The Honorable Antonio Guterres  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

As Members of the U.S. House of Representatives who care deeply about the scourge of anti-Jewish hate, we have watched with horror the increases in anti-Semitic incidents, rhetoric, and violence, both here in the United States and around the world. During Hanukkah in 2019, Jews in and around New York City were brutally beaten up and stabbed in a string of violent anti-Semitic attacks.

We write to express our deepest appreciation to the United Nations for releasing the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief’s report, Combatting Antisemitism to Eliminate Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief. We are grateful for the leadership and commitment of the Special Rapporteur, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, whose thoughtful research made this historic report possible.

The report finds that most countries in the world have few, if any, methods for monitoring hate crimes, which is further compounded by the fact that many victims do not report their experiences. Additionally, it addresses the claims that the objectives, activities, and effects of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement as fundamentally anti-Semitic. It also underscores what we have long believed – that anti-Semitism is “toxic to democracy.” All too often, communities that accept anti-Semitism are equally accepting of other forms of discrimination and bias-based hate.

The Special Rapporteur proposes several recommendations that different sectors can take to combat anti-Semitism. Under the report’s recommendation for the United Nations System, it suggests that the Secretary-General should consider appointing “a senior-level focal point in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General with responsibility for engaging with the Jewish communities worldwide, as well as for monitoring antisemitism and the response of the United Nations thereto.”

We strongly urge you to implement this recommendation, as we believe the appointment of a senior-level leader – similar to roles that have been created in the United States, European Union, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom – would enable the United Nations to take significant steps in the fight against hatred of the Jewish people.
We look forward to learning more about your policy initiatives and thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Brian Mast  
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Kay Granger  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Randy Weber  
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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress
Steve Scalise  
Minority Whip

Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Denver L. Riggleman III  
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson  
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Juan Vargas  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
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Daniel W. Lipinski  
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Will Hurd  
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Kathy Castor  
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Steve Stivers  
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Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Haley Stevens  
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Anthony Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall, M.D.  
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Ted Budd  
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Kathleen M. Rice  
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Ken Buck
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Doug Lamborn
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Grace F. Napolitano
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Max Rose
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Ross Spano
Ross Spano
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
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Member of Congress

Lucy McBath
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
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Member of Congress

John Katko
John Katko
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney
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H. Morgan Griffith
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Chris Pappas
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Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube
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Member of Congress

John Ratcliffe
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Member of Congress
David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn
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Mark Meadows
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Joe Wilson
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Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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David P. Joyce
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Dean Phillips
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Conor Lamb
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Rodney Davis
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Christy Houlahan
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Barry Loudermilk
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Paul Mitchell
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Andy Barr
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Jackie Walorski
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John Rose
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Mark Walker
Member of Congress