



A Partnership for Community Relations and Jewish Advocacy

Black/Jewish Policy
Adopted: March 23, 2022

The relationship between the Jewish community and the non-Jewish Black community has ebbed and flowed over many decades in America. Locally, the JCRC/AJC has been engaged in advancing the relationship for many years, although its work took on greater focus in 2018 with the creation of the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity, of which the JCRC/AJC is a partner and central driver. Since then, there has been steady and extensive involvement in a variety of effective initiatives and programming.

The fundamental premise of this work is the acknowledgment that Jews and African Americans continue to be prime targets of racial, ethnic and ancestral bias. According to the FBI's *Hate Crime Statistics 2020*, Anti-Black or African American hate crimes continued to be the largest bias incident victim category with a 32 percent increase from the previous year. The crimes targeting Jews comprised more than half, 54.9 percent to be exact, of all religious bias crimes during the same period. Thus the two communities must come together in strength and fellowship. We often quote Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he said that Jews and Blacks “may have all come in different ships, but we’re all in the same boat now.”

Additionally, we recognize the overlapping of the communities, particularly those targeted and discriminated against for being both Black and Jewish.

With this guiding principle, we require that all initiatives must serve one or more of the policy values set forth in the 4-part objectives of the Coalition Mission Statement:

1. Promoting solidarity between the Black community and the Jewish community in all their diversity.
2. Speaking out and opposing racism, antisemitism and other forms for ethnic-based hatred.
3. Identifying and implementing educational and social action advocacy initiatives that serve the cause of fighting racism, antisemitism, and ethnic-based hatred.
4. Developing programming aimed at younger community members in order to identify and cultivate future leaders of the organization.

These policy values, which are regularly reviewed and applied by the JCRC/AJC and the Coalition for Black and Jewish Unity's partner organizations, have proven to be effective tools in assuring that our everyday work is driven by unambiguous and workable ideals.