



LRA Statement on Antisemitism and Islamophobia

The Literacy Research Association condemns words and acts of hate. Antisemitism and Islamophobia and other types of religious and racial hostilities are dangerous and reprehensible. Waves of antisemitism and Islamophobia have increased in the forms of oppressive discrimination, hate speech, and violence; each rooted in harmful attitudes toward Jewish and Muslim communities. We are deeply concerned about the unfortunate historical record of hatred and associated acts against Jews and Muslims that continue across the globe. We are particularly concerned about the significant uptick in antisemitism and Islamophobia that has resulted in brutal attacks, human displacement, and atrocities; these have had direct negative impacts on PreK-16 schools.

Given this context of ongoing religious intolerance, hatred, and violence, we want to confirm that the Literacy Research Association is a safe space for researchers and scholars who identify as Arabs, Israelis, Jews, Muslims, or Palestinians to dialogue and learn from each other. Whether Jews or Muslims actively practice their religion or choose a more secular lifestyle, they should be safe, supported, and nurtured to identify with their heritage within and across institutions and communities, including the LRA community.

Through our scholarship and our advocacy, we strive to respect religious and cultural differences in our school systems, including higher education. This includes incorporating culturally sustaining and other strategies that have been developed through research within diverse school populations. We encourage further research on pedagogy that gives evidence of successfully diminishing the number and frequency of antisemitic and Islamophobia incidents.

In alignment with our mission, policies, and practices, we strive to successfully counter any sentiments of antisemitism and Islamophobia so as to reduce sociophobic tensions and increase cultural, linguistic, and religious awareness and understanding. We encourage an attitude of empathy and solidarity as we continue working toward building an inclusive and equitable association in which all of us can thrive and be successful. To lift the burdens of intolerance and hate aimed at individuals or groups, Literacy Research Association seeks to heal wounds and advance knowledge and understanding during our conferences and other settings.