

## 1. Denounce all hate

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Dear Editor:

As we approached the 75th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, 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 his likeminded 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 United States 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 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.

Within the Jewish community, in order to successfully defeat this growth of anti-Semitism, our responsibility is to both denounce all forms of hate, recognizing the inseparable links that unite all hate speech and purveyors of hate; and not to accommodate in any way those that directly promote or give comfort to those who promote hate, regardless to what other issues they might be considered like-minded in regards.

For our friends and allies in the broad progressive movement there needs to be a vigilant commitment to denounce and fight anti-Semitism and to see that opposition to anti-Semitism as a vital and necessary part of the overall fight for justice and equality.

Peter Pepper, President

Ann Toback, Executive Director

The Workmen's Circle

*Manhattan*