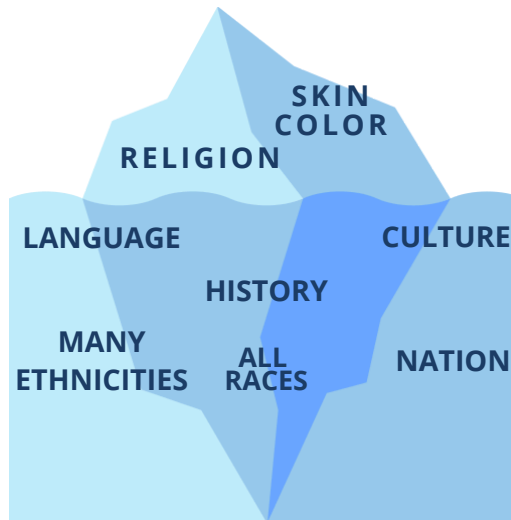




EXPLAINING JEWISH IDENTITY & ANTISEMITISM

UNDERSTANDING JEWISH IDENTITY & ANTISEMITISM

01 WHO ARE THE JEWISH PEOPLE?



what people **assume**

Most people **think of** Jews as a **white, religious community**.

who we **are**

- **Jews identify as a people or nation**, now and long before there was a religion called Judaism.
- Many Jews do not consider themselves to be religious.
- Jewish people are **multi-racial and multi-ethnic**, with diaspora communities **all over the world**.

02 WHY THIS PERCEPTION?

Erasure of a complex identity

The Jewish diaspora has been shaped by a history of expulsions and persecution, leading to the dispersion of Jewish communities across nations worldwide. Despite the prevailing social constructs around race and identity, Jews are often and primarily categorized as a religious group, erasing the complexity of our identity.

Safety through assimilation

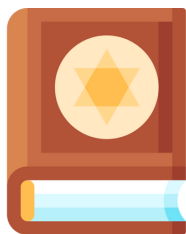
In the U.S., many Jewish immigrants actively sought safety through assimilation into whiteness (changing names, adapting cultural practices, etc.). Images of Jews in media & popular culture are typically centered around white-eligible Jews. This centering of one Jewish narrative erases the complexity, beauty, and diversity of our global peoplehood.

UNDERSTANDING JEWISH IDENTITY & ANTISEMITISM

03

WHAT IS CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM?

MOST THINK
ANTISEMITISM
IS ABOUT
RELIGION



BUT
ANTISEMITISM
IS ABOUT
PEOPLE

Jews are typically attacked for **who we are**, not how we pray.

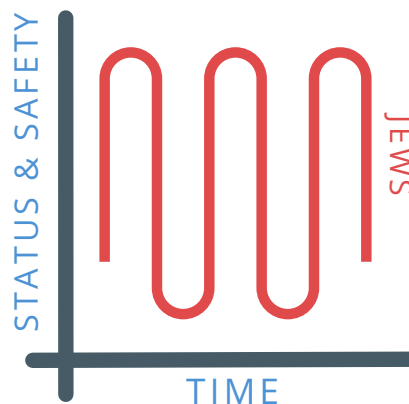
**CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM IS ANTI-JEW,
NOT ANTI-JUDAISM**

04

HOW DOES ANTISEMITISM WORK?

JEWISH SAFETY CAN CHANGE RAPIDLY

- **Antisemitism functions differently than other systemic bigotries**, which are typically fixed in a given society.
- There are many examples of Jews living safely and thriving in a society, only for this status to shift rapidly, leading to systemic violence and even expulsions.
- **Throughout Jewish history, skin color & status have not guaranteed safety in any society.**



Antisemitism & DEI

Four keys for **effective allyship**
for the Jewish Community

01 **Address antisemitism the same way you address other forms of bigotry**

Call it out by name specifically; provide education; ensure appropriate accountability; give space for growth.

02 **Avoid tokenization & center representative voices of our community**

We have a very diverse community and all of our perspectives matter, but avoid using unrepresentative voices to confirm or dismiss concerns of antisemitism.

03 **Honor & respect the diversity of Jewish identity**

Ensure those who are religiously observant have appropriate accommodations, including alternate days for exams & assignment due dates and time off for religious holidays.

04 **Political & foreign policy issues are never an excuse to tolerate harassment of any group or individual, Jews included**

No member of your school or community is responsible for the actions, real or imagined, of any government anywhere in the world.

Want to learn more?

Please reach out for more information, or to set up time to discuss how to incorporate antisemitism education into your organization's DEI work

CONTACT US NOW

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