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Trump appoints Carr to top anti-Semitism post

BY LEAH WAXLER

Elan Carr has been appointed US State Department's Ambassador for Anti-Semitism.

The 50-year-old California prosecutor has sought higher office on a number of occasions.

President Donald Trump had been pressed by Jewish groups and Congress members to make an appointment over the past two years.

Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, President of the Conference of European Rabbis, welcomed the news.

"Given the global climate of rising anti-Semitism and far-right extremism, this role is as important as it has ever been and we are pleased that it has been filled," he noted in a statement.

"Mr Carr's appointment will allow the US to once again set standards in the fight against the alarming upsurge in anti-Semitic sentiment."

He added, "The Conference of European Rabbis will provide support, where necessary, in our combined efforts to fight rising anti-Semitism internationally."

Carr joined delegates at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Conference on Combating Antisemitism in Slovakia this week.



Elan Carr

PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA

World Jewish Congress brought together political leaders, government representatives and stakeholders in academia, civil society and the media for the two-day forum to fight anti-Semitism.

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agenda, denying their own anti-Semitism by claiming to be pro-Israel," WJC chief executive Robert Singer explained.

"On the far left, disagreement with Israeli government policies has morphed into a disturbing anti-Zionism that seeks to deny the Jewish people the right to a state of their own, and to delegitimise Israel's very existence.

"Anti-Semitism is no longer the extreme, it is mainstream."

He added, "Anti-Semites have found the internet to be an effective way of spreading their hate to an unimaginable number of people. But this threat pales in comparison to the threat Jewish communities around the world face to their physical security in Bulgaria, Belgium, Denmark and United States to name just a few recent examples.

"We must find new ways to reach young people, whatever their nationality or

religion, so they will be able to learn the lessons of history's greatest tragedy."

Singer noted the impact of WJC's #WeRemember campaign, which has reached over 1 billion people over 100 countries.

"Using social media, we have fostered a community of people who have a common goal, to stand up to hate," he explained. "But it is clear educational seminars and remembrance events are no longer enough.

"To its great credit, the OSCE has been in the forefront of the struggle against anti-Semitism."

Singer explained how the OSCE had collected information and reported on anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes across the region.

"We are grateful for these efforts, but now is the time for action, if we speak out together with one voice, we will prevail," he said.

