

BUT NOT THROUGH ME
-- A personal statement on anti-semitism

Anti-semitism is the oldest, darkest, and the most persistent stain on the record of humanity. There are many roots to this malignancy, but the Christian contribution to the hatred, persecution, and scattering of the people of God is a terrible offense before God and an indelible blot on the story of the Church, of Europe, and the civilization of the West.

I speak as a Christian, a follower of Jesus, and I wholeheartedly lend my voice and support this stand against the current resurgence of antisemitism. I am only grateful that, led by the Dutch and the English Reformation, Christians welcomed the Jews back to their countries, and gave them freedom of conscience. My own great-grandfather was among Evangelical leaders, such as William Wilberforce and Lord Shaftesbury, who worked tirelessly for the restoration of the Jews to their homeland. His work was well-known to Theodor Herzl, and to both Lord Balfour, the author of the Balfour Declaration, and General Allenby who liberated Jerusalem in December 1917.

Anti-semitism is not only profoundly evil, but foolish. There is no higher view of human worth, or of freedom, justice, peace, community, truth, and words than those truths passed on to humanity as the gift of God and of the Jews. President John Adams was right that “the Hebrews have contributed more to civilize men than any other nation.” Heinrich Heine was right that, after Sinai, “freedom has always spoken with a Hebrew accent.” It is not too much to say that these gifts of the Jews are the shining key to the human future, and indeed the very Magna Carta of humanity.

All too often, “Never again” has become “All over again.” Let us stand resolutely in our time, so that whatever the future may hold, and others may do, it will always be said, *But not through me.*

--- Os Guinness, author and social critic