



Working Definition of Antisemitism

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward 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.

Why is a widely accepted modern definition of antisemitism needed?



Antisemitism evolves

Antisemitism “mutates” and can occur in new ways that are hard for leaders and institutions to identify.



Jews define antisemitism

Our society generally accepts that each community gets to define its own oppression. It should be no different for the Jewish community.



Prevent unintentional antisemitism

When individuals lack understanding, they may engage in antisemitic rhetoric or conduct without meaning to.



Confusion about antisemitism

Lack of clarity leads to underreporting of incidents, lack of justice against antisemites, and a rise in hate crimes.



Antisemites try to camouflage antisemitism

Without a consistent definition, those who perpetrate antisemitism will attempt to define the term to exclude their own bigotry.



StandWithUs
UNITED KINGDOM

THE 3 D'S

HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN RHETORIC ABOUT ISRAEL CROSSES THE LINE INTO ANTISEMITISM?

A guide from human rights activist
and Jewish leader Natan Sharansky.

DELEGITIMISATION



Denying Israel's right to exist and/or the Jewish people's right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland.

DEMONISATION



Depicting Israelis as uniquely evil, dangerous, or monstrous. This includes calling them Nazis and promoting stereotypes or images that echo older forms of antisemitism.

DOUBLE STANDARDS



Discriminating against Israel or Israelis by applying different standards to them than to other states and peoples. For example, when UN bodies condemn Israel more than all other governments in the world combined.

MISCONCEPTIONS AND MISINFORMATION

What does the IHRA definition *not* do?

CLAIM

The IHRA Definition is **redundant**; we already have non-discrimination laws.

RESPONSE: The IHRA Definition is not a law. It is simply a guiding tool for how to apply existing rules and laws where antisemitism may be involved.

CLAIM

Adoption of the IHRA Definition **harms** Palestinians.

RESPONSE: Identifying bigotry or discrimination against one group does not harm any other group. Those who choose to “support” the Palestinian people may continue those efforts. The IHRA Definition may identify some of that speech as antisemitic, but it does nothing to silence or punish that speech.

CLAIM

The IHRA Definition **singles out** Jews for special (i.e., privileged) treatment.

RESPONSE: The IHRA Definition is not a form of special protection or treatment. It provides an understanding of what constitutes an existing form of bigotry / discrimination that can be difficult to identify because of the many different ways it appears.

CLAIM

The IHRA Definition **infringes** upon freedom of speech and expression.

RESPONSE: Freedom of speech is indeed limited when it involves incitement to violence or harm against individuals or groups. The IHRA definition aligns with this principle. It is a tool for identifying antisemitism, not silencing or punishing any type of speech.

CLAIM

The IHRA Definition **silences** criticism of Israel by labelling it as antisemitism.

RESPONSE: Criticism of Israel is not silenced. In fact, the IHRA Definition expressly recognises that criticism of Israel, similar to criticism levelled at other countries, cannot be regarded as antisemitic.



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

The IHRA definition:

- 1 Takes into account both contemporary and classic antisemitism.
- 2 Developed by experts who express the needs of the victims rather than the biases of the perpetrators.
- 3 Is the consensus-driven choice of the world's democracies.



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