

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

The Center for Jewish History Releases a Statement on Intolerance

New York, NY (December 11, 2015) – The Center for Jewish History preserves and offers access to the original evidence of a thousand years of Jewish experience. Long the targets of intolerance and bigotry, the Jewish people are especially sensitive to prejudice directed against others, and we oppose it without qualification.

The toxic virus of Islamophobia now threatening to infect American politics and society is an offense to Jews. Our history reminds us that we, too, have long been objects of racism and bigotry. We also remember that when we faced annihilation in Europe, we were excluded from entry into the United States solely because of our religious beliefs.

We call upon candidates for public office and our fellow citizens to reject racism and prejudice. We urge them to insist upon those most genuine of American and Jewish values: religious freedom, human equality and inviolable human rights. Doing so will promote both justice and security in this country and overseas. Doing otherwise is an odious rejection of our own most profound commitments as both Americans and as Jews.

Signed,

Joel J. Levy
President and CEO
The Center for Jewish History

Amy Goldman Fowler
Board Chair
The Center for Jewish History

To speak with a spokesperson from the Center for Jewish History, contact Sacha Evans, sevans@douglasgould.com, 646-214-0514, ext. 212

About the Center for Jewish History

The Center for Jewish History in New York City illuminates history, culture, and heritage. The Center provides a collaborative home for five partner organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

The partners' archives comprise the world's largest and most comprehensive archive of the modern Jewish experience outside of Israel. [The collections](#) span a thousand years, with more than five miles of archival documents (in dozens of languages and alphabet systems), more than 500,000 volumes, as well as thousands of artworks, textiles, ritual objects, recordings, films and photographs.