



## CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS of Major American Jewish Organizations

### Conference of Presidents Solidarity Statement in Honor of Jewish American Heritage Month

New York, NY, May 13th, 2020 . . . "In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the member organizations of the Conference of Presidents join together to honor Jewish American Heritage Month, recommitting ourselves to shared principles and values," said Arthur Stark, Chairman, William Daroff, CEO, and Malcolm Hoenlein, Vice Chair, of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "While facing the current crisis we also celebrate the blessings bestowed on us and the rights and privileges that we enjoy as citizens of this great country. The American Jewish community notes with pride and satisfaction the manifold contributions its members have made to this great democracy since its founding. This message of solidarity during these difficult times underscores the importance of our unity and is an important expression of our determination to stand together as we overcome the daunting challenges of the day. We salute as well the special relationship between the United States and Israel and their shared values, aspirations and interests that bind the peoples of both countries."

The following is the statement and the signatory organizations:

"The United States honors the important contributions that American Jews have made to this country by observing Jewish American Heritage Month each May. Since the arrival of a small group of Jewish refugees fleeing the Inquisition in 1654, we have cherished America as a land of tolerance and opportunity where we could live free of persecution. As we worked and thrived in our adopted country, our community played a key role in the story of America, achieving success in every facet of American life and



contributing significantly to building and strengthening our country. We know that Jewish contributions to enhancing America will only grow in the years ahead.

This year, while we celebrate, our community faces the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19 as well as the resurgence of virulent antisemitism. These diseases, one of the body and one of the spirit, threaten the quality of Jewish life in America. During times of distress in our long history, we have survived and flourished when we act in unity focused on the shared commitments that bind us together as one people: our faith, our country, and our support for Israel.

In keeping with that tradition, we commit ourselves, our organizations, and our community to working together with all of our fellow Americans, based on our shared commitment to democracy and our devotion to our country's prosperity, to sustain each other in these troubled times as we banish bigotry from our midst. We look to the words of our first president, George Washington, who wrote, 'May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid.' We pray that this day comes swiftly and pledge to work together and in coalition with other segments of the American people to assure a brighter future for our children. Together, we raise our voices and our prayers in honor of America."

Member Organization Signatories:

Alpha Epsilon Pi

Ameinu

American Friends of Likud

America-Israel Friendship League

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

American Jewish Committee

American Jewish Congress



American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

American Sephardi Federation

American Zionist Movement

Americans for Peace Now

AMIT

Anti-Defamation League

ARZA

B'nai B'rith International

Bnai Zion

CAMERA

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Development Corporation for Israel/State of Israel Bonds

Emunah of America

Friends of the Israel Defense Forces

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Hadassah, Women's Zionist Organization of America

HIAS

Hillel International

JCC Association of North America

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Jewish Federations of North America

Jewish Institute for National Security of America



Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish National Fund

Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

Jewish Women International

Mercaz USA, Zionist Organization of the Conservative Movement

NA'AMAT USA

NCSEJ: National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of Young Israel

ORT America, Inc.

Rabbinical Assembly

Rabbinical Council of America

Religious Zionists of America

UJA-Federation of New York

Union for Reform Judaism

Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

WIZO

Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Women of Reform Judaism

World ORT USA

World Zionist Executive USA



Zionist Organization of America