

Communication from Public

Name: Heather

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 11:31 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: YES, I strongly urge our City Council to join the other cities in the county, many states, and countries around the world in adopting the IHRA Definition of antisemitism. This has been meticulously created by the experts in the subtleties and manifestations of antisemitism, and we must defer to them when insuring we protect the Jewish Community in Los Angeles. We must provide our elected officials and city workers with an education that is sorely lacking, and makes the Jewish Community more vulnerable. We cannot leave the Jewish Community alone in the fight against this ancient and persistent hate. Across our country antisemitic attacks continue to spike year after year, and despite being 2% of the U.S. population, over 50% of hate crimes are against The Jewish Community. It's time to make a powerful statement, solidarity, AND protection of this minority community.

Communication from Public

Name: Adam berkowitz

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:55 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: “Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation,

Communication from Public

Name: Pete Chatmon

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:58 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Pete Chatmon.

Communication from Public

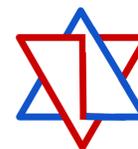
Name: UTLA Caucus for Israel

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 10:16 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: We express our enthusiastic support for the Los Angeles City Council's proposed adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, item #38, on the November 1, 2022, council agenda. Our city's Jewish and Israeli-American communities are experiencing unprecedented rates of violence and harassment, and these events have broad and devastating consequences for the Jewish students, staff, and families within our schools. A robust and foundational definition of Jew hatred, such as that developed by the IHRA, demonstrates that the perpetrators of ethnic, religious, and other forms of hatred cannot waffle, deflect, and redefine their actions to suit their own needs. The impact of antisemitism has a profound effect on our educational communities. Seventeen percent of our city's population is Jewish, many of whom are Israeli-American immigrants targeted with political and ideological harassment and violence above and beyond the experiences of Jews. Twenty-one percent of Los Angeles students live in a household with at least one Jewish member. These homes are often targeted with hateful leafleting, vandalism, and messaging at home and on their way to school. In the last year alone, graffiti near an LAUSD high school stated, "Jews made COVID." Bags of rocks and sand with leaflets stating that Jews control the government were thrown at homes in predominantly Jewish communities. Banners were unfurled above a freeway during rush hour, promoting anti-Jewish tropes. Large stickers were affixed on city property, stating that COVID vaccination is a Jewish hoax. Wide publicity surrounded anti-Jewish messages projected at sporting events, and from a well-known performer with a broad audience. Our city's leadership is responsible for protecting vulnerable populations, which includes anticipating their harm before it occurs. The students and educators of our community, of every ethnicity, religion, and identity, will benefit from the IHRA's nuanced but profound definition of anti-Jewish hatred. For these reasons, as current and retired educators of LAUSD and UTLA, we respectfully ask that you vote yes on agenda item #38 and adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The UTLA Caucus for Israel
Amy Weisz Leserman Colleen Schwab Dr. Scott Mandel Jodie Cooper Sheri Schwartz Michael Cohen Laurie Jaffe Bernhard Malinda Wozniak Marcus Nilou Pourmoussa Janet Lucar

Catherine Bechely Lander Mojdeh Banayan Paul Kujawsky Dalia
Arzanipour Renee Senigram Anne Wolfstein Pearl Taylor Tova
Sobel Rina Shavit Nancy Weiner Robin Viso Andrea Shaloo
Gregg Solkovitz Janet Lucar



JewTLA, the UTLA Caucus for Israel

October 31, 2022 Revised 9:38PM

We express our enthusiastic support for the Los Angeles City Council's proposed adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, item #38, on the November 1, 2022, council agenda. Our city's Jewish and Israeli-American communities are experiencing unprecedented rates of violence and harassment, and these events have broad and devastating consequences for the Jewish students, staff, and families within our schools.

A robust and foundational definition of Jew hatred, such as that developed by the IHRA, demonstrates that the perpetrators of ethnic, religious, and other forms of hatred cannot waffle, deflect, and redefine their actions to suit their own needs.

The impact of antisemitism has a profound effect on our educational communities. Seventeen percent of our city's population is Jewish, many of whom are Israeli-American immigrants targeted with political and ideological harassment and violence above and beyond the experiences of Jews. Twenty-one percent of Los Angeles students live in a household with at least one Jewish member. These homes are often targeted with hateful leafleting, vandalism, and messaging at home and on their way to school.

In the last year alone, graffiti near an LAUSD high school stated, "Jews made COVID." Bags of rocks and sand with leaflets stating that Jews control the government were thrown at homes in predominantly Jewish communities. Banners were unfurled above a freeway during rush hour, promoting anti-Jewish tropes. Large stickers were affixed on city property, stating that COVID vaccination is a Jewish hoax. Wide publicity surrounded anti-Jewish messages projected at sporting events, and from a well-known performer with a broad audience.

Our city's leadership is responsible for protecting vulnerable populations, which includes anticipating their harm before it occurs. The students and educators of our community, of every ethnicity, religion, and identity, will benefit from the IHRA's nuanced but profound definition of anti-Jewish hatred.

For these reasons, as current and retired educators of LAUSD and UTLA, we respectfully ask that you vote yes on agenda item #38 and adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism.

The UTLA Caucus for Israel

Amy Weisz Leserman

Colleen Schwab

Dr. Scott Mandel

Jodie Cooper

Sheri Schwartz

Michael Cohen

Laurie Jaffee Bernhard

Malinda Wozniak Marcus

Nilou Pourmoussa

Janet Lucar

Catherine Bechely Lander

Mojdeh Banayan

Paul Kujawsky

Dalia Arzanipour

Renee Senigram

Anne Wolfstein

Pearl Taylor

Tova Sobel

Rina Shavit

Nancy Weiner

Robin Viso

Andrea Shaloo

Gregg Solkovitz

Janet Lucar (10/31PM add)

Communication from Public

Name: Megan Mulrooney

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 10:22 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Megan Mulrooney

Communication from Public

Name: Charlotte

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 10:43 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I am an ally of the Jewish community in LA. I am writing today to oppose the resolution to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This resolution would advance a partisan and controversial definition of antisemitism that can stifle legitimate criticism. At this time when the city of LA is trying to come together and show solidarity after the antisemitic actions of the past weeks, this is the wrong resolution to pass.

Communication from Public

Name: Corrina
Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 11:48 AM
Council File No: 22-1241
Comments for Public Posting: Please adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism. We are in an era where Holocaust denial, and distortion, is growing louder and angrier every day. As such a large and influential city, it's imperative that we speak up clearly in solidarity with the Jewish community.

Communication from Public

Name: Farrah Yashar

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 12:52 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Antisemitism is on the rise and seeing acts of violence and hatred in our neighborhoods truly scares me. The IHRA definition is important in defining what is antisemitism and putting boundaries on the hate speech we're seeing. By adopting this definition, like the cities of WeHO and Beverly Hills have already done, the city will send a message of support that bigotry is not tolerated here. The working definition includes the expertise from over 34 member countries and is developed and affirmed by consensus. Importantly, by using the IHRA working definition, the Council makes it clear that there is no place for revisionist history, holocaust denial or distortion, or gaslighting. I appreciate your time and efforts in fostering a diverse, inclusive, and safe city.

Communication from Public

Name: Constance J Brooks

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 01:39 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I respectfully ask our City Council to join in adopting the IHRA Definition of antisemitism to help protect our Jewish community in Los Angeles. We must provide our elected officials and city workers with a nuanced education that will guide them and help to make our Jewish Community less vulnerable. Across our country antisemitic attacks continue to spike year after year, and despite being just 2% of the U.S. population, nearly 60% of all religiously motivated U.S. hate crimes reported in 2020 were against the Jewish community. It's time to make a powerful statement of solidarity. We cannot leave our Los Angeles Jewish Community alone in the fight against this ancient and persistent hate.

Communication from Public

Name: Noa Kattler Kupetz

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 01:42 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Councilmembers, My name is Noa Kattler Kupetz and I am a member of the Los Angeles Jewish community. I am greatly disturbed by the recent antisemitic incidents and am grateful for the resolution that passed last Thursday condemning antisemitism. At the same time, I am opposed to the resolution to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This resolution would advance a partisan and controversial definition of antisemitism. The resolution would cause painful division within the Jewish community in a difficult time. This resolution will leave someone like me, who is an active, deeply committed member of the Jewish community, at risk of being labeled antisemitic for utilizing my freedom of speech and expressing criticism towards the state of Israel. At this minute when the city is attempting to come together and show solidarity after the racist revelations and antisemitic actions of past weeks, this is the wrong action at the wrong time. I strongly urge you to oppose this resolution. Thank you

Communication from Public

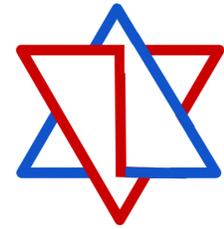
Name: Amy Leserman, Dr. Scott Mandel, Colleen Schwab, et al.

