## **Statement of Purpose**



We seek your assistance and financial support to fund a billboard that focuses on standing together against antisemitism. The terrorist organization Hamas started the current Middle East conflict when it attacked the sovereign nation of Israel on October 7, 2023, murdering about 1,200 Israelis (mostly private citizens), other nationals, and taking more than 250 hostages into Gaza. Since then, antisemitism has exponentially increased while Israel defends its right to exist and takes action to stop further terrorist attacks against Israel's existence.

Hate speech is abhorrent to democracy and is contradictory to the founding principles of the United States of America. Antisemitic tropes have metastasized here and worldwide for the simple reason that Jews historically remain an easy target. Antisemitism needs to be called out for what it represents, simply hate.

No American would tolerate a terror organization attacking our country without aggressively reacting and eliminating the threat. This is exactly what the United States did when attacked on 9/11.

Please support our efforts to stand up against antisemitism in our community and our country by contributing to the cost of a prominent billboard in downtown Birmingham, Alabama and by sharing this Statement of Purpose with others.

If you would like to help support our efforts, please Zelle using the QR code below, or Venmo to @Marilynn-Rothstein. You can also make a check out to Marilynn Rothstein or Carol Anderson and they will transfer the funds into the "Friends of Israel" billboard account.

