

# Fighting Anti-Semitism Today with Other Minorities Under Attack and Developing a Plan for Unity

## Background Facts About Anti-Semitism

**Semite is not a race.** It was a name given in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to people who spoke Semitic languages Arabs, Akkadians, Canaanites, Hebrews, some Ethiopians (including the Amhara and the Tigrayans) and Aramaean tribes (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica online)

**Anti-Semitism refers only to Jewish people.** This term was developed by Wilhelm Marr during the Nazi campaigns throughout Europe to describe Jews based on their physical characteristics, including those who converted to other religions or whose parents converted. (Michael Bernbaum and the Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica online)

**Anti-Semitic incidents declined during the pandemic,** but are now increasing again despite the hovering virus issues and encouraging the murder of Jews has become accepted speech.

“Only by defining anti-Semitism, understanding how it manifests itself in society, confronting hate and bias crimes, and combating all forms of hatred can we uphold our values of democracy, pluralism and mutual respect toward the goal of ensuring the safety and dignity of our societies.”

“The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), a body founded in 2000, in 2016 adopted the “Working Definition of Anti-Semitism.”

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/world-remembers-holocaust>)

# Definition (Full Text at [ajc.org](http://ajc.org))

The IHRA has 35 member countries today and 8 observer countries, The definition is also used by some localities, including 10 states in the U.S. of the participating countries, 16 have laws making Holocaust Denial a crime or a civil offense:

“Antisemitism...Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community Institutions and religious facilities.”

# Examples for IHRA Work

- ❖ Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of religion
- ❖ Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing stereotypical allegations about Jews or Jews as a group
- ❖ Accusing Jews as a group of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing by one Jewish person or group

## Additional Examples for IHRA Work (cont)

- ❖ Accusing Jews or Israel of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust
- ❖ Accusing Jewish citizens of more loyalty to Israel than to their own nation
- ❖ Denying Jewish people their right to self-determination
- ❖ Applying double standards by requiring of Israel behavior not expected of any other democratic nation

# Additional Examples for IHRA Work (cont)

- ❖ Using symbols or images associated with antisemitism
- ❖ Comparing current Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- ❖ Holding Jews collectively responsible for Israeli actions

Many of these examples are criminal if so defined by law

# Countries that Adopted Non-Legally Binding IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Albania (10/2020)

Argentina (10/2020)

Austria (10/2020)

Austria (03/2017)

Belgium (12/2018)

Bosnia (07/2020)

Bulgaria ((10/2017)

Canada (06/2019)

Columbia (06/2019)

Czech Republic (01/2019)

Cyprus (12/2019)

Finland 02/2020)

France (12/2019)

Germany (09/2017)

Greece (11/2019)

Hungary (02/2019)

Israel (02/2017)

Italy (02/2020)

Lithuania (01/2018)

Luxembourg (07/2019)

Kosovo (?)

Moldova (01/2019)

Netherlands (11/2018)

North Macedonia (03/2018)

Phillipines (02/2022)

Poland (01/2021)

Portugal (10/2021)

Romania (05/2017)

Serbia (02/2020)

Slovakia (12/2018)

Slovenia (12/2018)

South Korea (08/2021)

Spain (07/2020)

