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Week 45: Antisemitism

WEEK 45 Nov. 5 TO NOV. 11 **ANTISEMITISM**

COVID lockdowns increased online antisemitism and attacks on property.

Major violent incidents of antisemitism worldwide rose from 78 in 1989 to 456 in 2019.

FIGHT ANTISEMITISM!

82% of American Jews believe there has been an increase of antisemitism in the past 5 years.

Sources: FBI, Kantor Center, AJC

<http://kuminow.com/Antisemitism>

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Dear Kumi Now supporter,

Daylight saving time change notice! The United States and Canada are changing their clocks back this weekend. *That means that this week the Kumi Now gathering will be an hour earlier in the Canada and the United States this week than they were last week. Basically, the gatherings are back to their usual times in those countries. The new times are listed in the green box below.*

On with the newsletter...

On Tuesday **Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway** from **Al-Quds University**, spoke about anti-muslim and anti-Islamic discrimination around the world. The replay of the session is now available on [YouTube](#) and on [our website](#). The website includes the advocacy instructions and links shared during the gathering.

We would love it if you could share the session with your community. You could use language such as:

Last week we learned about anti-muslim and anti-Islamic discrimination around the world. Our guest was Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway from Al-Quds University. Learn more in the latest Kumi Now online gathering. <https://youtu.be/jXIKeeSEsTA>



November 9 is **International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism across Europe**. It is run by **UNITED for Intercultural Action**. Why November 9th? November 9, 1938 was the 'Kristallnacht' pogrom, the first step in the Nazis' attempted extermination of the Jewish people. You can read more about the date [here](#). And more about the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism across Europe [here](#).

Next Online Gathering

WEEK 45	ANTISEMITISM
	KUMI NOW ONLINE
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9 6PM (UTC+3)	featuring Fr. David M. Neuhaus SJ of the Pontifical Biblical Institute

November 9: Week 45 - Antisemitism Discrimination

[Full information on the gathering is here.](#)

Across Europe, November 9 is the International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism. As a nonviolent movement dedicated to achieving peace for all people in Palestine, it is critical that the Kumi Now community understands and fights all forms of hate, including antisemitism. As we work for justice for Palestine, let us also remember and renew our call for the elimination of antisemitism in all its forms.

Our guest will be **Fr. David M. Neuhaus SJ** of the **Pontifical Biblical Institute**.

Time: Tuesday, November 9, at 6:00pm East Jerusalem, Palestine time (UTC+2) That's...

- Pacific (Seattle/Vancouver): 8am
- Central (Chicago): 10am
- Eastern (New York/Toronto): 11am
- Atlantic: 12pm
- Newfoundland: 12:30pm
- Greenwich (London): 4pm
- Central Europe (Paris/Stockholm): 5pm
- South Africa: 6pm
- Manila: 12am
- Sydney: 3am (+1 Day)
- Auckland: 5am (+1 Day)

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/94679502800> (There might be a quick registration form, and please set an alarm for yourself for Tuesday.)

Remember, if you'd like to receive a reminder about the gathering an hour before it begins, please use the [registration form at the bottom of the page](#).

This Week's Kumi Now Entry

Please note: To match the dates in the book, we will now be posting a new entry each Friday, and this newsletter should go out each Friday or Saturday.

Sharing and publicizing: The graphics in this newsletter are designed to be the perfect size and shape to share to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. So each week you can help the cause simply by sharing these images online. It's one more option you have to help.

Kumi Week #45: Antisemitism

Week 45 of Kumi Now is now available [on the website](#). To understand the genesis of Zionism, the State of Israel, and the subsequent Palestinian Nakba, it is crucial to understand modern antisemitism. However, antisemitism is not solely a modern invention. Antisemitism, a word that only emerged in the 19th century but has come to describe a much longer history of oppression, has taken on many different forms throughout history, including religious, socio-cultural, economic, and political antisemitism.

Please read the essay on this topic along with the poem by Amanda Hawkins and "Reflection on Antisemitism" by Rev. Naim Ateek. And here are some facts for you:

WEEK
45

NOV. 5
TO
NOV. 11

ANTISEMITISM

Just the facts...