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 01:56 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: We express our enthusiastic support for the Los Angeles City Council's proposed adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, item #38, on the November 1, 2022, council agenda. Our city's Jewish and Israeli-American communities are experiencing unprecedented rates of violence and harassment, and these events have broad and devastating consequences for the Jewish students, staff, and families within our schools. A robust and foundational definition of Jew hatred, such as that developed by the IHRA, demonstrates that the perpetrators of ethnic, religious, and other forms of hatred cannot waffle, deflect, and redefine their actions to suit their own needs. The impact of antisemitism has a profound effect on our educational communities. Seventeen percent of our city's population is Jewish, many of whom are Israeli-American immigrants targeted with political and ideological harassment and violence above and beyond the experiences of Jews. Twenty-one percent of Los Angeles students live in a household with at least one Jewish member. These homes are often targeted with hateful leafleting, vandalism, and messaging at home and on their way to school. In the last year alone, graffiti near an LAUSD high school stated, "Jews made COVID." Bags of rocks and sand with leaflets stating that Jews control the government were thrown at homes in predominantly Jewish communities. Banners were unfurled above a freeway during rush hour, promoting anti-Jewish tropes. Large stickers were affixed on city property, stating that COVID vaccination is a Jewish hoax. Wide publicity surrounded anti-Jewish messages projected at sporting events, and from a well-known performer with a broad audience. Our city's leadership is responsible for protecting vulnerable populations, which includes anticipating their harm before it occurs. The students and educators of our community, of every ethnicity, religion, and identity, will benefit from the IHRA's nuanced but profound definition of anti-Jewish hatred. For these reasons, as current and retired educators of LAUSD and UTLA, we respectfully ask that you vote yes on agenda item #38 and adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The UTLA Caucus for Israel
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Catherine Bechely Lander Mojdeh Banayan Paul Kujawsky Dalia
Arzanipour Renee Senigram Anne Wolfstein Pearl Taylor Tova
Sobel



JewTLA, the UTLA Caucus for Israel

October 31, 2022 Revised 12:05PM

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The UTLA Caucus for Israel

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Communication from Public

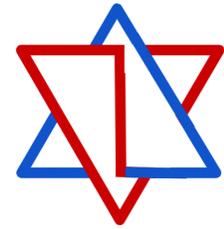
Name: Amy Leserman

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 12:20 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

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The UTLA Caucus for Israel

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Tova Sobel

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 10:34 AM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly urge our City Council to join the other cities in the county, many states, and countries around the world in adopting the IHRA Definition of antisemitism. This has been created by the experts in the manifestations of antisemitism, and we must defer to them when insuring we protect the Jewish Community in Los Angeles. We must provide our elected officials and city workers with an education that is sorely lacking, and makes the Jewish Community more vulnerable. We cannot leave the Jewish Community alone in the fight against this both ancient and persistent hate. Across our country anti-Semitic attacks continue to spike year after year, and despite being 2% of the U.S. population, over 50% of hate crimes are against The Jewish Community. It's time to make a powerful statement, solidarity, AND protection of this minority community.

Communication from Public

Name: Theresa Torrance

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:22 AM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council members: I strongly urge our City Council to join the other cities in the county, many states, and countries around the world in adopting the IHRA Definition of antisemitism. This has been meticulously created by the experts in the subtleties and manifestations of antisemitism, and we must defer to them when insuring we protect the Jewish Community in Los Angeles. We must provide our elected officials and city workers with an education that is sorely lacking, and makes the Jewish Community more vulnerable. We cannot leave the Jewish Community alone in the fight against this both ancient and persistent hate. Across our country antisemitic attacks continue to spike year after year, and despite being 2% of the U.S. population, over 50% of hate crimes are against The Jewish Community. It's time to make a powerful statement, solidarity, AND protection of this minority community. Thank you for your consideration.
Theresa Torrance Resident, Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Sue mallory
Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:38 AM
Council File No: 22-1241
Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the resolution to adopt the definition of antisemitism provided be Jewish leaders.

Communication from Public

Name: Progressive Zionists of California

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:53 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: October 31, 2022 Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers: Progressive Zionists of California is a grassroots collective of activists and California Democratic Party leaders dedicated to combating antisemitism, supporting progressive policy, and educating about Zionism. We urge you to pass the resolution against antisemitism and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. As the resolution before you states: “according to the latest report released by the California Attorney General, hate crimes reported statewide increased 32 percent from 2020 to 2021 and are at their highest reported level since 2001, and among hate crime events involving a religious bias, anti-Jewish bias events were the most prevalent and increased by 32 percent in 2021”. From white supremacists unfurling large antisemitic banners and making the Nazi salute above the 405 only days ago, to a violent antisemitic attack on LA diners during the Hamas-Israel conflict in May of 2021, these horrific incidents tear at the very fabric of civil society. It is important to understand what the IHRA definition of antisemitism is and is not. It is a non-legally binding reference point, or tool, that can provide needed guidance to identify, measure, monitor, and ultimately combat antisemitism. The IHRA definition helps government entities and other organizations recognize antisemitism in their midst; it does not prohibit criticism, curtail free speech, or dictate policy. Importantly, it states “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.” This is the definition in the United States House of Representatives’ Never Again Education Act (H. R. 943) co-sponsored by 302 representatives including 45 from California such as Katie Porter, Ted Lieu, Judy Chu, Nanette Diaz Barragan and Adam Schiff. Left unaddressed, all forms of antisemitism undermine democratic values and feed racism and violent extremism. And so, we urge you to pass the resolution and adopt this widely accepted definition of antisemitism. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Sincerely, Daniel Bral, Chair Rachel Bracker, Board Member Matthew Finkelstein, Board Member Susan George, Executive Director Lauren Post, Communications Director



October 31, 2022

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers:

Progressive Zionists of California is a grassroots collective of activists and California Democratic Party leaders dedicated to combating antisemitism, supporting progressive policy, and educating about Zionism.

We urge you to pass the resolution against antisemitism and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

As the resolution before you states: “according to the latest report released by the California Attorney General, hate crimes reported statewide increased 32 percent from 2020 to 2021 and are at their highest reported level since 2001, and among hate crime events involving a religious bias, anti-Jewish bias events were the most prevalent and increased by 32 percent in 2021”.

From white supremacists unfurling large antisemitic banners and making the Nazi salute above the 405 only days ago, to a violent antisemitic attack on LA diners during the Hamas-Israel conflict in May of 2021, these horrific incidents tear at the very fabric of civil society.

It is important to understand what the IHRA definition of antisemitism is and is not. It is a non-legally binding reference point, or tool, that can provide needed guidance to identify, measure, monitor, and ultimately combat antisemitism. **The IHRA definition helps government entities and other organizations recognize antisemitism in their midst; it does not prohibit criticism, curtail free speech, or dictate policy. Importantly, it states “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”**

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PAGE Left unaddressed, all forms of antisemitism undermine democratic values and feed racism and violent extremism. And so, we urge you to pass the resolution and adopt this widely accepted definition of antisemitism.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel Bral, Chair

Rachel Bracker, Board Member

Matthew Finkelstein, Board Member

Susan George, Executive Director

Lauren Post, Communications Director

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:59 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, John Guttag.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 06:08 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Support for the LA City Council Resolution Against Antisemitism
Los Angeles Jewish organizations and allies strongly support the LA City Council resolution adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. As our community confronts rising hatred locally, on social media, and beyond, this resolution is an important step in the right direction. Although less than two percent of the U.S. population is Jewish, the FBI reports that nearly 60 percent of religiously-motivated hate crimes have been directed against Jews. The ADL and California Attorney General's office have also reported increases in antisemitic crimes and incidents. And American Jewish Committee's 2021 Report on the State of Antisemitism in America reveals a growing unease about rising antisemitism among Americans of all backgrounds. Recent events in our city only add to the urgency of addressing this problem. A crucial first step in fighting antisemitism is defining it in a way that reflects the lived experiences of Jewish people. That is the purpose of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. This widely accepted definition has support from the U.S. Federal Government, local governments and the governments of over 30 other countries as well as 850 institutions worldwide, including the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations the Simon Wiesenthal Center and including the other 60+ Los Angeles area organizations and Rabbis signed below. A major reason why the IHRA definition is necessary is that antisemitism comes in many different forms across the political spectrum, and continues to morph over time, especially now into the digital age. The IHRA definition encompasses a set of principles that reflect the complexities of the Jewish community and the Jewish people. Those who understand this hatred as it appeared in Nazi Germany may not recognize all the ways Jews experience it today in Los Angeles. As a result, many incidents of antisemitism are misidentified, unaddressed, or underreported. We believe that adopting the IHRA definition will make our city government more informed, and help legislators, law enforcement, University administrators, social media giants and corporations, properly identify antisemitism and to take appropriate action applying existing rules and laws in cases where bigotry against Jews may be a factor. We thank Councilmembers

Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfield for their leadership in spearheading this important effort, and urge all of their colleagues to vote yes on this resolution. The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles 30 Years After American Jewish Committee Anti-Defamation League CA Young Democrats Jewish Caucus Democrats for Israel CA Democrats for Israel LA Israeli-American Civic Action Network Israeli American Council Jewish Family Service of LA Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization, Inc. Hillel 818 (CSUN, Pierce College & Valley College) Hillel at UCLA Hillel at USC Holocaust Museum LA Simon Wiesenthal Center StandWithUs The Board of Rabbis of Southern CA Rabbi Joshua Hoffman, President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern CA Adat Shalom B'nai David-Judea Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks Congregation Am HaYam Rabbi Denise L. Eger Congregation Kol Ami Rabbi Paul Kipnes Congregation Or Ami Rabbi Norbert Weinberg, Hollywood Temple Beth El Rabbi Lisa Bock Jewish Community of Ojai Rabbi Amy Bernstein Kehillat Israel Reconstructionist Congregation Rabbi Michael Gotlieb Kehillat Ma'arav Rabbi Jon Hanish Temple Kol Tikvah Rabbi Ken Chasen Leo Baeck Temple Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein, Chair, Board of Governors Sandra Caplin Community Bet Din of So. California Rabbi Deborah Lewis The Santa Ynez Valley Jewish Community Rabbi Nicole Guzik Rabbi Erez Sherman Rabbi Avi Taff Rabbi David Wolpe Sinai Temple Rabbi Yoshi Zweiback Rabbi David Woznica Stephen Wise Temple Temple Ahavat Shalom Temple Akiba Rabbi Adam Kligfeld Temple Beth Am Rabbi Mark H. Sobel Temple Beth Emet of Burbank Rabbi Sarah Hronsky Temple Beth Hillel Rabbi Daniel Chorny Temple Beth Israel of Highland Park and Eagle Rock Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen Temple Isaiah Rabbi Mari Chernow Temple Israel of Hollywood Rabbi Dennis Linson Temple Judea Rabbi Leah Lewis Temple Menorah of Redondo Beach Rabbi Ahud Sela Temple Ramat Zion Wilshire Boulevard Temple Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson Rabbi Michael Berenbaum Rabbi Anne Brener Rabbi Diane Cohen Rabbi Robin Foonberg Rabbi Sara Goodman Rabbi Leah M. Herz Rabbi Sherre Hirsch, American Jewish University Rabbi Stan Levy Rabbi Laura Owens Rabbi Arthur Gross Schaefer, Professor and Department Chair, Loyola Marymount University Rabbi Suzanne Singer Rabbi Lynn Brody Slome Rabbi Wendy Spears Rabbi Karen Strok, Jewish Ritual Reimagined Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot

Support for the LA City Council Resolution Against Antisemitism

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A major reason why the IHRA definition is necessary is that antisemitism comes in many different forms across the political spectrum, and continues to morph over time, especially now into the digital age. The IHRA definition encompasses a set of principles that reflect the complexities of the Jewish community and the Jewish people. Those who understand this hatred as it appeared in Nazi Germany may not recognize all the ways Jews experience it today in Los Angeles. As a result, many incidents of antisemitism are misidentified, unaddressed, or underreported. We believe that adopting the IHRA definition will make our city government more informed, and help legislators, law enforcement, University administrators, social media giants and corporations, properly identify antisemitism and to take appropriate action applying existing rules and laws in cases where bigotry against Jews may be a factor.

We thank Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfield for their leadership in spearheading this important effort, and urge all of their colleagues to vote yes on this resolution.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

30 Years After

American Jewish Committee

Anti-Defamation League

CA Young Democrats Jewish Caucus

Democrats for Israel CA

Democrats for Israel LA

Israeli-American Civic Action Network

Israeli American Council

Jewish Family Service of LA

Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization, Inc.

Hillel 818 (CSUN, Pierce College & Valley College)

Hillel at UCLA

Hillel at USC

Holocaust Museum LA

Simon Wiesenthal Center

StandWithUs

The Board of Rabbis of Southern CA

Rabbi Joshua Hoffman, President of the Board of Rabbis of Southern CA

Adat Shalom

B'nai David-Judea

Rabbi Dr. J.B. Sacks

Congregation Am HaYam

Rabbi Denise L. Eger

Congregation Kol Ami

Rabbi Paul Kipnes

Congregation Or Ami

Rabbi Norbert Weinberg,

Hollywood Temple Beth El

Rabbi Lisa Bock

Jewish Community of Ojai

Rabbi Amy Bernstein

Kehillat Israel Reconstructionist Congregation

Rabbi Michael Gotlieb
Kehillat Ma'arav

Rabbi Jon Hanish
Temple Kol Tikvah

Rabbi Ken Chasen
Leo Baeck Temple

Rabbi Stephen J. Einstein, Chair, Board of Governors
Sandra Caplin Community Bet Din of So. California

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Rabbi David Wolpe
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Stephen Wise Temple

Temple Ahavat Shalom

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Rabbi Adam Kligfeld
Temple Beth Am

Rabbi Mark H. Sobel
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Rabbi Sarah Hronsky
Temple Beth Hillel

Rabbi Daniel Chorny
Temple Beth Israel of Highland Park and Eagle Rock

Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen
Temple Isaiah

Rabbi Mari Chernow
Temple Israel of Hollywood

Rabbi Dennis Linson
Temple Judea

Rabbi Leah Lewis
Temple Menorah of Redondo Beach

Rabbi Ahud Sela
Temple Ramat Zion

Wilshire Boulevard Temple

Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson

Rabbi Michael Berenbaum

Rabbi Anne Brener

Rabbi Diane Cohen

Rabbi Robin Foonberg

Rabbi Sara Goodman

Rabbi Leah M. Herz

Rabbi Sherre Hirsch, American Jewish University

Rabbi Stan Levy

Rabbi Laura Owens

Rabbi Arthur Gross Schaefer, Professor and Department Chair, Loyola Marymount University

Rabbi Suzanne Singer

Rabbi Lynn Brody Slome

Rabbi Wendy Spears

Rabbi Karen Strok, Jewish Ritual Reimagined

Rabbi Cantor Alison Wissot

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 06:09 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles supports and sends our appreciation to the LA City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Paul Koretz for introducing this resolution – and to the all other member of the LA City Council for officially adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. This action is a bold and important step to show the Jewish residents of Los Angeles, and all surrounding areas, that we are heard, and we are valued. This also signifies that the City of Los Angeles stands against all forms of hate. Additionally, this action will help guide the city in its efforts to identify antisemitism and equip policymakers to address an unfortunate rise in hate and discrimination. Our Federation's Principles Against Antisemitism similarly outline the IHRA's definition of antisemitism as a guide to protect against anti-Jewish hate. Our Principles Against Antisemitism help lay the foundation for our mission to use Jewish values to convene and lead our community to assure the continuity of the Jewish people, support a secure State of Israel, care for Jews in need here and abroad, and mobilize on issues of concern to the local community, all with our local, national, and international partners. Joanna Mendelson SVP, Community Engagement



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Observers:

Rabbi Joshua Hoffman
Evan Schlessinger
Marvin Schotland

October 31, 2022

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Joanna Mendelson
SVP, Community Engagement

Communication from Public

Name: M. Theresa Basile

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 06:18 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I am a member of the Jewish Voice for Peace-Los Angeles chapter. I am very concerned about the resolution coming before the Council this week, to officially adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism for the city of Los Angeles. Not only is the IHRA definition is not effective in protecting the Jewish community, it can be very divisive among Jewish Americans. Most importantly, this controversial and dangerous definition can be - and often is - used to suppress legitimate political views and infringe on Americans' right of free speech. That is why the ACLU, Jewish Voice for Peace, and the leading author of the IHRA definition, Ken Stern, have warned against it being adopted by any governmental body in the US. I hope you will review the attached collection from the Foundation for Middle East Peace: over 200 informative statements that challenge the IHRA definition and expose the dangers in it, statements that span more than a decade, from government leaders, diplomats, legal authorities, political analysts, academics, Jewish organizations and publications, and so many others, including many from Israel, the U.S, and around the world. Thank you for the recently adopted resolution condemning antisemitism; that was a welcome action by the Council. This new resolution would politicize the good that was done last week in a dangerous and divisive way. I strongly urge you not to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism for the city of Los Angeles.

