On this 57th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, institutions representing over half of American Jews publish the following letter.

Jews for Black Lives

When Jewish people join together with our neighbors across racial and religious differences, we see wins the things we all need to survive and thrive.

We support the Black-led movement in this country that is calling for accountability and transparency from the government and law enforcement. We support the pursuit of justice and safety for all of us depends on the freedom and safety of all of us.

There are politicians and political movements in this country who build power, using antisemitic dogwhistles. There are politicians and political movements in this country who build power, using antisemitic dogwhistles. There is a long history to these attempts: during the Southern Freedom Movements are undermined, it leads to more violence against Black people, and blame us for problems, it leads directly to violence against us. There are politicians and political movements in this country who build power, using antisemitic dogwhistles.

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WE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE WHEN WE SAY, UNEQUIVOCALLY:

BLACKS MATTER

We are Jewish organizations and synagogues from across the racial and political spectrum; from different streams of Judaism; whose members track their lineages from countries around the world.

Antisemitism is part of the same machinery those politicians use to blame Black and brown people, people who are immigrants, people who are Muslim, and more. When our relatives and friends are targeted, it’s not just another political issue, it’s us. It’s our name on the signs, it’s our names on the building, it’s our names on the memories, it’s the stories of our dreams.

We know how dangerous this is: when politicians target Jewish people and blame us for problems, it leads directly to violence against us. When Black movements are undermined, it leads to more violence against Black people, including Black Jews.

The Black Lives Matter movement is the current day Civil Rights Movement in this country, and it is our best chance at equity and justice. By supporting this movement we can build a country that fulfills the promise of freedom, unity, and safety for all of us, no exceptions.