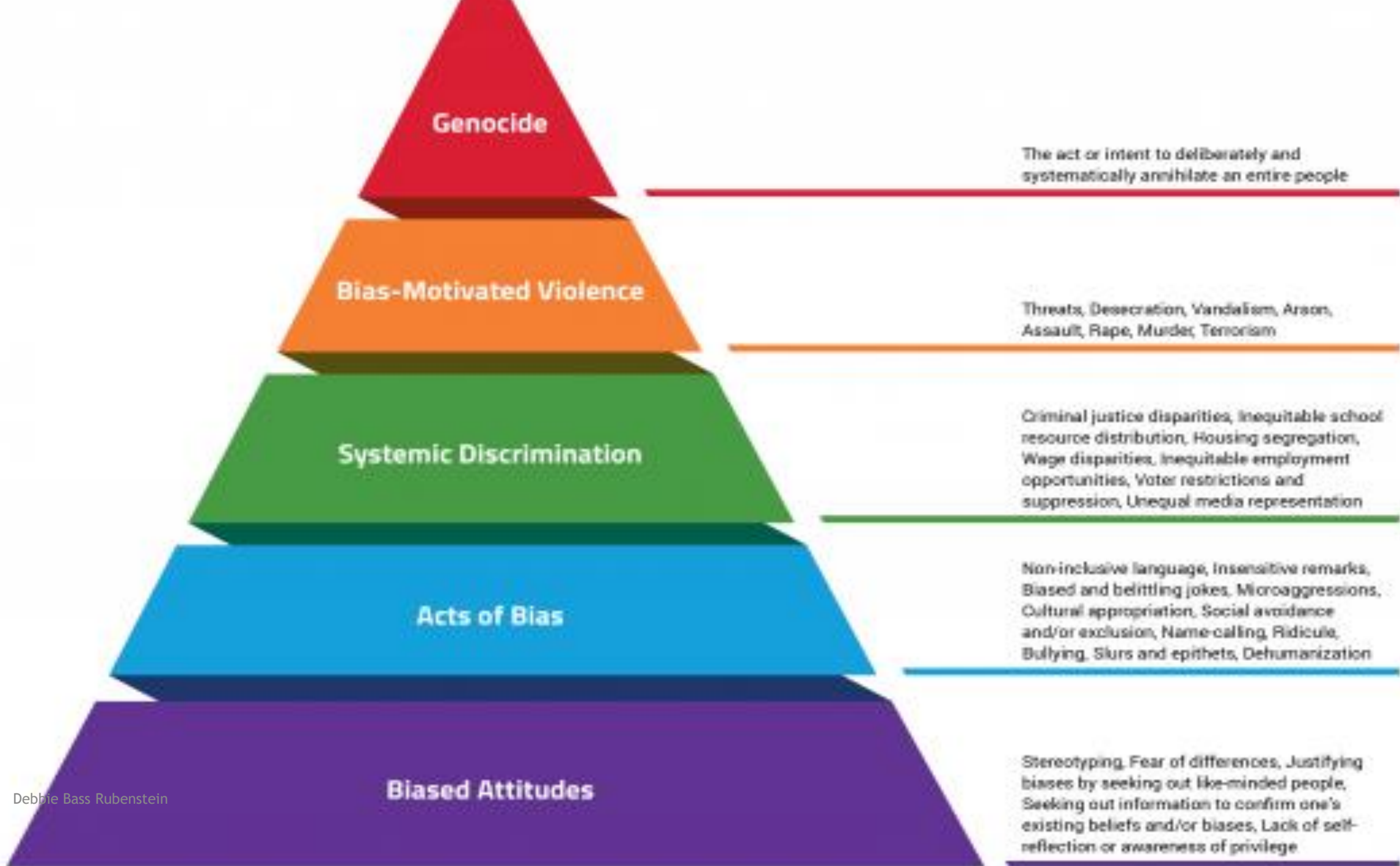
Sweden (01/2020)

United Kingdom (12/2016)

United States (1998)

Uruguay (01/2020)





## Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org)

- ❖ More than 2,717 acts of anti-Semitic incidents (a 34% increase from 2026 in 2020) including:
  - ❖ **assault** (88 incidents, a **167% increase**);
  - ❖ **vandalism** (853 incidents, a **14% increase**); and
  - ❖ **harassment** (1,776 incidents, a **43% increase**).
  - ❖ In 2021, there was an 82% increase in incidents just in Western Pennsylvania (<https://triblive.com/local/regional/anti-defamation-league-82-increase-in-antisemitic-incidents-in-western-pa-in-2021/>)
- ❖ 0 Fatalities due to anti-Semitic violence (largely the result of COVID) unlike:
  - ❖ **2019, when a white supremacist opened fire at the Chabad of Poway, California**, killing one and injuring plus the Rabbi;
  - ❖ **2019 attack on Jersey City Kosher grocery store** where much larger attack was planned;
  - ❖ **2019 attack at home of Rabbi in Monsey New York** with a knife which killed 1 and injured; and
  - ❖ in **2018, 11 were killed and 2 wounded at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburg** which was being used by **three synagogues**.
  - ❖ In **2017, Nazis and White Supremacists threatened Jews in Charlottesville, Virginia** by marching with torches across campus chanting, **“Jew will not replace us”** and men with rifles stood across from a synagogue with rifles and threatened to burn the building down.

# Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org) and [www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/2021-hate-crime-statistics](http://www.justice.gov/crs/highlights/2021-hate-crime-statistics)

That is the anti-Semitic version of what has been happening to Black, Hispanic and Asian people. What has been happening to other minorities includes:

- ❖ In 2015, **9 African-Americans were killed** at the Emmanuel African-American Methodist Episcopal in Charleston, South Carolina; In May, 2022, **10 people were killed in a Black area in a Tops Friendly Grocery store** in Buffalo, New York. The FBI is investigating it as a hate crime.
- ❖ In 2019, **a man targeting Hispanics killed 23 people** in a Walmart in El Paso Texas;
- ❖ In January 2023, **11 people were killed and 9 hospitalized in critical condition at an Asian Lunar New Year celebration in Monterey, California** and **a Georgian man killed 8 people**, 6 of whom were Asian in 2021;
- ❖ In 2012 in Oak Creek, Michigan **a man killed 7 people a Sikh Temple and wounded 3 Others**. In 2021, **4 out of 8 people killed in an Indianapolis Fe Ex Facility were Sikhs**;
- ❖ Most assaults and killings of Muslims happened after the 9/11 attacks on the U. S., in 2020, first 3 then a **4<sup>th</sup> Muslim man were ambushed in Albuquerque**
- ❖ Native American deaths are not discussed. NIOT films show examples. All minorities are under fire.

# Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org)

“ADL’s (the Anti-Defamation League) annual Audit of Antisemitic Incidents, released today, shows alarming levels of antisemitic incidents reported across Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia in 2021. Specifically, **Washington, D.C.** saw a **23 percent increase in the number of antisemitic incidents** reported in 2021, and **Maryland** saw a **17 percent increase**. While **Virginia** saw a **slight, 6 percent decrease in reported antisemitic incidents in 2021**, the total in 2020 was **64 percent higher than the number of incidents recorded in 2019.**”

# Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org)

A total of 484 anti-Semitic incidents were attributed to *right-wing extremist groups or individuals inspired by right-wing extremist ideology, a 52% increase from 2020.*

Out of the 2,717 incidents in the audit, new partnerships identified 494 (Community Security Initiative, Community Security Service, Union of Reform Judaism, and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism)

# Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org)

- ❖ Non-Jewish K-12 schools recorded 331 anti-Semitic incidents, up 106% from 2021, but flat for five-year average
- ❖ Colleges and universities recorded 155 incidents, up 21% from 2020, but flat for five-year average (I believe this is a huge undercount)
- ❖ Synagogues, Jewish community centers, and Jewish schools reported 525 incidents (61% increase, including **413 incidents of harassment**, **101 incidents of vandalism** and **11 incidents of assault**)

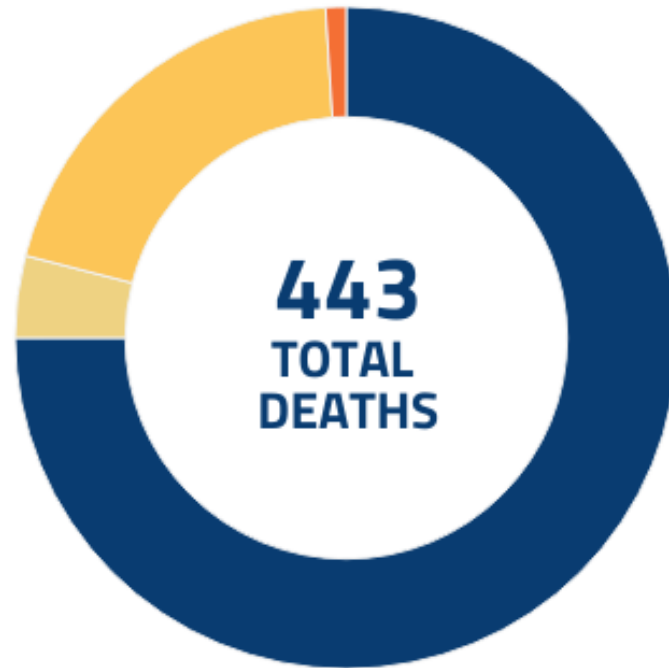
## Increasing Anti-Semitic Incidents Based on 2021 ADL Audit of U.S. (adl.org) and FBI 2022 Risk Assessment

A total of 484 anti-Semitic incidents were attributed to *right-wing extremist groups or individuals inspired by right-wing extremist ideology*, a 52% increase from 2020. White supremacists were responsible for 422.

