acts to other groups (Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Ezequiel, 1995, 2002; Staub, 1990, 2005); and

WHEREAS the American Psychological Association has recognized the profound psychological consequences of hate crimes motivated by prejudice (APA Council of Representatives, 2005); and

WHEREAS the American Psychological Association opposes prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or physical condition (American Psychological Association, 2002); and

WHEREAS as psychologists we respect the dignity and worth of all people and are committed to improving the condition of individuals, organizations, and society, we are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and role differences among individuals, including (but not limited to) those based on ethnicity, national origin, and religion (American Psychological Association, 2002);

and

WHEREAS psychologists recognize and protect civil and human rights and strive to help the public develop informed judgments and choices concerning human behavior:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association condemns all anti-Semitic attitudes and actions, both overt and covert, and will use its influence to promote fairness, respect, and dignity for all people, regardless of religion or ethnicity, in all arenas in which psychologists work and practice, and in society at large.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association will take a leadership role in opposing anti-Semitism.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association encourages all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an anti-Semitic nature.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association encourages research to better understand the characteristics, causes, and consequences of both overt and covert anti-Semitic and Anti-Jewish prejudice.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association will include appropriate information on anti-Semitism in its multicultural and diversity training material and activities, and that diversity and multicultural efforts

will take cognizance of anti-Semitism, whether subtle or not, and will attempt to overcome it.

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Main Motion II:

To aid APA in more effectively combating antisemitism, we ask that council adopts as APA policy the following Resolution on Antisemitism:

Resolution on Antisemitism (2026)

WHEREAS prejudice and discrimination based on religion have caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history; and

WHEREAS prejudice and discrimination based on religion, race, ethnicity, and nationality have caused untold human suffering throughout recorded history; and

WHEREAS anti-Jewish hostility has been perpetrated by many groups throughout history (United Nations, 2019) and was a central factor in the perpetration of the Holocaust in Europe by the Nazis in the 1940s, which eventuated in the brutal annihilation of six million Jews (Charney, 2000); and

WHEREAS multiple contemporary definitions of antisemitism all share the recognition that antisemitism involves hostility, prejudice, hatred, or violence against Jews as Jews (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, (n.d.); Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.); Nexus, (n.d.); T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, (n.d.)); and

WHEREAS antisemitic acts of violence in the United States (and around the world) have increased dramatically since the Hamas-led attacks of October 7, 2023 and Israel’s invasion of Gaza that followed (Institute for Economics & Peace, 2025; Vision of Humanity, 2025); and

WHEREAS scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies have emphasized that the following do *not* constitute antisemitic acts: support for Palestinian demands consistent with international law; support for full equality for everyone in Israel/Palestine; evidence-based criticism of Israel’s institutions, founding principles, practices, policies, and actions; and non-violent forms of political protest (Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.)); and

WHEREAS there is broad agreement that, in regard to the State of Israel, it is antisemitic to hold Jews collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel; to require Jews to publicly condemn Israel; to assume that Jews are more loyal to Israel than to their home countries; and to deny Jews in Israel/Palestine the right to exist and flourish as Jews on the basis of legal equality (e.g., International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, (n.d.); Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, (n.d.)); and

WHEREAS there are significant adverse consequences for Jews and non-Jews when claims of antisemitism are used to encroach on free speech and other principles of democracy by suppressing and punishing evidence-based criticism and non-violent protest (Mann & Yona, 2025; Stern, 2019); and

WHEREAS research shows that antisemitism in the United States is substantially more prevalent on the political right than the political left (Hersh & Royden, 2023); and

WHEREAS every antisemitic act creates a climate of fear, anxiety and insecurity, both for the individual and the community; as such, Jews are exposed to suffering from feelings of vulnerability, anger, depression and other sequelae of victimization (Altman et al., 2010; Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Valent, 2002); and

WHEREAS antisemitic acts also harm the perpetrators by desensitizing them to violence, and raise concerns about their generalizing such acts to other groups (Crandall & Eshleman, 2003; Ezequiel, 1995, 2002; Staub, 1990, 2005); and

WHEREAS the American Psychological Association has recognized the profound psychological consequences of hate crimes motivated by prejudice (APA Council of Representatives, 2005); and

WHEREAS the American Psychological Association opposes prejudice and discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or physical condition (American Psychological Association, 2002); and

WHEREAS as psychologists we respect the dignity and worth of all people and are committed to improving the condition of individuals, organizations, and society, we are aware of and respect cultural, individual, and role differences among individuals, including (but not limited to) those based on ethnicity, national origin, and religion (American Psychological Association, 2021); and

WHEREAS psychologists recognize and protect civil and human rights and strive to help the public develop informed judgments and choices concerning human behavior (American Psychological Association, 2017):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association condemns all antisemitic attitudes and actions, and will use its influence to promote fairness, respect, and dignity for all people, regardless of religion or ethnicity, in all arenas in which psychologists work and practice, and in society at large.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association will take a leadership role in opposing antisemitism.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association encourages all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an antisemitic nature.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association encourages research to better understand the characteristics, causes, and consequences of antisemitism.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Psychological Association will include appropriate information on antisemitism in its multicultural and diversity training material and activities, and that diversity and multicultural efforts will take cognizance of antisemitism and will attempt to overcome it.

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Expected Outcomes/Products:

- That APA will take a leadership role in opposing antisemitism.
- That APA will encourage all psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination of an antisemitic nature.
- That APA will include appropriate information on antisemitism in its training materials and activities consistent with this policy.

Expected Outcomes/Products: Define the expected outcome or product if the main motion is approved.

APA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (APPROVED BY COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024)

Utilize psychological science to make a positive impact on critical societal issues.	Elevate the public's understanding, appreciation and utilization of psychology.
Prepare the field of psychology for current and future opportunities and challenges.	Strengthen APA's role as a leading voice for psychology.

Please explain how this new business item advances one or more of the above strategic priorities*:

By endorsing this updated resolution against antisemitism, we will have more accurate information to drive our work in combating antisemitism. This will allow us to both utilize psychological science to make a positive impact on critical societal issues, and to strengthen APA's role as a leading voice for psychology.

**Please keep in mind the guiding and operating principles which can be found at <https://www.apa.org/about/apa/strategic-plan>.*

GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

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These guidelines apply to all resolutions submitted to Council for consideration. The following information must be provided: (1) The purpose and rationale for the resolution stated clearly, and documenting its relevance to psychology or psychologists; (2) The issue's importance to psychology or to society as a whole; (3) Representative scientific or empirical findings related to the resolution; (4) The extent to which the resolution is consistent with APA's guiding principles, and the extent to which it addresses human rights, health and welfare, and ethics; (5) The likelihood of the resolution having a constructive impact on public opinion or policy.

Resolutions approved by Council are understood to reflect what APA values or believes and, in most cases, does not commit APA to any action. If approval of the resolution requires that specific action be taken, the following information must also be provided: (6) Suggestions on how it should be implemented, if it is passed; (7) Breakdown of staff resources or association funds needed to implement the resolution.

DESIGNATE COSIGNER(S):

1. **Brad Olson, Division 48 Peace Psychology**
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

References for NBI Rationale

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