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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO

3RD DISTRICT, CONNECTICUT

January 30, 2017

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND  
POLICY COMMITTEE

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On Friday, the White House issued a brief statement on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, following a tradition set by prior Presidents on the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. Where the statement diverged from precedent, however, was in its glaring omission of any recognition of the genocide of the Jewish people. By its very definition, the Holocaust was a systematic, calculated, and horrific mass murder of six million Jews by the anti-Semitic Nazi state and its sympathizers across Europe.

By Saturday, White House spokesman Hope Hicks clarified through the press that Jews were omitted from the statement because others also suffered at the hands of the Nazis. This disturbing doubling down on your decision to omit the primary targets of the racist horrors of Nazi Germany is not only disingenuous, I fear that it further divorces truth from a set of White House-driven “alternative facts.”

Teaching and learning the truth about the Holocaust and the six million Jewish victims is central to modern civics and social studies for American schoolchildren—because by confronting the truth of what happened we honor the memory of the victims and solemnly vow to never allow it to happen again. The genocide of the Jewish people by Nazi Germany cannot be recognized in vague language. We must be clear about the specific anti-Semitic hatred and mass murder that occurred; the suffering of the Jewish people in the Holocaust cannot be minimized.

Nor is discrimination against Jews a relic of the past—we saw hatred rear its ugly head just this month, when on January 18th, more than two dozen Jewish community centers across the country reported receiving bomb threats. Earlier in the month, on January 9th, 16 Jewish community centers received similar threats in a single day.

You are now our President—our country looks to you for leadership, and the world is watching. Language matters—as does the absence of language. I urge you to use your platform to represent all Americans—not to reopen the wounds of unspeakable violence and pain.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rosa DeLauro".

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress