

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT EXTREMISM?

Last July, we asked our readers to tell us what they thought the average person can do about extremism—because at Tanenbaum we know that there *are* practical solutions. Two themes emerged from their answers:

1. Educate (yourselves and others about diverse religious practices and the truth about extremism).
2. Advocate (against hate in every form).

Following are some of your responses:

“Create spaces for non-threatening encounters, different experiences and give support for/to those seeking a way out of self-destructive beliefs.” - *San Diego, California, USA*

“Show kindness, love, and educate oneself and others. Dispel untruths. Work toward social justice.” - *Brooklyn, New York, USA*

“Recognize it's a select few who do not represent any one area, people or faith without alienating others.” - *Northbrook, Illinois, USA*

“There is not as much extremism as we are lead to believe by media. Especially in western countries people are very safe.” - *Ronkonkoma, New York, USA*

“Education, Education, Education. Additionally, others have to continue to stand up against these extremists and not be in fear. Inaction and fear is what they count on.” - *Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA*

“Speak out against it every chance they get.” - *Alto, Michigan, USA*

“Talk with others about it, and realize that not everyone of a certain belief/organization agrees with extremist versions of that belief structure/organization.” - *Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA*

“Learn about, befriend and support individuals who are of different faiths.” - *New York, New York, USA*

“Respect all nonviolent opinions and ideologies; ensure that human rights are respected; actively protest denials of rights; advocate for better provision of life's necessities, housing, health care and quality education to all.” - *New York, New York, USA*

“Since it starts with the average person it is with this average person that it might end. Indeed, what can an average person not do about extremism!” - *Haifa, Israel*

And here are some of our responses:

Educate: Use or share [Tanenbaum's 7 Principles for Inclusive Education](#) with a teacher you know.

Promote: ways to create safe spaces. Take inspiration from this Detroit News article: [“Students seek safe spaces, dialogue after election”](#).

Learn:

- [“How to Fact-Check the Internet”](#) – An article by Real Simple providing skills in fact checking.
- [What is Social Justice?](#) – An academic explanation of social justice and human rights theories and principles by the Department of Government and Justice Studies at Appalachian State University.
- [Social Justice in an Open World: The Role of the United Nations](#) – A detailed report about the history of social justice and the UN’s social justice initiatives.

Remember: [Tanenbaum’s 5 Tips for Countering Extremists on Social Media.](#)