The FBI has been telling Congress that extremism and domestic violence is the largest problem for the U.S. for several years. In 2022 in its annual risk assessment, the FBI stated that white supremacists continue to pose the greatest threat of "lethal violence against civilians" in the U.S. Some of the newer extremist groups are the Goyim Defense League, Qanon, and the Proud Boys. Qanon and the Proud Boys were instrumental in the attack on the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

# Domestic Extremist Related Murders in the United States by Movement,

## Domestic Extremist-Related Killings in the U.S. by Perpetrator Affiliation, 2012-2021



**Right-wing extremists**  
are responsible for the great majority  
of extremist-related murders  
**over the last decade.**

- Right-Wing Extremism (all movements): 75%
- Left-Wing Extremism (including anarchists & Black nationalists): 4%
- Domestic Islamist Extremism: 20%
- Other/Misc Extremism: 1%

Note: Total deaths include both ideologically and non-ideologically motivated killings.





## Notable Murders by Extremists 2015-2017 (ADL)

- ❖ **December 2017 in Reston, a Virginia white supremacist juvenile was accused of killing his girlfriend's parents because they convinced her to breakup with him due to his white supremacist beliefs**
- ❖ In December 2017 in Aztec, New Mexico a white supremacist disguised himself as a student to shoot at a local high school's students, two of whom he killed before killing himself

## Notable Verbal and Physical Assaults by White Supremacists 2015-2022 (ADL, Cont and The Washington Post)

**Richard Spencer continues to be major leader of white supremacists now and became an active white supremacist while in college**

- ❖ **In August 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups held a “Unite the Right” rally organized by Spencer. It attracted more than 600 extremists. Marchers chanted anti-Semitic and racist mantras and carried torches and weapons.**
- ❖ **A self-identified white supremacist rammed his car into a group of counter protesters, killing Heather Heyer and injuring 19 others. He was arrested, tried and convicted in a Virginia state court of first-degree murder, malicious wounding, and other crimes. He also pleaded guilty to 29 federal hate crimes in a plea agreement to avoid the death penalty.**
- ❖ **Survivors filed suit against many white supremacists. After being awarded \$24 million in punitive damages, a Virginia Judge changed it to the maximum allowed by law, \$350,000. Lawyers are considering an appeal. The original amount would have put multiple white supremacy groups out of business (Wednesday, January 4, 2023, The Washington Post). Marchers included members of the alt-right, neo-Confederates, neo-fascists, white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Klansmen, and far-right militias.**

## Notable Verbal and Physical Assaults by Extremists 2015-2023, ADL and The Washington Post) (Cont)

- ❖ March 2017 in New York City a white supremacist from Maryland reported that he intended to attack African-American men to stop interracial relationships with white women, turning himself into police after fatally stabbing a homeless man.
- ❖ An 11-year-old girl found a swastika at her feet when she walked down her porch steps with five more swastikas on her lawn in Stoneham, Massachusetts including ones that said *Jew Bitch*, *Jesus Hater*, and *Go to Hell*, *Jew Bitch* (The Washington Post, Wednesday, January 4, 2023).
- ❖ According to the ADL, the January 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol in Washington, D.C., “Though the attack was in many ways predictable – extremists were increasingly active and emboldened across the United States in the years before the insurrection – the overt display of political violence and venom was nonetheless shocking. One year later, the ripple effects of that day continue to reverberate in the form of heightened displays of hate and extremism nationwide.”

## Fatalities by White Supremacists and Need for Federal Data According to the Brennan Center For Justice ([brennancenter.org](http://brennancenter.org))

- ❖ The FBI reported that agents assigned to domestic terrorism cases often have “active links” with the white supremacist and anti-government militia groups they investigate
- ❖ Despite the identified problems, the Justice Department has no national strategy designed to identify white supremacist police officers or to protect the safety and civil rights of the communities they patrol

## White Supremacists in the Military (from ADL Testimony)

- ❖ For decades, each time the white supremacist movement has surged, that surge resulted in a similar increase within the armed forces.
- ❖ The U.S. is experiencing a surge today in white supremacy propelled by the rise of the alt right, which has brought many young, newly-radicalized white males into the movement.
- ❖ The increase is aided by the availability and use of social media which allows the spread of hate online. Extremists in the military have planned terrorist acts, engaged in murders and hate crimes, stolen weapons and military equipment, and provided information to other extremists.

