



LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANTISEMITISM ACTION PLAN

2025 Australian Mayors Summit
Against Antisemitism



COMBAT
ANTISEMITISM
MOVEMENT

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LOCAL LEADERSHIP, GLOBAL IMPACT



INTRODUCTION

Empowering Australian Local Governments to Combat Antisemitism

Founded six years ago, the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) made a strategic decision to collaborate with mayors and local government leaders to combat antisemitism through rapid and actionable solutions. While national and federal legislative processes can be slow and complex, local councils have the ability to respond quickly and make a tangible impact in their communities.

As the level of government closest to the community, local councils are uniquely placed to foster trust, set the tone for inclusion, and respond quickly when incidents occur. Since October 7, 2023, the alarming rise in antisemitic incidents worldwide has further underscored the critical role of local governments in taking decisive action.

In response, CAM is launching the **Local Government Antisemitism Action Plan** – a best-practice guide designed to inspire and support councils in taking meaningful steps to combat antisemitism. The plan offers practical suggestions and ideas that local governments can adapt to foster inclusive, hate-free communities.

While the plan focuses on antisemitism, many of its recommendations also strengthen broader efforts against racism and hate, helping councils build safer and more welcoming communities for all. Importantly, the plan is designed to be flexible, offering councils of all sizes practical measures they can adapt to their own circumstances and resources.

Rather than monitoring or ranking councils, the **Local Government Antisemitism Action Plan serves as a resource to help municipalities strengthen their communities through improved policies, education initiatives, interfaith dialogue, and strong responses to hate crimes.** CAM stands ready to assist councils in working with local communities to implement approaches that build social cohesion and mutual respect.

At the Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism on the Gold Coast, QLD, we are proud to officially unveil this initiative. It provides a framework for cities to address antisemitism effectively while encouraging mayors to share their successful programs – fostering an exchange of innovative strategies that can be adopted and implemented by other communities.

We invite councils to use this plan as a starting point and to work with us in tailoring approaches that best meet the needs of their local communities. CAM will continue to lead engagement with mayors and municipalities, offering support to develop stronger policies and programs to counter antisemitism in their communities.

We can be reached at: australia@CombatAntisemitism.org



FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

The **Local Government Antisemitism Action Plan** is a voluntary best-practice guide to help councils across Australia take meaningful action against antisemitism and other forms of hatred. It recognises that councils vary widely in size, capacity, and jurisdictional responsibilities, and is designed to provide adaptable initiatives across four key pillars:

1. **Council Policy & Leadership**
2. **Education & Awareness**
3. **Community Engagement**
4. **Safety & Incident Response**

Each section includes practical examples drawn from successful case studies in Australia and internationally, tailored for local government relevance.

The Action Plan offers suggestions and ideas for councils to adapt, rather than prescribing a specific course of action. Councils are encouraged to select and shape the measures that best meet the needs and priorities of their local communities.

COUNCIL POLICY & LEADERSHIP

The Council Policy & Leadership section of the Action Plan provides guidance on how local governments can embed antisemitism awareness and protections into their policies and leadership frameworks. The goal is not to evaluate or monitor councils, but to share positive examples, highlight approaches that have worked elsewhere, and offer support to any municipality wishing to strengthen its response.

Through this collaborative approach, CAM seeks to equip councils with practical tools, connect them with community partners, and encourage the sharing of ideas across municipalities – helping to build safer, more inclusive local communities





1. COUNCIL POLICY & LEADERSHIP

1.1 Recognise the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

Councils may choose to formally acknowledge the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, including its illustrative examples, as part of their anti-racism, diversity, or inclusion frameworks.

1.2 Strengthen Anti-Discrimination Policies

Internal council policies (e.g. harassment, equity, workplace behaviour) can be updated to explicitly recognise antisemitism as a form of racial or religious vilification. Reference may be made to the Racial Discrimination Act 1975 and relevant state-based anti-discrimination laws.

1.3 Support Sensitive Site Protections

Work with communities and state police to ensure that demonstrations or protests near schools and places of worship are managed appropriately, balancing free expression with public safety and community wellbeing.

1.4 Create a Local Advisory Group or Taskforce

Councils may wish to establish a committee including Jewish community leaders, law enforcement, educators, and council staff to guide local responses to antisemitism and broader social cohesion issues.

1.5 Partner with State Police on Public Gatherings

Engage with state police regarding the location and management of protests or public gatherings, with consideration for safety, cultural sensitivities, and the protection of places of worship.

