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# **World Jewish Congress Activities Report**

**Summary**

October 2021 - April 2022

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Submitted to the WJC Executive Committee by  
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## COMBATING ANTISEMITISM

In October 2021, WJC together with the Official Council of Swedish Jewish Communities and the Jewish Community of Malmö organized an event at the Malmö Synagogue to celebrate the local Jewish community. The ceremony included addresses by WJC President Ronald S. Lauder and former Swedish Prime Minister Löfven. President LAUDER also led the WJC delegation to the [Malmö Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Antisemitism](#) and delivered a keynote address at the opening. President Lauder also held several bilateral meetings with foreign leaders on the sidelines of the Forum. Following the Forum, WJC and the European Commission held the [sixth International SECCA meeting](#).

On International Holocaust Remembrance Day, 27 January 2022, WJC President Lauder released the [results](#) of a commissioned report on the state of antisemitism in Germany. Among other findings revealed in the survey was the fact that one in five adult Germans espouses antisemitic attitudes.

The OSCE/ODIHR and WJC hosted the [Second Regional Consultation](#) between Jewish Communities and Tech and Social Media Companies on Combating Antisemitism Online in January 2022, bringing together Jewish leaders from ten OSCE participating states with representatives from Meta (Facebook), TikTok, and Twitter to outline the experience of the Jewish communities with online antisemitism.

With the support of WJC NextGen, Jewish on Campus released its [official 2021 data report](#) in February of 2022 providing analysis of antisemitism on university campuses. JOC also released its 2021 study with Alums for Campus Fairness, '[A Growing Threat: Antisemitism on College Campuses](#)', was cited in a [bipartisan Congressional letter](#) spearheaded by Representative Ted W. Lieu, urging the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education to address antisemitism on college campuses.

WJC, in cooperation with the Central Council of Jews in Germany and the German Football League, [organized](#) a conference which brought together representatives of various football and Jewish organizations to address the issue of antisemitism. The conference, held 30 March 2022, featured a series of workshops, including "Conspiracy Myths: When Thoughts Become Dangerous" and "Hate on the Net: Antisemitic Posts and What to Do About Them," sensitized conference participants to the issues affecting the Jewish community, both in Germany and around the globe.

Dozens of global officials tasked with combating antisemitism met in Israel to continue brainstorming on how to end the world's oldest hatred. In the words of WJC Executive Vice President Maram STERN, "Antisemitism is a global challenge that requires a global remedy." The [SECCA \(Special Envoys and Coordinators Combating Antisemitism\) forum](#), hosted by the World Jewish Congress on April 26-27 2022, in cooperation with the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, was timed to coincide with Yom HaShoah.

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

On November 9, 2021, the World Jewish Congress held its annual [Theodor Herzl Award Gala](#). Held for the first time as a hybrid event in New York City, WJC President LAUDER presented the organization's highest honor, the Theodor Herzl Award, to Dr. Albert Bourla, Chairman and CEO of Pfizer. Itzhak Perlman, legendary violinist, teacher, and conductor, accepted the WJC Teddy Kollek Award for the Advancement of Jewish Culture. The program also highlighted the 85th anniversary of WJC, commemorated the anniversary of Kristallnacht and featured personal remarks by former U.S. Secretary of State and 2014 Herzl Award honoree Dr. Henry Kissinger.

Under the leadership of WJC President LAUDER, WJC has worked closely with, and has been actively supporting, our affiliated communities in Ukraine and those countries bordering Ukraine, to provide humanitarian relief and help refugees who have crossed the borders. President LAUDER launched the [Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Effort](#) to raise funds for those in need. An internal briefing was held at the end of February 2022 and information on WJC activities on this crisis in the region has been summarized in weekly reports that have been distributed by e-mail. The full reports can be accessed below:

- [March 4, 2022](#)
- [March 11, 2022](#)
- [March 18, 2022](#)
- [March 25, 2022](#)
- [April 1, 2022](#)
- [April 8, 2022](#)

WJC [hosted](#) the first annual Jewish Youth Assembly at the end of February 2022, bringing together 75 students from 20 countries around the world. The students learned, networked, and passed nine resolutions covering WJC core focus areas. Keynote speakers for this year's JYA included WJC President LAUDER, Israel's Minister of Diaspora Affairs Nachman Shai, EU Commission Coordinator for Combatting Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life Katharina von Schnurbein, and WUJS President Jonathan Braun.

## HOLOCAUST LEGACY

To mark International Holocaust Remembrance Day on 27 January 2022, WJC once again launched the #WeRemember Campaign. WJC President LAUDER [said](#) that via this initiative, WJC seeks "to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, especially as the number of survivors and other first-hand witnesses continues to dwindle." The campaign culminated with the [illumination](#) of more than 50 sites in more than 20 countries, including the Old City walls in Jerusalem, the tallest building in Bogotá, and landmarks across New York State,

which were made possible with the [assistance](#) of New York City Mayor Eric Adams and New York Governor Kathy Hochul.

