



**Holocaust, Genocide,
and Human Rights Project**
at Monroe Community College

Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project Joins Scholars, Educators in Response to Surge in Hate Crimes

Local scholars join worldwide effort calling for condemnation of intolerance and hate speech

BRIGHTON, NY – Dec. 21, 2016 – In response to the rise of groups that promote intolerance and hate speech, leaders of the [Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project](#) (HGHRP) at Monroe Community College join fellow Holocaust institutions, scholars and educators from around the world in calling on lawmakers to condemn white nationalist groups and asking citizens to be vigilant.

Led by MCC faculty and supported by community philanthropists and scholars, the HGHRP is a unique student organization that tells the stories of the Holocaust and other genocides while transforming individuals to become advocates for human rights. The HGHRP is a member of the [Association of Holocaust Organizations](#).

The statement is as follows:

Recent months have seen a surge in unabashed racism and hate speech – including blatant antisemitism and attacks on Hispanics, Muslims, African-Americans, women, the LGBTQ community, as well as other targeted groups. Journalists have been threatened. Places of worship, schools and playgrounds have been defaced with Nazi symbols intended to intimidate and arouse fear. White supremacist groups have become self-congratulatory and emboldened.

As Holocaust scholars, educators and institutions, we are alarmed by these trends. History teaches us that intolerance, unchecked, leads to persecution and violence. We denounce racism and the politics of fear that fuels it. We stand in solidarity with all vulnerable groups. We take Elie Wiesel's words to heart: "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation."

Therefore, we call upon all elected officials as well as all civic and religious leaders to forcefully and explicitly condemn the rise in hate speech and any attacks on our democratic principles. We call upon all media and social media platforms to refuse to provide a stage for hate groups and thus normalize their agenda. And we call upon all people of good conscience to be vigilant, to not be afraid, and to speak out.

This statement is co-authored by members of the Association of Holocaust Organizations, a network dedicated to the advancement of Holocaust education, remembrance and research, and is affirmed by the following institutions and individuals:

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