

BUFFALO JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Joint Statement from the Buffalo Jewish Community Relations Council and the Buffalo Jewish Federation,
in conjunction with Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County, the Buffalo Council of Synagogue
Presidents, Board of Rabbis & Cantors, Hillel of Buffalo, the Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo,
and the Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo**

Re: Terror Attack in Pittsburgh

Wednesday, October 31, 2018

The Jewish community of Buffalo, NY, is heartbroken by the unprecedented anti-Semitic attack perpetrated on Shabbat morning October 27, 2018.

We mourn the tragic loss of life at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Squirrel Hill, PA, and we thank the first responders who rushed to the scene undeterred by the violence that awaited them. We pray for the healing of the wounds of body and mind sustained by all the victims. Additionally, we thank the Buffalo and Amherst law enforcement agencies throughout the area for swiftly mobilizing to protect our Jewish institutions and remaining vigilant on our behalf. We pray that the American Jewish community and the country can find healing.

As a community, we express our solidarity with our friends at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), who have been working tirelessly to keep our country a place of refuge for innocent people seeking safety from persecution. We honor their century-old mission by seeing this as an assault on all who remain under threat in the USA and around the world. We ardently support and echo our local human services agency and HIAS affiliate, Jewish Family Service of Buffalo & Erie County's (JFS), who proclaim with the words of Elie Wiesel: "All are entitled to live with dignity and respect. All are entitled to live without fear or pain."

JFS supports the most vulnerable in our community, inspired by the same Jewish commitment to justice that motivates HIAS. This vision is rooted in the lessons of Jewish history, which teach us that no group should suffer oppression, intolerance or genocide. It is anchored by our shared powerful belief that all people are created "*b'tselem Elohim*"—in the image of the Creator—and are thus equally deserving of respect and human rights.

We affirm our conviction that hate and intolerance have no place in our world, and that the killing of human beings because of who they are—because of their religion, race, sexual identity, or nationality—is an affront and alarm to all. We resolve in their memory that we will never abandon the struggle to realize our highest ideals.

The Jewish Community Relations Council's mission is inspired by Jewish values and seeks to sustain a more civil and caring community in WNY and around the world. To that end, we see this as a moment of great unification of purpose - to unite our cities, states and nation to tap our outrage to effectuate positive change and safeguards. We vow to partner with our public officials, faith leaders, and good people everywhere to work towards combating anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia. We call upon our neighbors and friends to act with us as we bring the full force of our collective voice to bear on this tragedy.

We hold in our hearts Joyce Fienberg, Richard Gottfried, Rose Mallinger, Jerry Rabinowitz, Cecil Rosenthal, David Rosenthal, Bernice Simon, Sylvan Simon, Daniel Stein, Melvin Wax, and Irving Younger. May their memories be a source of blessing -- and a call to action.



BUFFALO JEWISH FEDERATION
BUFFALO COUNCIL OF SYNAGOGUE PRESIDENTS



**HOLOCAUST RESOURCE
CENTER OF BUFFALO**

**BUFFALO BOARD OF
RABBIS & CANTORS**