



By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an  
**Official Statement**

*WHEREAS*, Chanukah – also known as the Festival of Lights – begins on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and continues for eight days; and

*WHEREAS*, To raise awareness around contemporary antisemitism in the United States, there will be a week of action to coincide with Chanukah, the festival of light. Through the symbolism of Chanukah, we seek to shine a light on antisemitism in all its modern-day forms; and

*WHEREAS*, Antisemitism is a darkness that threatens not only the Jewish people and faith, but all of us, no matter creed or background. To raise awareness of its danger, and vanquish the hatred, it will take a bold act of unity, by people all across the United States – using the metaphor of the only force capable of driving out darkness: light; and

*WHEREAS*, Antisemitism – including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith – remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in contemporary American society; and

*WHEREAS*, Jewish people continue to be a targeted minority in the United States. Data shows that Jews are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and that such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

*WHEREAS*, State officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus – including antisemitism – and must be given the tools to do so; and

*WHEREAS*, While there can be no exhaustive definition of antisemitism, as it can take many forms, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism has been an essential definitional tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and includes useful examples of discriminatory anti-Israel acts that can cross the line into antisemitism; and

*WHEREAS*, The use of this definition of antisemitism – although it is not to be taken as an exhaustive definition – will increase awareness and understanding of the parameters of contemporary anti-Jewish discrimination in certain circumscribed areas; now

*THEREFORE*, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut – in support of using the Festival of Lights this Chanukah to champion the message of light, and send a national message of support and solidarity with the Jewish faith and people, and by extension for all – do hereby officially proclaim the week of November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 6<sup>th</sup> as

**SHINE A LIGHT WEEK**

in the State of Connecticut.



*Ned Lamont*

GOVERNOR