Challenging the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
March 2022	Legislative Threats to Academic Freedom: Redefinitions of Antisemitism and Racism	American Association of University Professors (AAUP)	“Proponents of overly broad definitions of antisemitism and proponents of eliminating teaching about the history of racial and other violence share a desire to mobilize the government to enforce particular, emaciated accounts of history, harm, and injury. As the Statement on Legislation Restricting Teaching about Race observes, “When politicians mandate the academic content that faculty can and cannot teach or the scholarly areas they can or cannot research or study, they prevent colleges and universities from fulfilling their missions. Such actions also severely violate both academic freedom, the cornerstone of American higher education, and the faculty’s primary role in institutional decision-making.” Such restrictions on faculty members portray robust academic inquiry and teaching as dangerous, deny students the opportunity to learn, and undercut the purpose of higher education. We therefore urge the defeat of these legislative initiatives and others of their kind in order to protect the academic freedom that is vital to the preservation of democracy.”
20 Jan 2022	Letter regarding the University of Edinburgh’s adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism	University and College Union, Edinburgh	“...We believe the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism compromises academic freedom and the University position on anti-racism: • The IHRA is not an improvement on the Equality Act. In fact, the definition has been used to curtail freedom of speech and academic freedom. Instead of protecting people from antisemitism, it has been used to accuse people unfairly of antisemitism who as scholars or students investigate or express criticism of Israel’s racist state policies and human rights violations against Palestinians...”
12 Dec 2021	A new Canadian Jewish faculty group opposes the IHRA definition of antisemitism	Canadian Jewish News/Jeremy Appel	“A new coalition of Jewish academics has formed to reject the International Holocaust Remembrance Association’s (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which members say has been used to stifle certain criticisms of Israel, representing an affront to academic freedom. The impetus for the foundation of the Jewish Faculty Network (JFN) was the Canadian Association of University Teachers’ unanimous vote at its annual council meeting on Nov. 26 to oppose IHRA’s adoption at post-secondary institutions. Over 170 Jewish faculty at Canadian universities and colleges signed a letter opposing the IHRA definition, the JFN’s website states.”
21 Oct 2021	Fighting anti-Semitism needs solidarity, not definitions	The Age (Australia)/David Zyngier (a Glen Eira councillor and the son of a Holocaust survivor) & Dan Coleman (convenor of the Jewish Greens Working Group)	“if you feel that Australia is a racist endeavour (founded on stolen land with a long history of genocidal policies and structural discrimination against Aboriginal peoples) you’ll have plenty of company these days, and a healthy debate in mainstream media. However, if you argue that Israel is a racist endeavour (founded in the forced displacement of Palestinians , enforcing the world’s longest illegal occupation , with countless discriminatory laws aimed at the Palestinians), the IHRA definition will be invoked to label you anti-Semitic, even if you are Jewish.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
12 Oct 2021	Why the Malmo Forum against antisemitism risks failure	Avraham Burg/Times of Israel	“This conference, which could be an important benchmark in building shared understanding of antisemitism and how it operates, will ultimately fail in its aims. This is because its principles are based on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, a definition that some have pushed hard throughout Europe by both the Israeli government and Jewish organizations for political purposes...the instrumentalisation of the antisemitism issue under successive Israeli governments, to serve goals of Israel advocacy, has added an unprecedented degree of controversy and disingenuity to this already difficult terrain.”
12 Oct 2021	Activists, scholars call to end weaponising anti-Semitism ahead of Holocaust Remembrance event in Sweden	Middle East Monitor	“Several Palestine activist groups and academics working in the field of anti-Semitism studies have issued separate statements raising their concerns on instrumentalising anti-Semitism ahead of tomorrow’s International Forum on Holocaust Remembrance and Combating Anti-Semitism held in Malmo, Sweden. According to a statement issued today by the Palestinian Action Group in Southern Sweden, which is composed of Swedes of Palestinian origin, along with other Palestinian unions and institutions in Europe, concerns have been raised that the outcome of the event could be used ‘to prosecute or repress those who criticize the Israeli occupation and the Zionist movement with false allegations of anti-Semitism.’”
12 Oct 2021	Kritik av Israel är inte antisemitism [Criticism of Israel is not anti-semitism]	Göran Rosenberg/Kultur (Sweden)	
11 Oct 2021	“Do not politicize the fight against antisemitism”	Svenska Dagbladet/54 scholars: We issue a stark warning against the political instrumentalization of the fight against antisemitism. Also see: Call by scholars: Stop instrumentalising antisemitism (EU Observer) Scholars signed doc here .	“Eleven “contemporary examples of antisemitism” have been attached to this IHRA definition, seven of which relate to Israel. Several of these examples are being weaponized against human rights organizations and solidarity activists who denounce Israel’s occupation and human rights violations. They legitimize wrongful accusations of antisemitism, which serve as a warning for anyone voicing criticism of Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians. This has a chilling effect on free speech and academic freedom and compromises the fight against antisemitism. Regrettably , this clear abuse of the IHRA definition and of the examples has so far not been acknowledged by governments and parliaments that have adopted it. More concerning, the European Union is working hard to implement the IHRA definition across multiple policy areas and to entrench it society-wide. In January 2021, the European Commission published a “Handbook” for that purpose, which was harshly criticized by civil society stakeholders. Among other initiatives, the handbook promotes giving legal effect to the IHRA definition and cultivates it as a criterion to allocate or deny funding to civil society organizations. We fear this is a prelude to discriminatory and repressive policies.”

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9 Oct 2021	Fighting anti-Semitism (and those who cry ‘wolf’ about it) at the University of Toronto	University of Toronto professors: Abigail B. Bakan, Rebecca Comay, and Deborah Cowen/Canadian Dimension	“Just as with the legendary boy who cried “wolf” when there was no such predator in sight, these false claims of anti-Semitism are dangerous. They harm Palestinians and those who research and advocate for Palestinian rights. And they can leave us all vulnerable when the real beast of anti-Jewish racism bares its fangs.”
7 Oct 2021	Under Investigation: Anti-Palestinian racism at the Toronto District School Board	Desmond Cole in Yes, Everything (Canada)	“...Ziadah said in our interview that although the mere utterance of ‘Free Palestine’ does not itself appear violate the IHRA definition, “the definition is so vague and broad that it has created this chilling atmosphere where even uttering the word ‘Palestine’ is a problem.” Citing attempts to criminalize Black Lives Matter organizing and environmental justice work in the United Kingdom, Ziadah warned that ‘any chilling effect on social movements does not just affect Palestine, it affects all of us, and all of the kinds of organizing and freedoms we want to have.’”
6 Oct 2021	By endorsing the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, Europe stifles academic freedom	Middle East Monitor/Nasim Ahmed	“Freedom of speech is often described as one of the pillars of liberal democracy but not, it seems, when that freedom is used to express legitimate criticism of the Zionist state of Israel and its pernicious, racist ideology. As many pro-Palestine activists have said, ‘Anti-Semitism is a crime; anti-Zionism is a duty.’ The two should never be conflated.”
6 Oct 2021	The Toronto District School Board’s real scandal is anti-Palestinian racism	Mark Muhammad Ayyash/The Breach (Canada)	“In another grave move to erase Palestine and silence the Palestinian critique of Zionism and Israel, the TDSB quietly adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. In August of 2021, 300 TDSB staff, students, and parents, sent a letter to the TDSB leadership asking critical questions about the TDSB’s adoption of the IHRA—which delegitimizes legitimate criticism of Israeli state policy with the brush of antisemitism—and requesting a set of actions that would create an inclusive and equitable learning environment. The letter was confirmed as received by the TDSB leadership but no serious response or engagement has come of it.”
5 Oct 2021	IHRA reminds me of the Mohammed cartoons	Anders Persson, Linneaus University (Sweden) (Swedish version)	“The Mohammed cartoons closed down the debate and made people afraid of discussing issues about Islam. There is now a big risk that IHRA’s definition and examples of antisemitism will go down the same path. “
23 Aug 2021	UK universities are adopting controversial IHRA antisemitism guidelines – but it’s putting Palestinian solidarity activism at risk	Hadeel Himmo, writing at Gal-Dem	“The UK government has threatened sanctions for universities that don’t adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, placing students and academics fighting for Palestinian freedom under attack.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
9 Aug 2021	Against the IHRA: Why it's Time to Adopt the Jerusalem Declaration	Tribune Magazine (UK)/Julia Bard	"The IHRA Working Definition is finally unravelling, but over the last five years it has set back the real fight against antisemitism. We have a lot of work to do to replace it, to end its use in weaponising anti-Jewish racism, and to rebuild alliances and solidarity with other minorities. The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, on the other hand, has presented us with an opportunity to strengthen the fight against racism everywhere, including the vital challenge to antisemitism which has been so ill-served by the IHRA Working Definition. If we seize this opportunity, we can also ensure that it is used to create crucial space for progressive campaigners to understand and contribute to the liberation of the peoples of Palestine and Israel."
27 July 2021	Biden's pick for antisemitism envoy will need to answer these tough questions	The Forward/Kenneth Stern	"Unfortunately, as I testified before Congress in 2017 and wrote in a recent book , the working definition has been primarily used (and I argue, grossly abused) to suppress and chill pro-Palestinian speech, starting on campus in 2010 , and then more broadly...As I and many others have written — no one more eloquently than Joe Cohn of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education — there already exists a tendency of the political right and the political left to censor and chill political opponents. A definition applied like IHRA, as one reviewer of my book pointed out in criticism of my role, has a clear effect: '[I]f you give witch hunters a manual for the discovery of witchcraft they will find witches.' IHRA's zealous supporters often say that to combat antisemitism, one has to define it. In my view, that simply isn't true. Definitions are useful for data collectors, but it's not as if people didn't fight antisemitism before the definition was created over 16 years ago."
8 July 2021	The Zionist assault on Judaism	The Israeli Committee Against Home Demolitions (ICHAD)/Jeff Haler	"It is clear that the actual menace of antisemitism bothers Israel less than criticism of its policies. By focusing so narrowly on Israel, weaponized antisemitism lets real anti-Semites off the hook. Evangelicals who teach that at Armageddon Jews either die or are converted to Christianity, but who are "pro-Israel" because they need Israel to bring about the End of Days. Or classic European anti-Semites like Hungary's Viktor Orban or Poland's Andrzej Duda who support Israel because they see it as the kind of ethnically exclusive society they aspire to impose on their own countries, to which we might add the likes of Modi in India. By contrast, the British Labour Party, kowtowing to Israel and the organized Jewish community, expels or suspends prominent Jewish members critical of Israel."
7 July 2021	Universities - the new battlefield in the antisemitism wars	Labour Briefing (UK)/Jonathan Rosenhead	"The struggle for free speech on Israel/ Palestine is at a critical stage. It could go either way. Universities' willingness to take their staff and students through disciplinary processes for things they teach or write or tweet about Zionism, settler colonialism or apartheid, affects more than those directly involved. Just as in the Labour Party, people become unsure what it is permitted to say, and many decide it is better not to say anything at all. The chilling effect is the weapon of mass silencing. That is why the current phase of the campus battle against imposition of the IHRA definition is so crucial."

