



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **US Census Reports: 50 Million Latinos, 1 Out of 6 Americans**

### **National Survey of Jewish and Latino Americans Finds Anti-Semitism Exists Within The Latino Community**

#### **LATINOS BELIEVE U.S. TOO SUPPORTIVE OF ISRAEL**

**SAN ANTONIO** – A new national survey finds more than half of America's Jews and Latinos believe anti-Semitism exists within the Latino community. The study, commissioned by The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding ([www.ffeu.org](http://www.ffeu.org)) and conducted by Latin Insights, also finds nearly half of all Latinos believe U.S. foreign policy is too supportive of Israel.

Rabbi **Marc Schneier**, Founder and President of FFEU and Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, announced these findings in conjunction with the Bridges & Pathways Strategic Dialogue Conference in San Antonio, Texas, chaired by former HUD Secretary and Mayor of San Antonio **Henry Cisneros** and Rabbi **Aryeh Scheinberg** of the Orthodox Congregation Rodfei Sholom.

"These findings are a wake-up call to both communities and highlight the importance of this conference taking place in San Antonio," said Rabbi Schneier, "We need to understand how real anti-Semitism is within the Latino community and how we can counter it as well as find more effective ways to communicate the value of Israel to bolster Latino empathy for the Jewish state. This is truer than ever as Latinos now number more than 50 million in the US. One out of every 6 Americans is Latino. It therefore behooves the Jewish community to reach out and foster an alliance with this significant ethnic group."

The survey, commissioned by the FFEU, found both American Jews and Latinos perceive anti-Semitism within the Latino community. 58% of Jews believe such bias exists, and 46% of the Latinos concur. When asked about U.S. policies in support of Israel, 46% of the Latinos said America was "too supportive" reflecting a 5 to 2 ratio to those who felt it was not supportive enough. 56% of the Jewish respondents, on the other hand, believe the U.S. is not sufficiently supportive; a 4 to 1 ratio over those who felt it was too supportive.

Other finding included:

- Over 75% of both groups have experienced discrimination in their lives
- 71% of both groups feel alienated from decisions being made for them in Washington, DC

- A strong majority of both groups support immigration-friendly legislation and positively view the role in U.S. society of newcomers; however, 68% of the Latinos oppose the recent controversial immigration laws adopted in Arizona, while 54% of the Jews favor that legislation
- A solid majority of each community favors American or Israeli measures to stop Iran's nuclear weapons development
- Two-thirds of the Latinos and Jews doubt peace will come to Israel and the Palestinians in the next five years; the largest group, 39%, believe peace there will never be reached
- 77% of American Jews support Israel over the Palestinians in the conflict, while the Latino view is much more fragmented with a large number responding "don't know." American Jews hold Palestinians more responsible for the failure to secure peace by a 5 to 1 ratio, where the Latino opinions are much more diffuse

Details of the poll may be obtained upon request.

**The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding**, under the leadership of Rabbi Marc Schneier, President, and Russell Simmons, Chairman, is a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting racial harmony and strengthening inter-group relations. The Foundation, established in 1989, is based in New York City.

**Bridges & Pathways**, a Latino Jewish Dialogue, was conceived in May 2010, by former Mayor of San Antonio and ex-secretary of HUD Henry Cisneros, and Rabbi Aryeh Scheinberg of Congregation Rodfei Sholom to strengthen bonds between the Latino & Jewish communities, define and work in areas of mutual concern and ensure that the rising generation of Jewish and Latino leaders from politics, business, the professions and the civic sector will continue the decades-long history of mutual support. The World Jewish Congress and the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue of Israel's Netanya Academic College are co-initiators of the conference. Strategic partners include: The Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, B'nai B'rith International and the Anti Defamation League (ADL). San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro is Honorary Chair for the gathering.

**Latin Insights** is one of the premier strategic communication firms working in the US-Latino market and in Latin America. Based in New York, Latin Insights has its Latin America headquarters in Argentina.

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