



Joint Statement on Dealing with Holocaust Revisionism

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**BY
THE SYNAGOGUE
COUNCIL OF
AMERICA
and
THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF
CATHOLIC
BISHOPS**

Ever since World War II various extremist, often neo-Nazi groups have sought to deny the crimes of the Nazis, particularly the attempt to exterminate the Jewish people. We condemn these prejudiced efforts and the racial hatred they would

incite.

In the 1970"s,
proponents of
Holocaust denial
began to
camouflage their
message of hatred
and antisemitism
under a veneer of
scholarly
terminology in
order to regain
respectability.
Rather than stating
their beliefs
straightforwardly,
they began to call
themselves
"historical
revisionists,"
pretending to be
interested in
challenging and
"revising" common
understandings of
the period.

In this guise of
holocaust
revisionism, the
denials of the evils
perpetrated by
Nazism against so
many peoples and
groups in Europe
sought to
rehabilitate the
tattered image of
National Socialism
(Nazism). To some
extent they
succeeded in
getting their views
considered in
unsuspecting
academic
symposia that took
their claims to
scholarly integrity

at face value.

Increasingly blocked from academic forums as word spread, the Holocaust deniers have adopted a new tactic, placing advertisements in college newspapers. Again hiding their true intent under more respectable guise, such as so-called committees for "open debate" on the Holocaust, the unsolicited ads deny the reality of the gas chambers and of Nazi genocide.

The deniers then argue that the First Amendment should be read to compel university and college publications to publish whatever material they may choose to provide. This is a perversion of the First Amendment. All educational institutions and their publications, whether official or student-sponsored, should unconditionally reject any efforts to deny the horrifying realities of the Holocaust.

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14, 1994