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14 June 2021	Anti-Zionism, Antisemitism, and the Fallacy of Bright Lines	INSS/Kenneth Stern	“The weaponization of the ‘working definition’ of antisemitism and the assertion that anti-Zionism is antisemitism as US government policy (Kushner, 2019) clearly show that not all such allegations are wrong or made in bad faith. Let us not forget that this scarlet letter ‘A’ was advocated by the Trump administration against groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (with potential implications for their funding) (Toosi, 2020). Let us not ignore that some pro-Israel activists champion the chilling effect of the antisemitism charge as a good thing (Marcus, 2013). The Simon Wiesenthal Center even says that the ‘working definition’ of antisemitism should be used to bar ‘Israel Apartheid Week’ on college campuses (Simon Wiesenthal Center, 2017). Meanwhile, many mainstream Jewish groups not only remain silent about such efforts but continue to insist that the use of the ‘working definition’ in this witch-hunt fashion does not restrict free speech.”
6 June 2021	Stephen Sedley: Statement on IHRA	Former Lord Justice of Appeal and Judge ad hoc of the European Court of Human Rights; past visiting professor of law, Oxford University.	“It is now five years since the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (the IHRA) published what it called “a non-legally binding working definition of anti-semitism”. It is a clumsy piece of drafting distinguished by two particular features: it fails the first test of any definition by being open-ended and indefinite; and it is accompanied by examples some of which are visibly designed to protect Israel from legitimate criticism. “
10 May 2021	Palestinian lives matter, too	The Observer (student paper of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s, & Holy Cross)/Atalia Omer, professor of religion, conflict and peace studies	“One of these controversial IHRA’s illustrations reads that antisemitism amounts to “[d]enying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.” If this illustration appears to you as self-evidently antisemitic, you need to check your ethical blinders. What this illustration does not mention is that the fulfillment of the “right to self-determination” for Jews entailed the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians. This is not “an opinion” but a historical fact established by Israeli and Palestinian historians as well as, of course, by the intergenerational memories of the people who resist amnesia in refugee camps and the diasporas. Indeed, the real story is who is omitted from IHRA and why and whose agenda does it serve?”
27 April 2021	Letter: UMass should not adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism	Letter to the Massachusetts Daily Collegian/Jon Blum & Sonya Epstein	“despite the good intentions of those seeking to adjudicate cases of antisemitism, the IHRA definition has increasingly been used by Pro-Israel groups to advance their own agendas in the name of fighting antisemitism. The definition includes examples which conflate critiques of the State of Israel and anti-Zionism with antisemitism, a move that could suppress Palestinian liberation activism. For example, StandWithUs cited the definition in a 2019 case which sought to ban the Fordham chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP). Among other examples , it is clear that this definition is actively being used to stifle free speech in an effort to silence Palestine solidarity activists. Kenneth Stern, one of the leading authors of the 2005 working definition has repeatedly spoken out against this adoption of the IHRA definition because of the way it has been weaponized against pro-Palestine speech.”

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23 April 2021	THE POLITICS OF A DEFINITION - How the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism Is Being Misrepresented	<p>Jamie Stern-Weiner, PhD candidate, Wolfson College, University of Oxford</p> <p>Also see: IHRA 'misrepresents' own definition of anti-Semitism, says report (Al Jazeera); How the IHRA antisemitism definition became a pro-Israel cudgel (MondoWeiss)</p>	<p>"It has been claimed that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, 'including its 11 examples', reflects an international consensus of antisemitism experts. This report, based on my doctoral research at the University of Oxford, exposes that claim as untrue: 1)There is no expert consensus supporting the Working Definition. 2)IHRA's decision-making body, the Plenary, did not adopt any examples of 'antisemitism' as part of its Working Definition. 3)Senior IHRA officials and pro-Israel groups have misrepresented the IHRA Plenary's decision in order to smuggle into the Working Definition examples that can be used to protect Israel from criticism. 4)These examples have been used, in practice, to censor Israel's critics."</p>
22 April 2021	If I am only for myself, who am I? Professor David Feldman on the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism	<p>Vashti/Rivkah Brown interviews Professor David Feldman (director of the Institute for the Study of Antisemitism (formerly the Pears Institute) at Birkbeck, University of London since its founding in 2010)</p>	<p>"The [IHRA] working definition has been widely adopted. For many organisations, the act of adoption became a convenient symbol of their opposition to antisemitism. But the definition is not only a symbol: it is also intended to be an operational and educational document. This is where problems arise, and why it has been important for us to offer an alternative. The working definition points to the fact that criticism of Israel and Zionism can become the setting for antisemitism; seven of its 11 examples deal with this. But it is in its imprecise dealing with this thorny issue that the working definition's authors created a problem. The working definition is invoked in attempts to close down legitimate debate on Israel and Palestine. Its cautious words about the need to assess any allegation of antisemitism 'taking into account the overall context' are widely ignored. Instead, the boycott movement (even when applied to settlement products only) and mild criticisms of the Israeli state are condemned as inherently antisemitic. We don't have to support the boycott or this or that criticism of Israel to recognise that this is wrong. The absence of any mention of antiracist principles or universal rights in the IHRA working definition mean that abuses such as these proliferate. After more than five decades of occupation, settlement building and, more recently, a Nation-State Law that formalises discrimination against Palestinians, this is significant. It should be no surprise that Palestinians complain that the working definition stands in the way of them speaking about their experiences."</p>
20 April 2021	Why I Signed the Jerusalem Declaration: A Response to Cary Nelson	<p>Fathom Journal/Derek Penslar (professor of Jewish History at Harvard & Resident Faculty at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies'</p>	<p>"In recent years, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism has been enshrined in policy and law by universities, civic organisations, and governments. This is bizarre, as the IHRA definition was developed for the purpose of data collection, not policy making, and its authors acknowledged its protean status. (It was called a 'working' definition.) Nonetheless, this definition has been invoked in efforts to restrict the free and open exchange of ideas beyond the necessity to protect public safety and prohibit discrimination and harassment. The most recent and absurd such attempt has occurred just now, at Temple University in Philadelphia and Stockton University in New Jersey, where a co-sponsored Zoom event on the misuse of the IHRA has encountered protest that such an event is itself antisemitic, 'abhorrent,' and an 'abomination.'"</p>

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
19 April 2021	A better instrument for fighting anti-Semitism	The Hamilton Spectator/Harry Shannon	"the JDA recognizes that anti-Semitism is a scourge that must be dealt with. By identifying what is and is not anti-Semitic, they have given us a definition that, unlike the IHRA-WDA, is easy to understand and can be a vital tool in the fight against genuine anti-Semitism."
19 April 2021	Why is the EU helping to label Israel criticism as antisemitism?	+972 Magazine/Ilan Baruch (Ambassador (ret.) Ilan Baruch chairs the Policy Working Group, a collective of senior Israeli academics, former ambassadors, and human rights defenders who advocate and promote a transformation of relations between Israel and Palestine from occupation to coexistence based on a two-state solution.)	"By adopting the IHRA definition, the EU is playing into the agendas of Israel advocacy groups that undermine civil society work against the occupation."
18 April 2021	Two Jews, Three Definitions: New Documents Challenge Mainstream View of Antisemitism	Haaretz/Jonathan Shamir	"Two new documents published by Jewish intellectuals challenge the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism and its emphasis on Israel."
15 April 2021	We reject the IHRA definition: why recent efforts to combat antisemitism dangerously miss the mark	The Mac Weekly (Student paper of Macalester)/Sophia Sahm & Rebecca Driker-Ohren	"Openly adopting the IHRA definition leads institutions like Macalester to play into the hands of the right by driving a wedge between Jews and our allies in the progressive movement, while leaving the actual threat to our safety — violent white nationalism — untouched and unchecked. The true threat facing the Jewish community is antisemitism, not constructive criticism of the Israeli government. And constructive criticism of Israel should not be mistaken for antisemitism. We now call on President Suzanne Rivera, the Macalester Board of Trustees and all other Macalester leadership to make a statement condemning the attack on free speech that is the IHRA definition of antisemitism."

