



December 30, 2019

InterFaith Works of Central New York, its Board of Directors and Round Table of Faith Leaders are outraged at the recent violence and hate speech in metropolitan New York City directed at Jews, especially in the time leading up to and during Hanukkah.

The rise of Anti-Semitism in the United States is real, with The Anti-Defamation League reporting a [150 percent increase](#) in recorded incidents in the United States between 2013 and 2018. These recent incidents, now numbering at least eight in less than a month, are evidence of the real need for our community to come together in support of Jews everywhere.

Hatred directed toward people because of their faith is reprehensible. Violence toward any faith is an attack on all faiths and all people. We must stand united against hate and turn toward our American values of liberty and justice for all to create the kind of civil society in which we all deserve to live.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." InterFaith Works stands alongside our Jewish neighbors, synagogues, and institutions, as we stand up against Anti-Semitism and religious violence. We call upon the InterFaith community, faith leaders and concerned citizens to reach out to Jewish community leaders to offer support and friendship.

Our agency will be offering workshops on anti-Semitism in the coming months to build the knowledge, compassion and empathy that is needed to prevent this kind of violence in our community.