



## **Belmont Human Rights Commission Statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day**

On January 27th, the world marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day to pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust. The date marks the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau by Soviet troops on January 27th of 1945. The day was officially proclaimed as the International Holocaust Remembrance Day by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. The Belmont Human Rights Commission joins the nation and the world in remembering the 6 million Jews, as well as the Roma and Sinti, Slavs, people with disabilities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and many others who were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators during the Holocaust. In memorializing the events of the Holocaust, there is a recognition that the targeted mass torture and murder of individuals that once occurred must never be allowed to be realized again. Education, especially of our young people, regarding the causes, consequences, and dynamics involved, could help prevent future tragedies.

In January 26th of 2007 the United Nations adopted the Resolution [61/255](#) on Holocaust denial. In it they describe that “to deny the Holocaust which, by ignoring the historical fact of those terrible events, increase the risk they will be repeated.” There has been a recent increase in anti-Semitic discourse and violence at the national level that is very concerning. Locally, we have also experienced incidents of anti-Semitic graffiti in schools. The Belmont Human Rights Commission stands with all members of our community who have been affected by racist and anti-Semitic hate. We also condemn any form of hate-driven discourse and violence. We must do more as a community to stand together and demand increased accountability for such incidents so that history is not repeated.

For more resources regarding Holocaust Remembrance Day and Anti-Semitism, community members could review the following resources: The [Southern Poverty Law Center \(SPLC\)](#), The [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), the [Anti-Defamation League](#), and the [Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum](#).

The Belmont Human Rights Commission is dedicated to fighting discrimination in all forms and increasing visibility and awareness of issues regarding diversity and discrimination in our community. If you have experienced discrimination in Belmont, please contact us at [belmont.hrc@gmail.com](mailto:belmont.hrc@gmail.com) or call 617-993-2795.

