NASP Condemns Antisemitism and Islamophobia Amidst Violence in Israel and Gaza

Bethesda, MD— The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) condemns the acts of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and anti-Arab racism that have been reported throughout the United States in the days since the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel. We mourn the tragic deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians and hope for an end to the violence that has already claimed thousands of innocent lives, many of them children.

In the past week, we have heard reports of many threats and acts of violence here in the U.S, including vandalism in Jewish communal spaces, threats to houses of worship, and the horrifying, deadly attack on a Palestinian-American boy near Chicago. These blatant acts of hate are unequivocally wrong. There is no place in our country for racism or any form of bigotry. To hold Jewish, Muslim, or Arab individuals in the United States accountable for the actions of the Israeli government and Hamas terrorists is unacceptable and we condemn these acts in the strongest terms.

As mental health professionals specializing in promoting the well-being of children and youth, we are troubled by the trends we’re witnessing throughout the United States, where hate crimes and hate speech are becoming an increasingly present force in the lives of children. School psychologists must help children and youth feel safe at school, at home, and in their communities amidst these disturbing reports and continued violence. NASP has resources to support youth impacted by the events taking place in Israel and Gaza or who are the targets of hate and bias here in the United States. Specific guidance can be found here.

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NASP is a professional association representing more than 24,000 school psychologists, graduate students, and related professionals. As the world’s largest organization of school psychologists, NASP works to advance effective practices to improve students’ learning, behavior, and mental health. Our vision is that all children and youth access the learning, behavior, and mental health support needed to thrive in school, at home, and throughout life.