Major violent incidents of antisemitism worldwide rose from 78 in 1989 to 456 in 2019.

In 2020, lockdowns reduced encounters between Jews and antisemites, reducing violent incidents from 456 to 371.

But COVID lockdowns increased online antisemitism and attacks on property.

Some vaccine opponents compared the pandemic to the Holocaust, and themselves to persecuted Jews.

This included blaming the Jews and Israelis for developing and spreading the coronavirus.

The number of desecrations of graveyards, Holocaust memorials, and other Jewish monuments rose from 77 in 2019 to 96 in 2020.

And the number of vandalized synagogues increased from 53 to 63.

In the US a gradual rise in violent incidents has been observed for several years, reaching 119 in 2020, despite the lockdown.

Jews are the target of 58% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the US.

In the US, 200 cases of antisemitic Zoom bombing were reported in 2020.

82% of American Jews believe there has been a moderate or serious increase of antisemitism in the past 5 years.

Sources: FBI, Kantor Center, AJC

<http://kuminow.com/Antisemitism>

Understanding Antisemitism. Just the facts...

- Major violent incidents of antisemitism worldwide rose from 78 in 1989 to 456 in 2019.
- In 2020, lockdowns reduced encounters between Jews and antisemites, reducing the number of violent incidents from 456 to 371.
- But COVID and the lockdown increased online antisemitism and antisemitic attacks on property.
- Due to policing on social media, the number of antisemitic manifestations on the open networks declined, while activities on the darknet intensified.
- This included blaming the Jews and Israelis for developing and spreading the coronavirus.
- Some vaccine opponents, both in Israel and abroad, compared the pandemic to the period of the Holocaust, and themselves to the persecuted Jews.
- The number of desecrations of graveyards, Holocaust memorials, and other Jewish monuments rose from 77 in 2019 to 96 in 2020.
- And the number of vandalized synagogues increased from 53 to 63.
- In the US, 200 cases of antisemitic Zoom bombing were reported in 2020.
- In the US a gradual rise in violent incidents has been observed for several years, reaching 119 in 2020, despite the lockdown.
- Jews are the target of 58% of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the US.
- 82% of American Jews believe there has been a moderate or serious increase of antisemitism in the past 5 years.

Source

- [“FBI reports drop in 2020 antisemitic crimes, amid rise in total hate crimes”](#) from the **Times of Israel**
- [“Antisemitism Worldwide 2020”](#) from the **Kantor Center**
- [“The State of Antisemitism in America 2020”](#) from the **American Jewish Committee**

Learning More

We suggest you read [“Five Principles for Dismantling Antisemitism: A Progressive Jewish Response to the Jerusalem Declaration”](#) from **Jewish Voice for Peace**. You can watch the video [“Is Criticizing Israel Antisemitic? | Antisemitism, Explained”](#) from **Unpacked**. To dig deeper on the Jerusalem Declaration and the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism you could watch the follow roundtable discussions:

- [“The Politics of Defining: A Roundtable Discussion about the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism”](#) from the **Harvard Divinity School**
- [“Implications and Impacts of the IHRA Definition on Palestinians”](#) from **Foundation for Middle East Peace**

To go deeper, we will be developing an extensive list of [Additional Resources](#) at the bottom of this week’s entry as well as a [YouTube playlist](#) on the subject.

Once you understand the situation you'll want to get involved. Here's the Kumi Action for this week:

Kumi Action

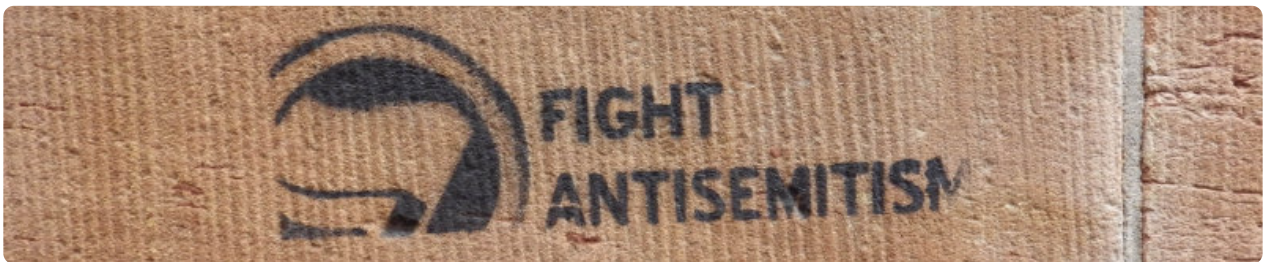


Photo by Felton Davis used under [CC license](#).

