



## **North American Drama Therapy Association Cultural Humility, Equity, & Diversity Position Statement and Call to Action:**

### **Antisemitism NADTA CHEDC Position Statement**

The North American Drama Therapy Association stands against antisemitism. We make this statement in order to highlight and challenge the silence around the recent resurgence of antisemitic incidents and rhetoric in North America and internationally. Antisemitism has a complicated history as a cyclical oppression, and is oftentimes unnoticed and unnamed. It is important for us, as drama therapists, to name the antisemitism that is on the rise and to stand visibly against it alongside the Jewish people.

Antisemitism has taken many hateful forms in a historical and contemporary context. Although antisemitism may be primarily understood as linked to the Holocaust in a modern sense, Jewish people have been the subject of hatred and oppression for centuries, with documented instances of codified antisemitic discriminatory laws and actions dating back to the Middle Ages, preventing Jews from owning land or holding positions of authority. Throughout history the Jewish people have been scapegoated on numerous occasions and subjected to mass organized destruction and murder - referred to as *pogroms* - which continued through the 20th century, predominantly in, but not limited to, Eastern Europe. Most notably, they faced the threat of complete extermination by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis' "Final Solution" which caused the death of 6 million Jews, including 1.5 million Jewish children, across Europe before and during the Second World War.

Through our #DramaTherapistsAgainstWhiteSupremacy Campaign, the NADTA seeks to underscore the intersectionality of all oppressions and the need for education, action, and allyship for all targeted groups.

Within a contemporary lens, as drama therapists, it is our responsibility to understand that antisemitism is a form of oppression which is intrinsically linked and interdependent with other forms of oppression like racism, classism, heteronormativity, etc. It is our job both to take an outward stand and to pursue a better internal understanding of all forms of oppression. It is important to note that while antisemitism is often attributed to White nationalism and White

supremacy, violence against Jewish people is not isolated to these groups. It is a global issue that spans thousands of years of history. At this time global incidents of antisemitism are on the rise and Jewish people face discrimination and physical threats where they live, work, and worship from an assortment of antisemitic individuals and groups. [A review of the following antisemitic incidents highlights this point.](#)

We call upon our community members to challenge the silence around the current wave of antisemitism and stand with the Jewish community in solidarity.

### **Further Educations and Resources:**

**Where are our allies?** As Jewish people join the fight for social justice they wonder who is there to stand with them. NPR report: [Antisemitism Spikes, And Many Jews Wonder: Where Are Our Allies?](#)

The following link outlines ways which you can contribute to the fight against antisemitism. The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington provides historical information and context, resources for how to speak about antisemitism for parents and children, resources for teens and adults, curriculum resources for teachers and schools, and advocacy resources:

[The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington: Resources and Tools for Addressing Anti-Semitism, Intolerance & Bias](#)

The Anti-Defamation League has also compiled a series of lesson plans, tools, and strategies to challenge antisemitism and support ongoing learning about antisemitism related to contemporary historical issues, such as the murder of Jewish worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA and the current rise of antisemitism in Europe:

[Anti-Defamation League: Resources to Address and Challenge Antisemitism](#)

[Words to Action: Anti-Semitism: 90 Ways You Can Respond](#)

[APA Calls for End to Continued Antisemitic Violence in US](#)

[Bend the Arc: Jewish Action and Jews Against White Nationalism](#)

[Movement for Black Lives Joins Jewish Groups in New Statement Against Anti-Semitism](#)

[Jews for Racial & Economic Justice Understanding Antisemitism: An Offering to Our Movement](#)

[The past didn't go anywhere: making resistance to antisemitism part of all of our movements](#)

[Eric Ward on the Antisemitism at the Heart of White Nationalism — Western States Center \(2 min. video\)](#)

[Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism](#)

[The New York Times: US Faces Outbreak of Anti-semitic Threats and Violence](#)

[ADL Tracker of Antisemitic Incidents | Anti-Defamation League](#)

[Dear American Progressives: Your Jewish Friends are Terrified](#)

**Ratified by the NADTA Board of Directors on June 27, 2021**