During the #WeRemember Campaign, WJC and UNESCO [announced](#) a partnership with TikTok to ensure that its community has easy access to authoritative information about the Holocaust by being directed to the [aboutholocaust.org](#) website, following a similar initiative with Facebook the previous year. On 27 January 2022, WJC President LAUDER declared, “The World Jewish Congress is proud to partner with UNESCO and TikTok in making factual and reliable information about the Holocaust available to the TikTok community.”

WJC President LAUDER [met](#) with Polish President Andrzej Duda and Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture Piotr Gliński in February 2022 to discuss future activities regarding Auschwitz-Birkenau.

WJC also partnered with UNESCO and with the UN Outreach Programme on the Holocaust of the UN Department of Global Communications in April 2022 to organize a briefing on Holocaust education and remembrance for UN and UNESCO missions and delegations in New York, Geneva, and Paris. Several dozen diplomats participated in the briefing.

## INTERFAITH DIALOGUE

WJC President LAUDER [met](#) privately with Muslim World League Secretary-General Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who together also met with U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, urging him to advocate for religious freedom and an end to violence against houses of worship. Several weeks before the joint meeting, WJC delivered a [statement](#) made jointly with the Muslim World League before the UNHRC reaffirming religious freedom as a fundamental right in October 2021.

In close partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy to Washington D.C., a [delegation](#) of 34 members of the WJC JD Corps from 14 countries visited the UAE in late November 2021 for a week of high-level meetings with government representatives, think-tanks, business leaders, and faith communities in the hopes of serving as a bridge between future leaders in Jewish communities worldwide and their Muslim counterparts in the UAE.

To mark the festival of Hanukkah and celebrate the fostering of Jewish life in the UAE, WJC hosted Amb. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN, at a candle-lighting ceremony at the Neue Galerie in New York City in December 2021.

With United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief Dr. Ahmed Shaheed's tenure leading the UN's fight to ensure freedom of religion nearing its conclusion, WJC organized an event in April 2022 entitled [Current Issues in Protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief](#) to explore best practices and how governments and the United Nations can become more effective allies in guaranteeing this fundamental right.

LAJC, together with the Argentine Catholic University, developed a training program focused on the links between Jews and Catholics in order to imbue leaders with knowledge and quality standards for interfaith work.

## IRAN AND GLOBAL TERRORISM

WJC met with UN Undersecretary-General for Counterterrorism Vladimir Voronkov in January 2022 to discuss ongoing cooperation between WJC and the UN Office of Counterterrorism. It was agreed that the WJC and UNOCT Memorandum of Understanding were being fulfilled and that projects related to civil society engagement and combating far-right violent extremism and terrorism within the United Nations will be carried out.

WJC North America and members of the WJC USA Governing Board participated in a briefing and update in November 2021 on the ongoing talks in Vienna concerning the JCPOA with experts of the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies and Center for a New American Security.

## ISRAEL ENGAGEMENT

In an October 2021 interview with [The Jerusalem Post](#), WJC President Lauder stated that the biggest challenge facing the Jewish world right now is “a crisis in public image and public relations”—or hasbara, as it is known in Hebrew. He went on to say that we must invest in hasbara to return public opinion squarely behind the safety and prosperity of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora.

Members of WJC USA renewed contact with members of the US Congress in December of 2021 and continued to urge them to support the replenishment of the Iron Dome system that intercepted more than 90% of the thousands of rockets that attacked Israel from Gaza the previous spring and threatened both civilians and infrastructure, and to support and pass legislation that would cut the flow of financial resources to the terrorist groups Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. WJC USA also continued to urge Congress to pass legislation that would expand recent peace and normalization agreements between Israel and Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the UAE.

The WJC organized a communities' briefing on 2 February 2022 in response to a one-sided report issued by Amnesty International (UK) entitled "Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime Against Humanity," in which Israel was accused of being an apartheid state. The spokesperson of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lior Haiat, joined the call. In advance of its release, WJC President LAUDER sharply [criticized](#) the report saying that it highlighted, once again, "the repeated bias Israel is targeted with as the only Jewish state."

WJC [castigated](#) a report published in March 2022 by the UN Special Rapporteur on Palestine, Michael Lynk, that falsely accused Israel of practicing apartheid, and delivered a statement to that effect at the 49th session of the Human Rights Council. The WJC has been actively engaged for many years with the UN and its affiliated agencies, both in Geneva and New York, and has been an outspoken critic of the Council's discriminatory actions against Israel, making many statements at the Human Rights Council against item 7. The WJC had also met with many diplomats to call out the bias against Israel at the Council and ask their countries to intervene.

## JEWS FROM MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

WJC USA worked together with the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations to mark November 30<sup>th</sup>, the day designated by the government of Israel to remember the Jews who were persecuted and expelled by Arab countries during the period of the 1940s through the 1970s. As the UN has long ignored the plight of these Jews by highlighting only one set of Middle East refugees from that time, special displays informing the public and the diplomatic community about the history of the Jewish refugees were set up near UN Headquarters in New York.

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The above is a summary of the reports distributed each month to the WJC Executive Committee. The full reports can be found here:

- [October 2021](#)
- [November 2021](#)
- [December 2021](#)
- [January 2022](#)
- [February 2022](#)
- [March 2022](#)