

# An Open Letter to the Pulitzer Prize Board

April 17, 2023



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For over a century, the Pulitzer Prize Board has recognized and awarded elite journalism, setting the standard for excellence in the field.

We understand that a series of articles by the New York Times attacking the Orthodox and Hasidic community, and particularly Hasidic schools, may be vying for this prestigious award in the investigative journalism category.

Agudath Israel of America, a 100-year-old umbrella group representing Orthodox Jews in America, under the banner of its newly formed division, KnowUs, is sending this letter to the Pulitzer Prize Board to alert it of the offensive nature of these articles, and to document – with copious sourcing – how the articles have breached numerous standards of journalistic ethics.

We believe that awarding these articles, in any way, will be seen not only as a tacit approval and furtherance of offensive, antisemitic tropes, but would diminish the standing of the Pulitzer Prize by celebrating articles of demonstrably poor journalistic integrity.

Between September 11, 2022 and March 2, 2023 the New York Times has engaged in a relentless campaign<sup>1</sup> of overwhelmingly negative depictions of Orthodox and Hasidic Jews, their educational institutions, and their lives.

Any constructive, legitimate issues these articles may have sought to raise were buried by misleading statistics; an unethical lack of transparency of the Times' sources; lack of balance; omission of critical context; questionable credit-taking for subsequent events; and repeated engagement in narrative association fallacy.

[KnowUs - An Open Letter to the Pulitzer Prize Board](#)