



**Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating
Antisemitism (MSCCA) Selected Recommendations
Overview for Municipal Leaders**

#

STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE

Background on the Commission

In November 2025, the [Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism \(MSCCA\)](#) released its [Final Report](#) following more than a year of public hearings, expert testimony, and deliberation. The Report's recommendations, endorsed by the Governor, the legislature, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and other state institutions, offer a roadmap for addressing antisemitism in various sectors including for local officials in responding to rising antisemitism across the Commonwealth.

[The full report can be accessed here.](#)

This document highlights a subsection of recommendations most relevant to cities and towns, including elected officials and town officials. While some of the recommendations are specific to addressing antisemitism, many can be applied more broadly to address bias of any form and promote more inclusive communities for all. Outlined below are steps to implement the recommendations.

Please note: The recommendations highlighted below are only a small selection of those made to municipal leaders in the full report. We encourage you to review the full [Public Safety and Law Enforcement section](#) of the report.



Key recommendations for municipal leaders

Bold text indicated direct language from the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism Report.

1

Public officials should clearly and specifically name, condemn, and respond to antisemitism, including when conduct is lawful but harmful, and ensure appropriate support.

Antisemitism often manifests locally through harassment at public meetings, threats, vandalism, and online intimidation. While not all antisemitic conduct is criminal, the Commission makes clear that failure to name and respond to antisemitism can normalize harm and leave those affected feeling isolated or dismissed. Local leadership matters most in moments of uncertainty. Clear public communication, specificity about the nature of the harm, and attention to the needs of those impacted all help reinforce community standards and maintain trust.

2

Local law enforcement agencies should be trained on antisemitism, hate crimes, and trauma-informed response, and should accurately and consistently report hate crimes through state and federal reporting systems to address underreporting and data gaps.

The Commission finds that antisemitic incidents and hate crimes are frequently underreported and, in some cases, misclassified due to lack of training. Training equips officers to recognize bias motivation, distinguish between incidents and crimes, and respond in ways that prioritize victim support and trust. Consistent reporting by municipal police departments is essential to understanding the scope of antisemitism statewide. State data systems rely on local participation. When reporting is inconsistent, patterns are missed and resources cannot be effectively targeted.

3

Municipalities should coordinate with community and faith-based organizations to strengthen preparedness, trust, and response to antisemitic incidents and to strengthen cross-communal understanding.

The Commission emphasizes that relationships built before an incident are more effective than those formed in crisis. Municipalities are well positioned to convene, coordinate, and sustain relationships with trusted community partners, including faith-based and cultural organizations. These partnerships support early communication, shared expectations, and more effective response when incidents occur. They also help foster greater understanding, collaboration, allyship and community cohesion as well.

4

Municipalities should support the safety and security of vulnerable nonprofit and faith-based institutions, including through coordination with law enforcement and awareness of available security resources.

Antisemitism often targets institutions as well as individuals. Houses of worship, community centers, and nonprofit facilities face heightened risk and often limited capacity to manage security concerns alone. While security resources are often administered at the state or federal level, municipalities play a critical role in coordination, preparedness, and local response. Clear points of contact, relationships with local police, and proactive planning all reduce risk.

5

Public employers should be encouraged to recognize and celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), observed nationally each May, as part of their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Promoting awareness of JAHM aligns with broader efforts to build inclusive workplaces, and communities, educate employees and community members about Jewish history and culture, and combat antisemitism through understanding and visibility. Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month also publicly sends a message that combating antisemitism is not just a compliance issue, but also a matter of shared civic responsibility.



A note to municipal leaders

The Commission's work reflects a clear message. Antisemitism must be taken seriously, addressed specifically, and confronted consistently across sectors. Local leadership is where these principles are most visible and most tested. They need clarity, consistency, and relationships built on trust. When local leaders do these things well, they help ensure that Jewish residents, and all residents, can participate fully and safely in civic life.

Please reach out to CJP's Center for Combating Antisemitism at cca-info@cjp.org for questions and/or partnership opportunities to implement the recommendations.