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15 April 2021	Battle of Antisemitism Definitions is Actually a Proxy War For Criticism of Israel	Religion Dispatches/Joshua Shanes (Associate Professor of Jewish Studies, and Director of the Arnold Center for Israel Studies, at the College of Charleston)	“...The real debate is about criticizing Israel. Although IHRA notes the importance of context, in practice its vague language and large net has been misused to target pro-Palestinian advocacy on college campuses and in legislation. For example, IHRA’s concern about criticizing Israel by a ‘double standard’ has often been interpreted to mean that anyone who protests Israeli human rights violations without equal attention to other countries has a ‘double standard’ and is therefore presumed guilty of antisemitism. It opens up almost any criticism of Israel to that charge. The JDA addresses this and other problems with specific examples of common anti-Israel rhetoric that crosses the line to antisemitism and specific examples of common rhetoric or actions (e.g. boycott) that do not. The list of signatures and subsequent endorsements is impressive, although there has been heated pushback by those who insist that the IHRA definition must be maintained. Indeed, one respondent—David Hirsh, author of <i>Contemporary Leftwing Antisemitism</i> (the focus of his activism)— accused the authors and supporters of the JDA of composing the definition not to fight antisemitism but to ‘fight efforts to fight antisemitism’; of standing with antisemites to protect them! This is an outrageous attack against some of the most respected scholars and Jewish leaders in the world.”
15 April 2021	The IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism Puts Jews on the Wrong Side of the First Amendment	The New York Jewish Week -Times of Israel/Jerome Chanes (a senior fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies of the CUNY Graduate Center who has written extensively on anti-Semitism)	“At bottom, codifying the IHRA into law or campus speech codes will have a chilling effect on criticism of Israel — especially on the campus — and put the Jewish community on the wrong side of the First Amendment. More basic, as policy analyst Jonathan Jacoby suggests, is the agenda of those pushing for the adoption the IHRA agenda: ‘The effort to define anti-Semitism in IHRA is largely a ploy of the pro-Israel Right to fight an anti-Israelism of the Left.’”
15 April 2021	Between Antisemitism and anti-Zionism: The Intellectual's Dilemma	Haaretz/Eva Illouz (Eva Illouz holds the Rose Isaac Chair in sociology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and is a senior research fellow at the Van Leer Institute.)	“In casting dissenters and critics of Israel as antisemites, the Israeli political right has created an unprecedented line of fracture within the Jewish people, one that privileges the political interests of the State of Israel over its solidarity with liberal Jews; and it favors the aims of Israel internal policy to the detriment of the struggle against antisemitism. This strategy has had startling and unintended effects: It lessens the commitment of Jews to their ethnicity and religion, and instead makes them increasingly define themselves in terms of their politics. The weaponization of antisemitism will likely accentuate an already deep divide in the Jewish people, between those who fight antisemitism in the name of international norms of justice and those who will make the struggle against antisemitism ancillary to Israeli politics of expansion.”
14 April 2021	The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism and free expression	Free Speech on Israel (UK)/Rob Ferguson	“The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) is a highly welcome development. Its key significance lies in its potential for mobilising significantly wider opposition to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) “working definition” of antisemitism, and attempts to de-legitimise free expression on Israel and solidarity with Palestine.”

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13 April 2021	Jewish Students at Michigan State University Withdraw Previously Passed Antisemitism Bill After Backlash, 'Weaponized' Process	The Algemeiner/Sharon Wrobel Also see report from Michigan News Journal	“The SUPR alleged that the definition provided by the IHRA “limits the understanding of the true roots of antisemitism [and] plays an active role in silencing political thought surrounding the occupation of historic Palestine.” Instead, the SUPR called for adopting the Jerusalem Declaration of Antisemitism (JDA), an alternative proposed by critics of the IHRA definition.”
12 April 2021	CUNY Student Senate Votes Down Resolution Endorsing IHRA	Jewish Journal/Adam Bandler Also see: CUNY student senate rejects dueling resolutions on IHRA definition of anti-Semitism (JNS); 'It was a disaster': Inside a fierce battle over antisemitism at CUNY (The Forward)	“The City University of New York’s (CUNY) University Student Senate (USS) voted down a resolution endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism and another resolution supporting a watered-down definition of anti-Semitism after a five-hour debate. The resolution with the watered-down definition of anti-Semitism, which was being pushed by the CUNY Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA) and Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), defined anti-Semitism as ‘hostility, prejudice, vilification, discrimination or violence directed against Jews, as individuals, groups, or as a collective — because they are Jews. Its expression includes attributing to Jews, as a group, practices, characteristics or behaviors that are perceived as dangerous, harmful, frightening, or threatening to non-Jews.’ It also claimed that ‘the equation of speech and activity opposing Israel and Zionism, and/or supporting Palestinians, as inherently antisemitic is a form of anti-Palestinian racism.’”
10 April 2021	Tackling Hate, Protect Dissent	The Bullet/letter to Canadian Minister of Justice/Attorney General & to Minister of Canadian Heritage, from Canadian organizations committed to the defence of human rights, civil liberties, and the eradication of discrimination	“a clear line must be drawn between bona fide hate speech and legitimate forms of dissent and protest. We are particularly concerned with where that line may fall between clear instances of antisemitism, on one hand, and criticism of the state of Israel, on the other. There is a concerted effort by some groups to blur this line. In lockstep with the Israeli government , pro-Israel advocacy organizations in Canada are urging Canada to connect the deeply flawed and widely rejected International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism (IHRA-WDA) with this new online hate legislation...”
9 April 2021	CUNY Student Senate to Vote on Resolution Rejecting IHRA	Jewish Journal/Adam Bandler Text of resolution	“The City University of New York’s (CUNY) Student Senate will be voting on a resolution that rejects the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism on April 11. The resolution is being pushed by the CUNY Jewish Law Students Association and CUNY Students for Justice in Palestine in response to a March resolution adopting IHRA. The resolution states that the IHRA definition ‘has been used to create a false and dangerous polarity of interests between Palestinian/ pro-Palestinian rights students and Jewish students’ and ‘endangers and defames those advocating for Palestinian rights as inherently antisemitic and has already been used to smear Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim groups and individuals at CUNY, and to stifle free speech and political debate on campuses.’ Additionally, the resolution alleges that ‘the equation of speech and activity opposing Israel and Zionism, and/or supporting Palestinians, as inherently antisemitic is a form of anti-Palestinian racism’ and that ‘antisemitism is not an exceptional form of bigotry. People and systems that hate, discriminate and/or attack Jews, have also upheld structural racism, patriarchy, and white supremacy.’”

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1 April 2021	The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism - Why the oldest hatred needs a new definition.	The Nation/Brian Klug (senior research fellow and tutor in philosophy at St. Benet's Hall, Oxford and a member of the philosophy faculty at Oxford University.)	"For several years, there has been a rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world. The IHRA definition was presented as a tool for fighting this scourge, but it has generated widespread confusion and bitter controversy —especially regarding its emphasis on speech about Zionism and Israel/Palestine. The IHRA definition tends to divert attention away from the threat that Jews face from the far right and populist movements, divide the forces opposing racism (and other forms of bigotry), and muddy the waters over the difference between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. This, in turn, places unacceptable constraints on political debate about the future for Israel/Palestine and on protest by Palestinians and their allies (including many Jews)."
31 March 2021	New declaration is way out of antisemitism-Israel-Palestine entanglement	Times of Israel (Blogs)/Yair Wallach (Senior Lecturer in Israeli Studies, and head of the Centre for Jewish Studies, in SOAS, University of London.)	"The IHRA working definition of antisemitism won wide support because of the attention it gave to Israel-related rhetoric. But as many supporters of the IHRA acknowledge, the definition has flaws. Much of its language is ambiguous, imprecise, and open to wildly different interpretations. Some right-wing elements aim to use it in a maximalist fashion, to curtail discussion and activism on Israel/Palestine. They attempt to codify the IHRA (despite its "non-binding" status) and to give it quasi-legal power. This has caused legitimate outcry from Palestinians , who face increasing restrictions on their ability to speak on their experience of injustice and oppression. A situation in which the fight against antisemitism is pitted against the struggle for Palestinian rights, is terrible for everyone involved. And it does not have to be this way."
31 March 2021	Challenging Antisemitism: Why Criticism of Israel Shouldn't be Singled Out & Our Interconnected Struggles for Justice	Tikkun/Donna Nevel	"We don't need more definitions (of antisemitism) to protect Jews or to fight antisemitism, especially ones that continue to include Israel as a particular focus. Instead, we should continue to put front and center the calls from community after community that are doing the work to challenge injustice: Our work against anti-Black racism, white supremacy, Islamophobia, anti-Asian racism, antisemitism, transphobia, and all forms of injustice are deeply connected to one another. That is easy to say, but we must practice this in our lives, which means, at the very least, not minimizing other struggles for justice, and, at our best, thinking tangibly about how connecting our struggles can be a lived reality. "
30 March 2021	Criticism of Israel and Its Policies Isn't Antisemitism	Haaretz/Omer Bartov (Professor at Brown University whose book, "Anatomy of a Genocide: The Life and Death of a Town Called Buczacz," was awarded the 2019 Yad Vashem International Prize for Holocaust Research.)	"The Israeli government and its supporters have a keen interest in blurring the distinction between criticism of Israel and antisemitism, in order to paint any substantive, harsh criticism of Israel's policies toward the Palestinians as antisemitic. By these lights, opposing the occupation is considered antisemitic, BDS is antisemitic, criticism of Zionism is antisemitic, and the International Criminal Court in the Hague is of course without a shadow of doubt antisemitic . The Israeli government and its supporters have put tremendous effort into advancing this notion...This effort by the Israeli government and its supporters makes use of the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016. Since that time it has been used, perhaps contrary to the intention of some of its authors, to stifle any biting criticism of Israel and its policies."