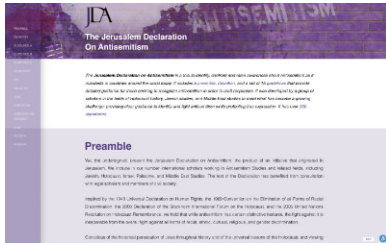
Opposing antisemitism needs to be a worldwide action, so start at home. Do you know where the closest synagogue or Jewish center is to your home? Have you been there? Or, conversely, have you ever brought a non-Jewish friend to your synagogue or Jewish center?

- Make it a point this week to reach out and make these connections:
- Visit a synagogue (or invite a visitor).
- Attend a class, prayer, or celebration at a synagogue.
- Have coffee with the rabbi or other leader and have an informal discussion of antisemitism in your area.
- Share the video of [this poem](#) on social media, along with an explanation of how you are reaching out against antisemitism.
- Learn more about [Jewish Voices for Peace](#) and share about their work on social media.

Encourage others to do likewise, and include a link to [this page](#) of the Kumi Now website along with the hashtags #Antisemitism, #KumiNow, and #Kumi45.

You Should Know

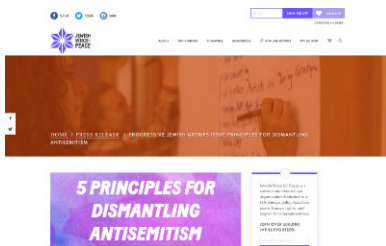
One or two people, companies, or organizations generally related to the issue of the week you should know, and how you can follow them online.



The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism

The **Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA)** is a tool to identify, confront and raise awareness about antisemitism as it manifests in countries around the world today. It includes a preamble, definition, and a set of 15 guidelines that provide detailed guidance for those seeking to recognize antisemitism in order to craft responses. It was developed by a group of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies to meet what has become a growing challenge: providing clear guidance to identify and fight antisemitism while protecting free expression. It has over 200 signatories.

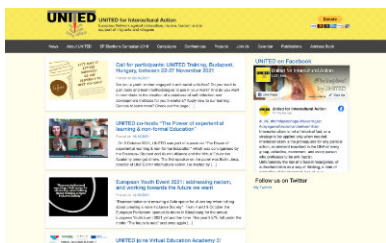
You can find the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism and a lot of information about it on the [website](#) and watch their full discussion about it on [YouTube](#).



Jewish Voice for Peace

Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) opposes anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim, and anti-Arab bigotry and oppression. JVP seeks an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem; security and self-determination for Israelis and Palestinians; a just solution for Palestinian refugees based on principles established in international law; an end to violence against civilians; and peace and justice for all peoples of the Middle East.

You can find JVP on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



UNITED for Intercultural Action

UNITED for Intercultural Action is the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants, refugees and minorities. Together with over 560 supporter organisations all around Europe, ranging from local grassroots associations to national and international NGOs, UNITED coordinates campaigns, organises conferences, takes part in projects, produces publications and undertakes advocacy work to protest against discrimination and promote our shared vision for a diverse and inclusive society.

You can find UNITED for Intercultural Action on their [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#).

Upcoming Weeks

And here's what we have coming up in November so you can plan ahead and decide how you want to be a part of Kumi Now:

KUMI NOW ONLINE: NOVEMBER, 2021

Week 44	Week 45	Week 46	Week 47	Week 48
				
November 2 <i>Anti-Muslim and Anti-Islamic Discrimination</i>	November 9 <i>Antisemitism</i>	November 16 <i>Children's Rights</i>	November 23 <i>Gender-Based Violence</i>	November 30 <i>The Kairos Document</i>

EVERY TUESDAY | 6PM PALESTINE TIME | KUMINOW.COM

Each week below will have an online gathering with a guest or guests speaking on the topic. The time and Zoom link are the same each week.

