# **DEFINITIONS OF** ANTISEMITISM

THE HATRED OF JEWS

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which travels to campuses throughout North America promoting lies and hate against Jews, Israel and zionists.

## WHY WE NEED DEFINITIONS

This book was created in order to give the definition(s) of antisemitism which is also known as the hatred of Jewish people. We have presented three versions of the definition since they will serve different audiences for different purposes and at different times.

The first definition, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), an intergovernmental organization founded in 1998. The IHRA definition, also called a Working Definition of Antisemitism, is a non-legally binding definition that has been adopted by a number of governmental and non-governmental organizations worldwide.

In 2016, the working definition and its list of examples was adopted by a plenary meeting of the 31 countries in the IHRA. Following its adoption by IHRA, the working definition has been adopted for internal use by a number of government and political institutions; Israel, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Austria, Scotland, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, North Macedonia and Italy. The working definition has been formally adopted by eight countries and 6 of 31 governments whose countries are members of IHRA, have formally endorsed or adopted the definition. As at January 2020, the IHRA definition of antisemitism has been adopted or recognized by 18 countries, including the US State Department, Germany, France, Israel, Cyprus and other European nations. The countries adopting the IHRA definition also appoint a national coordinator for the fight against antisemitism.

The second and third definitions in this booklet summarizes and pulls from the more lengthy IHRA definition and are appropriate to use at times when the situation calls for a more brief answer defining antisemitism.



## 1. THE IHRA DEFINITION

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an intergovernmental alliance of 31 member countries committed to combating antisemitism and preserving Holocaust memory. In 2016 the IHRA issued a working definition of antisemitism. To date, this definition or a very similar variation has been endorsed by the EU, the UK, the U.S.A., Canada, and numerous other democracies. In February 2019 the president of France announced that his government would adopt it as well.

The IHRA's general definition of 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."

The IHRA definition continues: "Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to" the following:

- Calling for, aiding, or justif ing the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective—such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.



- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g., gas chambers), or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- 5 Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.

Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.





- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination (e.g., by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor).
- 8 Applying double standards by requiring of it [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- 9 Using the symbols and images associated with classic antsemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.

The IHRA definition also states that "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic."



## 2. MEDIUM FORM DEFINITION

"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."

- IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

Antisemitism deploys negative conceptions of Jews, whether expressed in speech, writing, or imagery, often resulting in physical attacks against Jews. Antisemitism typically results from a lack of information, misinformation, a prejudiced bias, or true hatred.

Antisemitism seeks to harm Jews, individually or collectively, by placing false blame on Jews, applying discriminatory standards to Jews, demonizing Jews or dehumanizing Jews.

Modern antisemitism frequently uses the Jewish State of Israel as a proxy for Jews as a collective. In short, antisemitism is bigotry. Antisemitism results in the mistreatment of Jews because of bigoted perceptions of Jews.

#### In this way, antisemitism is like:

- Racism, which results in the mistreatment of people of color;
- Misogyny, which results in the mistreatment of women;
- Homophobia, which results in the mistreatment of members of the LGBTQ community; and
- **Religious Intolerance**, which results in the mistreatment of people of faith—all because of bigoted perceptions about those groups.



## 3. SHORT FORM DEFINITIONS

**Antisemitism is the hatred of Jews** expressed in speech, writing, or imagery which typically results from a lack of information, misinformation, a prejudiced bias, or true hatred.

**Antisemitism seeks to harm Jews,** individually or collectively, by placing false blame on them, applying discriminatory standards to Jews, demonizing Jews or dehumanizing Jews.

Modern antisemitism frequently uses the Jewish State of Israel as a proxy for Jews as a collective. Antisemitism is bigotry and blind hatred like racism, misogyny, homophobia and religious intolerance.

#### ANTISEMITISM IS THE HATRED OF JEWS

It is generally based on conspiracy theories that developed over the centuries that imagine "the Jews" as a malign powerful force. These ideas are expressed in speech, writing, or imagery which often resulted in persecutions down through the centuries.

#### SINGLED OUT FOR HATE

Antisemitism seeks to harm Jews, individually or collectively, by placing false blame, applying discriminatory standards, demonizing or dehumanizing Jews.

#### LIKE OTHER FORMS OF HATE

Antisemitism is bigotry and blind hatred like racism, misogyny, homophobia and religious intolerance.



#### **FLEXIBLE HATE**

Antisemitism is discrimination against Jews based on non-Jewish misperceptions of their identity. Antisemitism mutates in different eras. In religious times Jews were perceived negatively on religious grounds. In 19th and 20th century Europe Jews were perceived negatively based on false notions of race. Today Jews are perceived negatively due to their collective association with the Jewish State of Israel.

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