

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota has a long history of being allied with the State of Israel and the Jewish people, of believing in Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, has issued Executive Order 2020-01 to prohibit South Dakota Executive Branch agencies from contracting with entities boycotting Israel, declared the week of November 28, 2021, "Antisemitism Awareness Week," and proclaimed February 24, 2022, "Israel Relations Day; and,

Whereas, the foreign terrorist organization of Hamas planned an attack on the nation of Israel for over one year and on October 7, 2023, broke the Jericho Wall into Israel. Over 1,500 Hamas fighters entered Israel and performed horrendous atrocities, including the rape of an unknown many, kidnapping of over 240 hostages, and the murder of over 1,200 victims. To date, Hamas retains at least 138 captives. Casualties at the Israel Nova Music Festival totaled over 360 attendees shot, beaten, or burned to death; and,

Whereas antisemitism can take many forms, as described in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's May 26, 2016, working definition of antisemitism to be "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions, and religious facilities"; and,

Whereas, since the October 7 attack on unarmed civilians in Israel, antisemitic incidents have increased here in the U.S. This includes at least 109 rallies explicitly supporting Hamas. Violent acts against Jews have increased 388% over the same period last year; and,

Whereas, "Breaking Bread" embodies the essence of sharing culture, finding common ground, building community, and preserving traditions. South Dakota remains committed to ensuring all people feel safe to share culture, discuss their beliefs openly in their communities, and are welcomed in our State:

Now, Therefore, I, Kristi Noem, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of December 11, 2023, as

SHINE A LIGHT, BREAKING BREAD WEEK


in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eleventh Day of December in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three.


Kristi Noem, Governor

Attest:


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State