Modern Day Examples of Antisemitism

“Antisemitism fosters bigotry and sows fear through hate speech, violence, stereotypes, or retaliation against Jews for the actions of the Israeli government.”
What happened: A group of six men approached a 21-year-old Hasidic man dressed in traditional Jewish clothing, in the Williamsburg neighborhood of Brooklyn. Without any prior interaction, they started attacking him, punching him, and kicking him.

Why this is antisemitic: This attack occurred without provocation and was based only on the man’s appearance. This attack was part of a 300% rise in antisemitic crimes in New York that started after the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2021.

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Spreading hate speech about Jews is antisemitic.

What happened: Fliers with hateful messages about Jews were anonymously distributed in weighted plastic bags thrown onto front lawns throughout the town of Brigantine, NJ.

Why this is antisemitic: Spreading hate speech about Jews is antisemitic. It perpetuates existing antisemitic beliefs, fosters bigotry in people who may not have already held such beliefs, and creates a climate where Jews feel unsafe in their communities.
She directed hate speech and threatened violence toward children because they were Jewish.

What happened: An 18-year-old boy was walking home from school when he was approached by another teenage boy. The assailant saw the victim wearing traditional Jewish clothing, approached him and demanded that he say, “Free Palestine.” He punched him in the face when the boy refused.

Why this is antisemitic: The assailant retaliated with violence against a Jewish person in Brooklyn for the policies of the Israeli government. The victim’s physical safety was compromised simply because he was visibly Jewish.

21-Year-Old Woman Spat on 8-Year-Old Boy Outside of Synagogue

What happened: A 21-year-old woman was walking by a synagogue where there were three children (ages 2, 7, and 8) playing outside. The woman directed hateful comments to them, including, “Hitler should have killed them all.” When she started to walk away, in defense, the 8-year-old boy replied. After he did this, she turned back around, walked back to the children, and spat on him saying she would, “make sure we’ll get you all.”

Why this is antisemitic: The woman stated her support for the killing of Jews and for Hitler himself. She directed hate speech and threatened violence toward children only because they are Jewish.

Jewish Teen Punched for Not Saying ‘Free Palestine’

What happened: An 18-year-old boy was walking home from school when he was approached by another teenage boy. The assailant saw the victim wearing traditional Jewish clothing, approached him and demanded that he say, “Free Palestine.” He punched him in the face when the boy refused.

Why this is antisemitic: The assailant retaliated with violence against a Jewish person in Brooklyn for the policies of the Israeli government. The victim’s physical safety was compromised simply because he was visibly Jewish.

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MODERN DAY EXAMPLES OF ANTISEMITISM

Johns Hopkins TA Posts Antisemitic Tweets

**What happened:** Two tweets from a Johns Hopkins University teaching assistant and graduate student, Rasha Anayah, read: “Ethical dilemma: if you have to grade a Zionist students exam, do you still give them all their points even though they support your ethnic cleansing? like idk” And: “Didn’t get pinned with an israeli or some bitch white boy to have to share my knowledge with. We had an undergrad in lab who had been on birthright and had one of the street signs to tel aviv on her laptop. it stabbed me every time she opened it. if i had been paired to one of them or one of these conceited white boys i would have lost it.”

**Why this is antisemitic:**
In both tweets, the teaching assistant:
- Holds Jews collectively, and her student specifically, responsible for policies and actions of the State of Israel
- Accuses the Israeli government of ethnic cleansing, a policy of the Nazi regime
- Uses negative language to describe Jewish students.

Torah Scroll Desecrated at a Vandalized GWU Frat House

**What happened:** A fraternity house at George Washington University was vandalized after Shabbat (a weekly religious observance in the Jewish faith), including the destruction of a Torah Scroll and other religious sacred objects, all while the Bible in the house remained unharmed.

**Why this is antisemitic:** Only the predominantly Jewish fraternity was vandalized and only Jewish religious texts were violated. It is antisemitic to vandalize Jewish religious texts just as it is a form of hatred to violate other religious symbols and documents.
What happened: At least 30 Jewish students with mezuzahs (Jewish religious talismans) on their doorways at Emory University in Georgia found letters of eviction on their front doors. These fliers were placed by a Palestinian activist group called Students for Justice in Palestine. The so-called ‘eviction notices’ warned the students to leave the premises and ended with the statement, “This is intended to draw attention to the reality that Palestinians confront on a regular basis.”

Why this is antisemitic: The Palestinian student group left these notices at the doors of only Jewish students in America in retaliation for the actions of the Israeli government.

A swastika and “Heil Hitler” were scratched into a bathroom door at a high school. Using Nazi symbols and language perpetuates the deadly ideology that created the Holocaust and sends the message that Jewish members of the community are not safe.