



**Testimony in OPPOSITION to *House Joint Resolution 8 –  
Condemning Islamophobia, Anti-Palestinian Hate, and Antisemitism*  
Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
March 4, 2024**

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations, schools, and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work throughout the region to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the Jewish community and all Marylanders.

The JCRC is strongly opposed to House Joint Resolution 8 – *Condemning Islamophobia, Anti-Palestinian Hate, and Antisemitism*. Since our agency's inception in 1938, we have worked tirelessly to promote tolerance, inclusivity, and understanding through our coalition building, educational programming, and extensive interfaith outreach. We realize that when one marginalized group is under attack, all marginalized groups are under attack. We cannot support Resolution 8 which fails to include and condemn Anti-Israel hate, particularly at this moment in time when antisemitism is at an all-time high. The vast majority of Jews consider Israel to be a part of their identity. Thus, to draft a resolution which ignores this reality is tone-deaf, harmful, and dehumanizing.

The complexity of what it means to be Jewish is erased if antisemitism is condemned but anti-Israel hate is not. If the Resolution includes Palestinian hatred, it cannot exclude Israel hatred. In the months following the October 7<sup>th</sup> massacre in Israel, antisemitism exploded across the nation and here in Maryland. Our Judaism will not be separated from Israel. Bifurcating the two erases a core part of our identity, and if they could be separated, antisemitism would not have spiked after 10/7. It is precisely because so many previous efforts to address antisemitism omitted this core aspect of Jew-hatred, that they failed or were insufficient.

The language of this Resolution does NOT combat antisemitism; instead, it will exacerbate and inflame both anti-Jewish AND anti-Israel hate, as the two are inextricably linked. The delegitimization of Israel feeds into antisemitic tropes and ignores the Jewish connection to self-determination in our ancestral homeland. This Resolution is ill-conceived and will not assuage the pain and suffering both Muslims and Jews are experiencing during the current conflict. For these reasons, we oppose House Joint Resolution 8.