The weekly newsletter will always contain reminders of the upcoming online gatherings and the Zoom link. But if you're like me and need a reminder right before the sessions begin, you can [register to receive a reminder email one hour prior to each online gathering](#). And no more digging through your inbox looking for the Zoom link! Just [use the registration form at the bottom of the page](#).



November 16: Week 46 - Children's Rights

[Read the full entry online.](#)

This week, as people around the world celebrate Universal Children's Day on November 20, we are reminded that Palestinian children are denied the human rights and opportunities available to children elsewhere in the world and only a short distance away in the settlements and Israel.

For our Kumi Action we will be sharing photos of ourselves as children, along with messages supporting Palestinian children.

November 23: Week 47 - Gender-Based Violence

[Read the full entry online.](#)

Women in the occupied Palestinian territory face persistent gender-based violence through night raids, settler violence, collective violence towards their families, humiliation and assault from occupation forces,



and the restrictions of a patriarchal society. This week, the United Nations observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25.

For our Kumi Action we write and send flowers to the U.N. Women's office asking why the U.N. is not keeping Israel accountable to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.



November 30: Week 48 - The Kairos Document

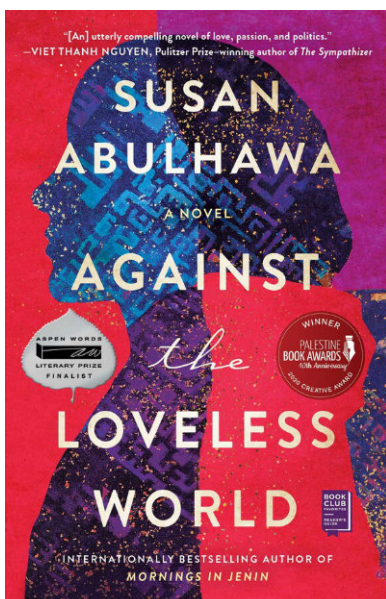
[Read the full entry online.](#)

In 1985, theologians around Soweto, South Africa issued the first Kairos Document. Twenty-four years later, theologians in Palestine issued a like-minded document. This week, as the world observes International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on November 29, the Kumi Now community is focusing on spreading the message of the Kairos Document, bringing Christians and non-Christians together to stand for justice and peace everywhere.

For our Kumi Action we will be reading and sharing the Kairos Palestine document.

You Should Watch or Read...

One (or maybe two) recent or not-so-recent film, book, video, article, or other piece of art that you should consider reading or watching this week. Have a recommendation? Let us know.



Against the Loveless World by Susan Abulhawa

Against the Loveless World by Susan Abulhawa was a 2020 Palestine Book Awards Winner and is now out in paperback! We highlighted this extraordinary novel last year, but now that it is out in paperback, and just in time for holiday gift giving, we figured it was worth highlighting it again. About the book:

“As Nahr sits, locked away in solitary confinement, she spends her days reflecting on the dramatic events that landed her in prison in a country she barely knows. Born in Kuwait in the 70s to Palestinian refugees, she dreamed of falling in love with the perfect man, raising children, and possibly opening her own beauty salon. Instead, the man she thinks she loves jilts her after a brief marriage, her family teeters on the brink of poverty,

she's forced to prostitute herself, and the US invasion of Iraq makes her a refugee, as her parents had been. After trekking through another temporary home in Jordan, she lands in Palestine, where she finally makes a home, falls in love, and her destiny unfolds under Israeli occupation. Nahr's subversive humor and moral ambiguity will resonate with fans of *My Sister, The Serial Killer*, and her dark, contemporary struggle places her as the perfect sister to Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties*."

Find the book at your favorite local, independent book store, and read more about it on the publisher's [website](#).

What's Next

We hope to see you in the online gathering on Tuesday, after which you'll receive another newsletter next Friday/Saturday, focused on our next topic, [Children's Rights](#). As always, there is more to come!

Sincerely,

The Kumi Now Team

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kumi@kuminow.com



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