

Democracy By the People with Amy Spitalnick

Amy Spitalnick is the CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. JCPA works both within the Jewish community and across diverse communities, advocating for Jewish safety, the safety and rights of all communities, and for inclusive, pluralistic democracy.

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I'm Amy Spitalnick. I'm the CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. I'm a white Jewish woman wearing a black and white striped dress.

As a Jewish person, we know that Jewish safety in America has been contingent on the democratic norms, rule of law, equal opportunity, and core institutions.

This is a country that was built on the idea of religious freedom, and a country in which everyone—no matter what they practice, what they look like, who they are, what they believe—is able to live and work and pray and be, safely, is the very sort of system that's at the core of an inclusive, pluralistic democracy.

The goal of extremism is to pit our communities against one another, to sow division and distrust and polarization. And the way that we counter that is to stay at the table, to build the sorts of relationships and cross-community solidarity that we know is necessary to the broader coalitions to protect our democracy.

The more we invest in a vibrant, inclusive democracy and the institutions like our universities, like our labor, our civic infrastructure, for voting rights, immigrant rights, and so many of the things that have helped build the safety many of our communities have found in this country.

A democracy built by the people requires all of us to recognize that our safety and rights depend on the safety and rights of our neighbors.

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