

## **Statement from Colorado Democratic Jewish Leaders**

We are deeply concerned about the harmful and divisive narrative that has surfaced within our party since the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack on Israel, which left more than 1,200 innocent civilians dead and another 240 as hostages in Gaza. Recent statements from individual members and caucuses within the Colorado Democratic Party are undermining our shared values and perpetuating the very marginalization and “othering” we as a party work so hard to combat.

The Jewish people are not a monolith. Our politics and our feelings are varied and complex, including our thoughts about Judaism and the state of Israel. But we can all agree the amount of suffering happening in our world right now is unbearable. It is complex. It is unjust. Violence and pain inflicted upon babies, children, the elderly, and other innocent civilians is the worst of humanity. Seeing the words “Holocaust 2.0,” “gas the Jews,” and swastikas on college campuses and in our communities is terrifying and traumatizing.

It should go without saying, we believe the loss of one innocent life is too much. That includes Israelis and Palestinians, Jews and Muslims, Christians and Arabs and Atheists— every single human being. Unfortunately, instead of focusing on coming together to grieve and work through our intense emotions, too much time and energy has been consumed by the actions and statements from individuals and groups that completely ignore the Jewish people, and are at times, blatantly antisemitic. Let’s be clear: the promotion of social media posts glorifying and celebrating the brutality of Hamas terrorists is appalling. Equating a military response to a terrorist attack as “ethnic cleansing,” “genocide,” or “colonizing” is not only inaccurate, it is downright dangerous. We fear that a small but vocal minority has created a dangerous echo chamber that is putting us and our families at risk of actual harm.

It leaves us to question, why have you chosen to speak up only about this conflict when there are so many other international conflicts currently happening around the world? Why did you not issue a statement immediately following the Hamas attack but did not skip a beat when Israel began her defense? Why is the brutal murder of Jewish innocents not worthy of your condemnation? Why, most importantly, have you not reached out to your Jewish colleagues prior to issuing statements that inherently include and implicate us and our loved ones?

**We call on you, members of our party and allies in the fight for freedom, equality and justice, to stop this dangerous and divisive rhetoric.**

*We ask that before you issue a statement, you take a pause and open a dialogue with us.*

*We implore more people to better educate themselves about the history of Israel, the oppression of the Jewish people, and the definition of antisemitism prior to signing onto statements that many of us find very hurtful.*

*We believe that much of the commentary and sloganeering from our colleagues and partners is oversimplifying the ancient history of a land that is in no way comparable to the United States, or South Africa, or any other nation. The binary story that is being told results in the spread of disinformation, incites hate, and perpetuates dangerous antisemitic tropes that have been used by those who have tried to oppress and murder our ancestors for generations.*

*We ask for everyone to recognize how your words and actions are inciting and perpetuating antisemitism and hate speech, something we have sadly come to expect from the far right, but never from our friends and allies.*

*We ask for everyone to consider how your words and actions are dividing our party at a time when our unity is more critical than ever.*

*We ask that every single Colorado elected official and party leader—no matter their ideology, ethnicity, or religion, speak thoughtfully and carefully going forward, in a way that fosters inclusivity, mutual respect, and understanding.*

Signed,

Jeremy Abelson  
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Judy Altenberg  
Diana Anderson  
Adam Asarch  
David Asarch  
Elaine Asarch  
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Rabbi Deborah Ruth Bronstein  
Rachel Brown  
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John Chanin  
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