

Letters to the Editor: Not in My Name

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April 26, 2018



U.S. President Donald Trump, right, and Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister, stand for photographs outside the White House in Washington, D.C., March 5, 2018. Bloomberg

Not in my name

Prime Minister Netanyahu recently thanked Donald Trump and America for Trump's decision to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. But I am a U.S. citizen and part of America, and like millions upon millions of my fellow Americans, I had nothing to do with this vile and contemptible decision. So please don't thank me, Mr. Netanyahu.

Lawrence Reichard

Belfast, Maine

Fight anti-Semitism and fascism both

As we approached the 75th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (April 19), we noted with alarm the rising tide of racism, anti-immigrant rhetoric and actions, and anti-Semitism worldwide. This terrible growth of exclusionary and bigoted policies, actions and attitudes is contextualized by Donald Trump and like-minded leaders in Russia, Poland and Hungary. It is further fueled by movements and leaders from the National Front in France, similar movements throughout Europe, the so-called alt-right in the U.S., and lower level anti-Semitic leaders such as Louis Farrakhan.

This growth of hate can and must be defeated. The starting point is the understanding that racism, anti-immigrant prejudices and anti-Semitism are all fruits of the same poisonous tree. Across-the-board unity of opposition to all of it is the only path to defeating each. Within the Jewish community this means that any capitulation to or support of overt rhetoric, dog-whistling or policies that promote hate, either by Trump or any other leader or organization propagating bigotry, discrimination or related forms of fascism, regardless of the issue and rationale, is a contribution to the growth of anti-Semitism.

In the progressive movement, this means that anti-Semitism needs to be opposed and denounced just as strongly as racism and anti-Immigrant acts. We are dismayed and disappointed that some of our allies are not sufficiently forthright in denouncing anti-Semitism. Such hesitancy will only serve to weaken the overall movement. Unity against all hateful acts and statements is the only path to progress. This is the path that The Workmen's Circle will continue to pursue.

Peter Pepper, President

Ann Toback, Executive Director

The Workmen's Circle

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