

Written Testimony of Debra Cooper – June 24, 2025 Hearing of the Subcommittee of the Committee of the Judiciary on the Rising Threat: America's Battle Against Antisemitic Terror

I am the head of digital strategy and a lead researcher and writer at two grassroots organizations that advocate for Jewish and Israeli civil rights through targeted letter-writing campaigns. My primary focus is on education, as it relates to groups with links to terrorism. I also work directly with students, teachers, and other victims of antisemitism, as well as with affected community members.

America is in crisis - experiencing levels of Jew hatred not seen since the Holocaust, as well as other religious hate and extreme anti-America, anti-Israel, and generally, hate of the West. This has morphed into what has become normalized dangerous open support and praise for violence and terrorism and the outright rejection of our laws, tolerance, decency and democratic values.

October 7 offered plausible deniability for the explosion of open Jew hatred in America. It has been brewing for decades but has now escalated to a dangerous unprecedented level due to the prior administration's failure to take meaningful action - despite the clear threats and signs of imminent escalation and danger.

Hamas offshoots CAIR, AMP, PYM and NSJP and other dangerous groups have been allowed to operate freely in our country with demonstrations spearheaded by these groups promoting hatred, terrorism, violence, and death to Jews and America - without any consequences.

CAIR has been infiltrating our educational institutions for at least 20 years, poisoning the minds of our young people, our most vulnerable population - with false narratives demonizing Jews, Israelis and the State of Israel – narratives no honest educator actually believes.

Insidious Jew hating teachers, professors and educational unions have taken over our schools, silencing Jewish voices through intimidation, harassment, and covert means and manipulation.

Without challenge or investigation by our government, our educational institutions allowed antisemitism in violation of Title VI to flourish under the pretext of academic freedom. University administrators used the guise of intellectual inquiry and the balancing of interests, to allow Jew hatred to pose as legitimate academic discourse.

The law and policies were only an abstract thought.

And our government, those ultimately responsible for the safety and security of our nation including protecting our civil rights, did absolutely nothing in response to school administrators' repeated failures to enforce the law and school policies, even as events escalated.

Absolutely no accountability.

We have created a culture of Jew hatred, the normalization of Jew-baiting, the constant hateful rhetoric directed at the Jewish people where they become demonized and dehumanized. This is precisely what the Nazis did during the Holocaust, to foster a climate of indifference against the Jews that permitted the murder of 6 million Jews.

And now, unsurprisingly, 20 months later and probably for even longer, emboldened by inaction and a lack of meaningful consequences, America and Americans of all backgrounds are being terrorized by our young people - who reject and hate everything we value in America.

What has become clear from these demonstrations is that “pro-Palestinian” advocacy uses code words such as “anti-Israel” “workers’ rights” “freedom of expression” and “anti-America” rhetoric - which are all a pretext for Jew hatred and the destruction of Western civilization.

What has also become clear is that the “Free Palestine” movement is not a grassroots or spontaneous movement or even in response to the Hamas-Israel war. Instead, their movement is well-organized, complete with toolkits, and professional signage, statements and press releases, even encampment tents - and with clear outside funding.

The prior administration allowed brazen dangerous hatred to flourish in our country – unabated. And each failure, at every level, our young people were emboldened to escalate further.

And now we are now seeing the dangerous real time consequences, both in our colleges and on our streets.

The recent Los Angeles protests and the murders of a young couple outside the Jewish Museum in Washington DC and the Denver Colorado attack with a makeshift Molotov cocktail which set several Americans on fire are just the start of this escalating trend.

I’m optimistic that meaningful consequences and change are now starting to happen.