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29 March 2021	Der Versuch einer neuen Definition [The trial of a new Definition]	Zeit (Germany)/Katharina Galor (a German-Israeli art historian and archaeologist with a focus on Israel and Palestine. She has taught since 1998 at Brown University)	[translated from German] “We all try again and again, very conscientiously, but with a certain exhaustion and helplessness, to bring the words anti-Semitism, racism, Germany and Israel together into a logical concept. A new effort now does justice to this. It is the Jerusalem Declaration on Anti-Semitism (JDA), published a few days ago, involving a group of twenty scholars, mostly of Jewish faith, most of them Israeli citizens. It should be a concise “guide for the confused”, a guide for all those who want to recognize anti-Semitic tendencies, discourses and actions in order to be able to fight them effectively. The document has now been signed by more than 200 international scholars who are mainly devoted to research into anti-Semitism and related research areas and topics. It should be understood as an improvement, a supplement or even a correction of the confusing attempt of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) to define anti-Semitism.”
27 March 2021	Over 200 scholars say backing Israel boycotts is not anti-Semitic	JTA/Ron Kampeas Also see: Opposing Zionism is not hate speech, new antisemitism definition asserts - Ali Harb/Middle East Eye	“Among the declaration’s lead drafters are anti-Semitism scholars in the United States, Israel, Germany and Britain.”
26 March 2021	We Need a Better Definition of Anti-Semitism	Slate/Joshua Shanes and Dov Waxman	“the IHRA definition—specifically some of its examples pertaining to Israel—has been misused to target pro-Palestinian advocacy, especially on college campuses . Scholars, students , activists, and even artists have been branded anti-Semites (even when they are Jewish) for opposing Zionism, advocating for a Palestinian right of return, or promoting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign against Israel. Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo even used the IHRA definition in an attempt to label Oxfam, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch as anti-Semitic because of their criticism of Israeli government policies and practices toward Palestinians. Using the IHRA definition to smear or silence critics of Israel not only threatens freedom of expression and academic freedom, as its own lead author Kenneth Stern has warned , it also undermines the fight against anti-Semitism as charges of anti-Semitism are devalued and increasingly perceived as politically motivated. This weaponization of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism has been facilitated by its ambiguity. Although it does not simply equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism, or label all criticism of Israel to be anti-Semitic—as some opponents of the definition assert—its vague, conditional wording is open to misinterpretations and misuse. Its conditional phrasing—that criticism “could, taking into account the overall context” cross the line to anti-Semitism—is too often forgotten, or even purposefully ignored. Some of its examples relating to Israel are particularly prone to such problems.”
26 March 2021	Neue Definition des Antisemitismus-Begriffs vorgelegt [New Definition of anti-Semitism, the concept presented]	Norddeutscher Rundfunk - interview with German historian Uffa Jensen	[translated from German] The IHRA definition “is very vague and very imprecise. It suggests, too, sometimes wrong ideas in their nature, as defined by anti-Semitism...the IHRA Definition has been increasingly drawn into a political debate. Because it's about how you have to read the Middle East conflict and how one has to understand certain criticism of Israel, whether that is antisemitic or not.”

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26 March 2021	Was Einstein an Anti-Semite?	Inside Higher Ed/Neve Gordon & Mark LeVine	<p>“Was Albert Einstein an anti-Semite? Was Hannah Arendt? These questions may sound ludicrous. Yet, according to the definition of anti-Semitism that more than 30 countries -- including the United States through the Biden administration -- recently adopted, these two leading intellectuals could very well be labeled as such. This is due to an open letter they sent on Dec. 4, 1948, to <i>The New York Times</i>, claiming that the right-wing Herut Party in the newly formed State of Israel was “closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist parties...The definition in question is the 2016 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) “working definition of anti-Semitism,” which has become a tool of choice for so-called pro-Israel organizations. This definition shifts the meaning of anti-Semitism from its traditional focus on hatred of Jews per se -- the idea that Jews are naturally inferior and/or evil, or a belief in worldwide Jewish-led conspiracies or Jewish control of capitalism, or some combination thereof -- to one based largely and, it seems, most importantly, on how critical one is toward Israel’s colonial and rights-abusive policies.”</p>
26 March 2021	Why I Signed the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism	Jewish Currents/Barry Trachtenberg	<p>“It is regrettable that more than a year’s worth of intellectual time and energy had to be spent on this initiative, which risks further classifying speech concerning Jews as a “special case” that requires its own set of guidelines. However, the damage done by the IHRA definition of antisemitism is profound. It has restricted reasonable debates about Israel and done nothing to lessen antisemitism. It must be stopped in its tracks. Whatever its shortcomings, the JDA is the product of a long, thoughtful process of ethical dialogue between an international body of scholars and a broad range of interest groups, all of whom are deeply invested in combating antisemitism. As such, it is a work of consensus with which I suspect none of the signers will be completely satisfied. Nevertheless, it is a necessary tool to identify antisemitism while defending the right to speech and political action that is critical of Israel. Now that it has been drafted, we can get on with the work of dismantling antisemitism and supporting freedom in Palestine/ Israel.”</p>
26 March 2021	Antisemitismus neu und klar definiert [Anti-Semitism, redefined and clear]	tachles - The Jewish weekly magazine (Switzerland)/Valerie Wendenburg (editor in chief)	<p>[translated from German] “Well-known international scholars present the new Jerusalem Declaration on anti-Semitism and references to the shortcomings of the anti-Semitism Definition of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.”</p>

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26 March 2021	A new antisemitism definition to ease IHRA confusion	EU Observer/By Aleida Assmann, Alon Confino and David Feldman	“In practice, however, the IHRA definition has turned into a source of confusion and contention. This has to do with 11 “contemporary examples of antisemitism” attached to the definition, seven of which relate to Israel. In practice, these examples are exploited to delegitimise individuals and groups critical of Israel or Zionism as antisemitic. This has a chilling effect on free speech and academic freedom and distracts from the acute danger of far-right antisemitism. Instead of unifying people in order to combat antisemitism the IHRA definition has unfortunately become highly divisive. It is against this background, that a group of scholars from all over the world came together in 2020, under the aegis of the Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem , to critically assess the IHRA definition and seek to clarify those aspects of it which cause confusion and concern.”
25 March 2021	The IHRA’s Careless Conflations on Antisemitism (and Few Alternatives)	Univ of Notre Dame-Keough School of Global Affairs/Moshe Behar	“...The definition Williamson insists on imposing carelessly conflates “Jews” with “the state of Israel” and “Judaism” with “modern political Zionism.” The original conflation between these identities and phenomena was—and remains—an inherent organizing pillar of Zionist ideology. Self-proclaimed pro-Israel bodies and individuals exercise this conflation regularly in texts, actions, and advocacy . It comes as no surprise that this conflation has often been reproduced by Israel’s anti-Zionist critics, at times consciously and at other times as a consequence of inexcusable ignorance.”
25 March 2021	Leading Jewish scholars say BDS, one-state solution are not antisemitic	The Forward/Arno Rosenfeld	“Boycotting Israel and calling for an end to its Jewish majority is not inherently antisemitic, according to a new definition of antisemitism released Thursday by a group of more than 200 scholars of Jewish studies. The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism represents the latest salvo in the debate over how to define anti-Jewish bigotry and is the most permissive of the mainstream definitions when it comes to attacks on Israel.”
25 March 2021	A new declaration aims to fight antisemitism without curtailing free speech	The Forward/Elissa Bemporad (professor of history, Queens College & CUNY Graduate Center), Alon Confino (professor of history & Jewish Studies/director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, & Memory Studies at UMass-Amherst), & Derek Penslar (professor of Jewish history at Harvard University). All 3 are among the 200 signatories to the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism.	“Antisemitism is on the rise, with powerful instigators behind it, but the struggle against it is at risk of being derailed by acrimonious divisions among Jews and others over its very meaning. The drive for adoption of a single, fixed definition of antisemitism has devolved into a polemical political debate on Israel and Palestine with crucial free-speech implications. Today we introduce the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, which was crafted by a group of scholars from the United States, Israel, Europe and the U.K, after more than a year of intense discussion and study. The declaration has been endorsed by 200 eminent scholars with a wide spectrum of political views. All of us agree on the need for a guide to effectively combat antisemitism that protects space for an open debate around all possibilities around the future for Israelis and Palestinians.”

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25 March 2021	Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism	200+ international scholars working in Antisemitism Studies and related fields, including Jewish, Holocaust, Israel, Palestine, and Middle East Studies.	“The IHRA Definition includes 11 “examples” of antisemitism, 7 of which focus on the State of Israel. While this puts undue emphasis on one arena, there is a widely-felt need for clarity on the limits of legitimate political speech and action concerning Zionism, Israel, and Palestine. Our aim is twofold: (1) to strengthen the fight against antisemitism by clarifying what it is and how it is manifested, (2) to protect a space for an open debate about the vexed question of the future of Israel/Palestine. We do not all share the same political views and we are not seeking to promote a partisan political agenda. Determining that a controversial view or action is not antisemitic implies neither that we endorse it nor that we do not.”
24 Mar 2021	Criticizing a country’s policies is not bigotry	Responsible Statecraft/Paul Pillar	<p>“American Jews are not responsible for the policies and practices of the State of Israel. In fact, the prevailing sentiments among American Jews have increasingly diverged from those of the Israeli Jews who elect that state’s government. American Jews are actually less inclined to condone the Israeli government’s actions than are members of certain other religious groups in the United States. Right-thinking Americans who understand these realities ought to feel free to discuss frankly what the Israeli government does without any implications about attitudes toward their Jewish compatriots.”</p> <p>Also: “For Americans, any disproportionate scrutiny of Israeli behavior is both understandable and appropriate given the extraordinary nature of the U.S. relationship with Israel. If American observers criticize human rights violations by Israel more often than, say, human rights violations by Tanzania, that is partly because Tanzania does not receive \$3.8 billion annually in U.S. aid and political cover in the form of U.S. vetoes in the United Nations Security Council. Moreover, Israel has intentionally created a situation in the occupied territories that is <i>sui generis</i>, not subject to evaluation that can be wholly applied elsewhere, and that enables Israel to apply its own form of double standard. No other state has kept its boundaries undefined in the way Israel has. This enables Israel to treat territory as its own for some purposes (such as building settlements and applying Israeli law) and not its own for other purposes (such as disavowing any responsibility for vaccinating Palestinian Arab residents for COVID-19).”</p>
23 Mar 2021	Jewish Faculty in Canada Against the Adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism	140 prominent Jewish scholars from across Canada [per @FacultyJewish tweet]	“We are specifically concerned with recent lobbying on our campuses for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism...Not only does it essentialize Jewish identity, culture, and theology, it also equates Jewishness and Judaism with the State of Israel – effectively erasing generations of debate within Jewish communities. The issue is particularly pressing as the IHRA working definition has been invoked by those seeking to interfere with collegial governance and student life at Canadian universities. The IHRA working definition distracts from experiences of anti-Jewish racism, and threatens to silence legitimate criticism of Israel’s grave violations of international law and denial of Palestinian human and political rights. On campuses where this definition has been adopted it has been used to intimidate and silence the work of unions, student groups, academic departments and faculty associations that are committed to freedom, equality and justice for Palestinians.”

