

CANDLES Condemns Antisemitic Crime in Carmel

All of us at CANDLES Holocaust Museum and Education Center are deeply distressed over the antisemitic vandalism committed over the weekend at Congregation Shaarey Tefilla in Carmel, Indiana. We extend our thoughts to the families of the Congregation and the Jewish community of Carmel and greater Indianapolis.

CANDLES strongly condemns this crime and all actions motivated by bias against a person or group because of their race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, gender identification, or sexual orientation. These criminals seek to intimidate, to make people feel vulnerable and unsafe, and to weaken the fabric of our communities. But they will not succeed.

“These people tried to promote evil, but we have a choice: we can respond to this hate with more hate, or we can try to overpower it with love and understanding for one another,” said Auschwitz survivor and CANDLES founder Eva Kor.

We stand alongside all who celebrate the value and strength of a pluralistic society. We implore Hoosiers not to grow accustomed to acts of hate, not to allow them to become a “new normal.” We must demand that our elected officials protect the rights of all people to live in our communities without fear of intimidation, discrimination, or reprisal. We call on all statewide elected officials in Indiana to stand with us by unequivocally rejecting crimes motivated by bias and hate and by passing comprehensive bias crimes legislation.

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