



October 7, 2023

On the morning of October 7, 2023, the terrorist group Hamas breached Israel's borders and carried out the deadliest attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Terrorists stormed Israeli communities, killing families inside their homes and setting houses ablaze. As people fled for their lives on foot and by car, gunmen shot at civilians.

1,200 Israelis were murdered and 251 people were taken hostage on that terrible day.

The war that followed had devastating repercussions for Israel that will be felt for years to come.





Anti-Semitism Since October 7

- While anti-Semitism has existed for thousands of years, it has seen a staggering surge in the wake of October 7.
- According to the Anti-Defamation League, 2.2 billion adults—46% of the world's population—harbour anti-Semitic attitudes, more than double the number from a decade ago. B'Nai Brith reports that anti Jewish hate crimes in Canada reached a historical high in 2025.
- This spike has been seen not just in words but also in violent actions. Since 2022, global anti-Semitic incidents have risen by 340%.
- In Canada, 2025 saw 6,800 anti-Semitic incidents, a record high—an average of 18.6 incidents per day. These incidents included harassment, vandalism, and violence, alongside a 9.3% increase in online hate speech.
- The anti-Semitism seen in our post-October 7 world is widespread and accelerating, and for many Jewish communities, dangerously close to echoing history—from enslavement in Egypt, to centuries of exile, to pogroms and persecution, to the Holocaust.

Fighting Anti-Semitism

- In the wake of the October 7 terror attacks on Israel and the sharp rise in anti-Semitism that followed, Jewish people are facing not only a physical threat, but also a deep spiritual and emotional one, often feeling isolated in their struggle for safety and dignity.
- In this moment, Christian support for Israel and the Jewish people is more important than ever.
- That's why Flags of Fellowship—launched by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews of Canada—is far more than a symbolic campaign. It has become a faith-based movement of friendship, uniting churches, families, and communities to honour victims, stand against hate, and support the people of Israel.
- The Israeli flag, displayed on church lawns, synagogue grounds, and in community spaces, represents solidarity in the face of rising anti-Semitism, resilience born of millennia of persecution, and hope for *shalom* (peace).
- Each flag is a public expression that Christians are not silent bystanders, but stand alongside their Jewish brothers and sisters, guided by shared values and faith.