# Problems With Federal Government Now

## Dissemination of anti-Semitic Text

- ▶ On August 19, 2020, one of the FBI's twitter accounts, the FBI Records Vault, disseminated a link for the "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion, which is an anti-Semitic forgery created early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Czarist secret police and describes an supposed secret plan of Jewish leaders to control the world. The dissemination of this link caused widespread confusion about the FBI's motives and concern about spreading anti-Semitic text. The apology from the FBI Records Vault later read, "We regret that this release may have inadvertently caused distress among the communities we serve."

# Anti-Semitic Incidents with Potential for Increasing Violence

**Louis Farrakhan, a black minister with the Nation of Islam, has preached anti-Semitism for decades.** On July 4, 2020 he preached 4-hours of anti-Semitic lies and called for listeners to speak out against Jews. While this CANNOT be compared to the assaults and murders by white supremacists, they are a significant problem that could eventually result in attacks if hate continues to build. Celebrities supporting Farrakhan may influence young black people looking for role models.

The following celebrities supported Farrakhan's anti-Semitic lies on Instagram and/or YouTube:

Ye (formerly rapper Kanye West)

Kyle Irving

Sean 'P Diddy' Combs

Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson

Former NBA player Stephen Jackson,

Rapper and actor Nick Cannon

Rapper TI and his wife

Seleena Johnson the R&B singer

Talk-show co-host, former NBA player Allen Iverson,

Rapper and actor Ice-Cube

## ADL Summary of Problems with Federal Data

- ❖ No criminal charges for “domestic terrorism” and it is not a legal category, it is only used to organize cases and investigations
- ❖ In the previous decade, 11 categories were used to classify domestic terrorism cases; now only four categories are in use including racially motivated violent extremism, anti-government and anti-authority extremism, animal rights and environment and abortion extremism
- ❖ With poor categories, the man who hit and killed Heather Heyer in Charlottesville, Virginia (2017) at the “Unite the Right rally, was described as a domestic terrorist but was convicted of hate crimes



# ADL Summary:

## Problems With Existing Federal Data

Between 2009-2018, 73 percent of extremist murders in the U.S. were committed by white supremacist and far-right extremists. But now, black identity extremism is folded into the data. That includes black organizers fighting against racist police operations. Congress has demanded greater transparency.

# The Newest Immense White Supremacist Threats (cont.)

## from The New York Times Morning email

White Supremacist militias are growing bolder and more violent. According to The New York Times:

- ❖ In 2017, a poll asked Americans whether they thought violence could ever be justified for their political party to achieve their goals. Only 8 percent of the respondents said anything other than “never”.
- ❖ In 2020, the same question by the same polling firm asked Americans resulted in a doubling of those who thought violence was ok.

On October 8, 2020, law enforcement charged 13 men from a white supremacist militia with a violent plot to storm the Michigan State Capitol and kidnap the Michigan. In April, President Trump tweeted “Liberate Michigan!” when the Governor tried to control the spread of coronavirus by restricting normal activities as suggested by medical experts at NIH and CDC. He attacked her multiple times for locking things down.

## Action Steps to Fight Anti-Semitism at the Federal Level (Cont.)

([global.ajc.org/take-action/taskforce?ms=wb\\_act\\_20201012\\_TakeAction](https://global.ajc.org/take-action/taskforce?ms=wb_act_20201012_TakeAction))

Write a letter to your Congressperson asking that they join the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Antisemitism. As the letter explains, rising anti-Semitic incidents and rhetoric in the United States and around the globe make it vital for Congress to exert much-needed leadership. This caucus plays a critical role in coordinating congressional efforts, such as legislation and interparliamentary engagement, to combat antisemitism

## Action Steps to Fight Hate at the Federal Level (Cont.)

Write to your Congressperson and Senators to request that the FBI be required to explain the improper use of the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” and explain why it is anti-Semitic. Also write to the Director of the FBI.

Write to your Congressperson and Senators to urge continued pressure on social media to minimize the number of people who self-radicalize.

Write to your Congressperson and Senators to require the Defense Department to take action against white supremacists in the Forces and require regular reporting.

# Summary

To defeat the growth of anti-Semitism, we must be vigilant and respond to all types of anti-Semitism.

We also need to focus on educating children to help them resist the conspiracy theories and hate of adults. Prince William County used to the ADL World of Difference Program for children. Monitoring the use of this program would be helpful for parents. The program for teachers needs to be examined. The County may be using Teaching Tolerance from the Southern Poverty Law Center.