



Dr. Alex Marrero  
Superintendent  
Denver Public Schools  
1860 Lincoln Street  
Denver, Colorado 80203

October 15, 2023

Dear Dr. Marrero,

We write in response to your October 13 district-wide communication, "Engaging in Global Conversations: Denver Public Schools' Perspective." We can assure you that at this moment in your more than 200 schools, Jewish students do not feel "safe, included, or welcomed." Know that the district's unwillingness to clearly name the atrocities of a terrorist organization's litany of brutality and inhumanity, specifically by slaughtering babies, desecrating bodies, burning young people alive, raping women, executing parents in front of their children, and children in front of their parents, most definitely leads to Jewish students feeling marginalized, targeted, and in need of support.

Surely, we recognize there is human suffering on multiple sides of this conflict, and that Denver Public Schools are home to a diverse population. At the same time, from the multiple Jewish Student Connection clubs that JEWISHcolorado runs in seven of your high schools each week, we know that your unwillingness to name, let alone condemn, the inhumanity of these attacks, means that both students and faculty are feeling unsafe and unsupported. We do not think reporting or suicide hotlines are an acceptable solution.

To quote University of Florida President Ben Sasse, "When evil raises its head, as it has in recent days, it is up to men and women of conscience and courage to draw strength from truth and commit ourselves to the work of building something better."

This was a moment when the Jewish community desperately needed you to step up and call out an act of terrorism by an avowed terrorist organization. Looking forward, we would like to make sure that we all work together to rebuild a sense of safety for your students. We would be happy to arrange a time with our staff and community leaders to hear what students and faculty are sharing with us.

Renee Rockford,  
President & CEO  
JEWISHcolorado

Ben Lusher,  
Board Chair  
JEWISHcolorado

Jillian Feiger,  
Director of Jewish Student Connection  
JEWISHcolorado