1.6 Promote Inclusive and Balanced Council Motions

Councils are encouraged to ensure that motions and resolutions reflect fairness and inclusivity, avoiding divisive language or actions that may unfairly target particular communities. By focusing on constructive and unifying approaches, councils can help strengthen social cohesion and public trust.





2. EDUCATION & AWARENESS PARTNERSHIPS

Councils can play a powerful role in building awareness, fostering understanding, and celebrating Jewish culture as part of their broader inclusion and diversity commitments. By supporting education and awareness initiatives, councils help reduce prejudice and strengthen social cohesion across the whole community.

Examples of actions councils may consider include:

2.1 Support Holocaust and Jewish History Education

While education policy sits with state governments, councils can:

- Partner with community facilities such as local libraries and cultural centres, alongside institutions such as the Sydney Jewish Museum or the Gandel Holocaust Studies Program, to support local education initiatives.
- Support extracurricular and community-based programs that promote Holocaust remembrance and understanding of Jewish history.
- Encourage schools in the local area to engage with appropriate resources, events, or guest speakers.
- Use council-managed facilities (e.g. libraries, community halls, museums) as venues for Holocaust remembrance activities and Jewish history programming.

2.2 Recognise and Celebrate Jewish Culture

- Host civic commemorations for International Holocaust Remembrance Day (27 January), aligned with the UN-designated day of remembrance.
- Promote awareness of Jewish contributions to Australian society through storytelling events, exhibitions, and public celebrations during Harmony Week, Multicultural Day, or other local community festivals.
- Run creative competitions (e.g. essays, digital storytelling, short films) that encourage reflection on diversity and Jewish heritage.
- Ensure Jewish perspectives are represented in council-led cultural and diversity programs, alongside those of other communities.

2.3 Public Awareness Campaigns

- Support or co-host local awareness campaigns that highlight the impact of antisemitism, using digital, print, and in-person platforms to engage residents, schools, and businesses.
- Use campaigns to celebrate diversity and highlight the contributions of Jewish Australians to civic and cultural life.



3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3.1 Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue

- Host or support interfaith and intercultural forums, ensuring Jewish organisations are included in planning and delivery.
- Encourage interfaith community events—such as food and music festivals—that foster connection through shared values and mutual respect.

3.2 Inclusive Civic Events

- Ensure Jewish voices and perspectives are represented in council-organised events, ANZAC commemorations, and national celebrations.
- Invite Jewish leaders to participate in local government awards, community forums, and local education initiatives.

3.3 Sister City and Cultural Exchange Partnerships

Explore sister city or cultural exchange relationships with international cities—including in Israel—that promote shared values such as inclusion, innovation, and democracy. These partnerships can foster mutual understanding and strengthen Australia's multicultural identity.

4. SAFETY & INCIDENT RESPONSE

4.1 Protection of Jewish Institutions

Partner with state police and the Community Security Group (CSG) to assess and improve safety around synagogues, Jewish schools, and other community facilities. Councils can consider upgrades to lighting, surveillance, or access control infrastructure where needed.

4.2 Promote Public Reporting Tools

Rather than creating new council-managed platforms, promote existing antisemitism and hate incident reporting tools such as:

- Call It Out (Vic)
- ECAJ national reporting mechanisms
- CSG community portals

These tools are already in use, accessible, and more sustainable for councils to support.



4.3 Staff Training and Cultural Competency

- Provide annual antisemitism awareness and cultural competency training for council staff, rangers, and local enforcement officers.
- Partner with Jewish and multicultural organisations to co-design training that is practical and relevant to local government service delivery.

4.4 Data Collection and Transparency

- Where legally appropriate, collect and share anonymised data on antisemitic incidents to inform policy and community responses (graffiti, stickers and hate speech)
- Include antisemitism-related reporting in annual diversity, inclusion, or safety reports.

4.5 Victim Support and Community Reassurance

After any antisemitic incident, provide clear public statements, visible support for affected communities, and liaison through a designated council contact. Consider working with community leaders to co-host events or meetings that reinforce council values and rebuild trust.

Where relevant, councils should extend these practices to other forms of hate or vilification—ensuring all affected residents receive appropriate support and recognition.



Scan the QR code to access more information about Combat Antisemitism Movement.



Example of already implemented plans



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The Local Government Antisemitism Action Plan is a voluntary resource designed to support councils in strengthening inclusion, reducing antisemitism, and promoting community cohesion. It provides examples and suggestions that councils may consider and adapt to their local needs. The plan is not a legal standard or regulatory requirement.