**Toronto Police Services consultation**

Neither I nor my husband is a lawyer.

What we are, are proud members of the Jewish Community of Willowdale, North York, Toronto, Ontario, Canada and the World.

We cannot profess to define a hate crime. However, when so called “protestors” wave the flags of a terror group and shout out phrases such as: “Kill the Jews, From the River to the Sea, Intifada, Hitler should have finished the job”, it creates fear in the Jewish community   
It forces us to decide whether our children are safe in their schools, colleges or universities; adults can safely go to work, walk on the street, seek medical aid at a hospital or attempt to enter a synagogue.   
All these forms of intimidation constitute a hate crime.

To quote the late Justice of the US Supreme Court, Potter Stewart to explain "hard-core" pornography, or what is obscene, he said:   
"I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced... [b]ut I know it when I see it ..."

*You can further research this, if it is not plainly clear.*

I have too often heard hate speech and seen actual physical hate on the streets of Toronto. The hate has always been there but since October 7, 2023, it has been blatant and prevalent.

The police should not have to debate as to whether a hate crime has been committed. They should be able to arrest these people and let the courts decide whether to put them in jail.

We are horrified that the people spouting hate against the Jewish community are free to continue unabated, just because they claim it to be “free speech”.

Finally, and as an aside, my father-in-law’s family was murdered by the Nazis. Only he and one cousin managed to leave Germany in time.

Jennifer Baer