

November 4, 2021

Chairman Robert Menendez
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.
by electronic mail

Ranking Member James Risch
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Menendez and Ranking Member Risch,

We write to you on behalf of the ADL, Jewish Federations of North America and Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America to urge you to immediately hold a hearing on the nomination of Professor Deborah Lipstadt in the Committee on Foreign Relations for the post of State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism. Even for those of our organizations that generally have a policy to neither endorse nor oppose nominees pending before the Senate for confirmation, we are compelled to urge you to hold the Committee's hearing on Prof. Lipstadt's nomination without further delay.

Earlier this year, in the face of a surge in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States and abroad, we urged President Biden to nominate someone to this critical post. Prof. Lipstadt, a professor at Emory University, is a renowned scholar of Holocaust studies, author of many books and successfully defeated a libel suit brought against her by Holocaust denier David Irving. Prof. Lipstadt has a long and well-documented history of fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of racism. She has a record of calling out antisemitism in all its forms, from both the left and the right.

Antisemitism continues to be a scourge across the globe. Presently, individual Jews are harassed and assaulted on city streets, synagogues are subject to vandalism, and various lawmakers press legislation to ban fundamental Jewish practices including the production of kosher meat and ritual circumcision. The global Jewish community needs the United States to be a leader in the fight against antisemitism and we must not waste more time leaving our lead official in this fight off the field.

Congress acted courageously and wisely when it created the post of the Special Envoy in 2004 and did so again in 2020 when it elevated the post to ambassadorial rank. There is no question that Prof. Lipstadt has the credentials to deserve a proper hearing before the Committee on Foreign Relations – and that hearing is now overdue.

Respectfully,



Max Sevilla
V.P. Govt Relations
ADL



Elana Broitman
Senior V.P. for Public Affairs
**Jewish Federations of
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Nathan J. Diament
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