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17 Mar 2021	US Jewish scholars push anti-Semitism definition allowing more Israel criticism	JTA/Ron Kampeas <u>Text of the Nexus Document</u>	“Paying disproportionate attention to Israel and treating Israel differently than other countries is not prima facie proof of anti-Semitism,” the Nexus definition says. “There are numerous reasons for devoting special attention to Israel and treating Israel differently, e.g., some people care about Israel more; others may pay more attention because Israel has a special relationship with the United States and receives \$4 billion in American aid.”
1 Mar 2021	European Commission "Handbook" entrenches controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism	11.11.11 (Belgian NGO platform)	“On 7 January 2021, the European Commission released a "Handbook for the practical use of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism". This Handbook entrenches the controversial IHRA definition across many policy areas and facilitates the political instrumentalization of the fight against antisemitism.”
1 Mar 202	UCL board's IHRA decision is an opportunity, not a threat	Times of Israel (Blogs)/UCL students letter signed by Daniel Lubin, Francesca Kurlansky, Manya Eversley, Charley Katan, & Jake Cohen.	“The UCL board’s recommendation should not be understood as a threat – rather it is an opportunity. Some Jewish students have acknowledged the definition’s imperfections but regretted that there is no alternative. Now is the time for our community to seek a new framework that not only actually protects Jews but does so without compromising other marginalised groups and free speech. As antisemitism increases we should not settle for a faulty safeguard. We can and must do better than the IHRA.”
21 Feb 2021	U.S. Jewish Groups Want to Fight Antisemitism, but Struggle to Agree What It Is	Haaretz/Danielle Ziri	“Leading Holocaust scholar Prof. Deborah Lipstadt agrees that if you look at the IHRA definition, ‘you won’t find right-wing antisemitism there: you won’t find Pittsburgh there; you won’t find Poway there; you won’t find Halle, Germany, there; you won’t find what we saw from some of the groups on January 6 at the Capitol there.’ But for her, she told Haaretz in a Zoom interview last week, the big question is about how the definition is applied. ‘If I call someone an antisemite, it should have the sting of a thousand cuts,’ she said. ‘It should never be used lightly, it should never be used frivolously.’”
20 Feb 2021	The conflict over the conflict	Times of Israel (Blogs)/Steve Sheffey, “Pro-Israel writer and activist”	“When we treat campus debates about Israel as if the outcome of a campus dispute will materially affect Israel, when we act as if the passage of a non-binding BDS resolution will make even a ripple of difference in the real world, we sell our kids short. These are the hard debates about important ideas that our kids should be having in college. That’s how they learn to think, how to handle hard conversations, and how to reassess their own beliefs. By forfeiting on their behalf opportunities for them to learn how to think– or worse, by attempting to suppress speech we don’t want to hear, which is the antithesis of what the First Amendment and our Jewish tradition at its best stands for– we cannot hope to win in the marketplace of ideas because we aren’t teaching our kids how to compete in that marketplace. And that’s a shanda.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
18 Feb 2021	CJPME to Facebook and Twitter: Don't Adopt IHRA	CJPME	“CJPME opposes the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, and particularly its illustrative examples, of which 7 out of 11 mention criticism of Israel or Zionism. Taken together, we and our supporters are concerned that the definition and its examples, if adopted by Facebook, will be used to stifle free speech and activism related to Israel and Palestine. Our concerns about IHRA are shared by the Canadian Labour Congress , the Canadian Federation of Students , the BC Civil Liberties Association , more than 550 academics , and many other civil society groups . CJPME believes that the IHRA definition is far too ambiguous to be useful for determining instances of antisemitism. Instead, it is often incorrectly applied in a way that silences Palestinians and other critics of Israel.”
12 Feb 2021	UCL board rejects IHRA definition of antisemitism	The Guardian/Rachel Hall UCL statement [“...Following a thoughtful debate this week which universally reaffirmed this commitment to tackling anti-semitism, a meeting of UCL’s Academic Board voted to make an advisory recommendation to Council to find an alternative definition to the IHRA. Council will now consider this recommendation and will continue to consult and listen to the views of the entire UCL community on this and other issues.”] Also: UCL academic board urges university to 'replace' IHRA antisemitism definition (Middle East Eye); UCL’s Academic Board finds the IHRA definition of antisemitism not fit for purpose (Palestine Solidarity Campaign)	“University College London’s governing body will reconsider its definition of antisemitism after an internal academic board rejected the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s definition, which the university had adopted. The revolt by senior academics at the London university is the latest incident in an emerging tussle with the government and the education secretary, Gavin Williamson, who last year threatened sanctions against universities that failed to adopt the IHRA definition. The vote by UCL’s academic board calls on the university to ‘retract and replace IHRA working definition with a more precise definition of antisemitism’.”
11 Feb 2021	The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism derails our fight against it on campus	Times of Israel (Blogs)/Moriah Richman (FSU Student/J St U)	“For Jewish students across the USA, the campaign to codify the IHRA and use it to suppress speech on campus comes at a particularly unhelpful moment. In our work to fight anti-Semitism and injustice on campus, our focus is on trying to build bridges with communities across the spectrum of campus life, underscoring our common cause in fighting against anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and systemic racial injustice. If the IHRA definition is codified nationally, we fear that right-wing advocacy groups will do as they have done on our campuses — distract from real anti-Semitism by turning it into a political football, and working to silence all manner of progressive Jewish and Palestinian rights groups to further their political agenda.”
11 Feb 2021	Facebook might censor criticism of Zionists. That’s dangerous	The Guardian/Rabbi Alissa Wise (JVP)	“It’s imperative that we dismantle antisemitism in all its manifestations, but conflating Zionism with the Jewish people only entrenches it. Facebook should not allow governments to blur the lines between hate speech and political speech, and it must prioritize revisiting existing policies that disproportionately censor Palestinians and other marginalized voices posting about their experiences of racism and state violence. We must all be able to talk about our lives and the issues that are most important to us, while never losing sight of the fact that Palestinians and Jews deserve safety wherever we are.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
10 Feb 2021	The IHRA definition should not be used to ban free speech - and that includes Ken Loach	The Jewish Chronicle (UK)/Lord Mann	"The Jewish community has never been afraid of democratic debate, indeed the community seems to relish it. Students, including Jewish students, are entitled to be discomfited and challenged by different ideas and perspectives and this is an essential part of university life. The IHRA definition of antisemitism does not and should not be used to restrict academic freedom of speech or of research. I welcome universities being unequivocal in their protection of all academic freedoms to teach, to research, and to cooperate with other academics and institutions. Any barrier to this undermines the British concept of democracy and liberty."
10 Feb 2021	We disagree about the Working Definition. That's OK. Here's what's not.	Times of Israel/Ken Stern	"The question of the authorship is a sideshow. But my role as lead drafter has, unquestionably, given me a platform to address the intended uses and troubling abuses, especially the weaponization of the definition against political speech. I continue to believe the definition has appropriate applications for data collection, for giving guidance on hate crimes (because it says you don't have to analyze whether someone really hated Jews, but rather if they intentionally selected a Jewish target, including in response to an event in Israel), and for diplomatic purposes, like when the leader of a country calls for wiping Israel off the map. I disagree with my former colleagues, in particular about how the definition should be used on campus. We also apparently disagree about it being employed to suppress political speech outside the campus, for instance via laws requiring those who contract with state governments sign a new-day loyalty oath that they are against boycotting Israel, or as former Secretary of State Pompeo proposed, as a basis for declaring certain human rights groups like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch anti-Semitic and threatening their funding. I remain most concerned that strong proponents of the campus application of the definition, like the Simon Wiesenthal Center, applaud when political speech is censored, and that others – including mainstream Jewish organizations and former colleagues – remain silent, apparently not seeing a problem."
9 Feb 2021	Imposing an antisemitism definition on academics undermines freedom	Times Higher Education/Hagit Borer, professor of linguistics and head of department at Queen Mary University of London (originally published here).	"Fighting antisemitism is a must, but the IHRA document undermines that fight, threatening free speech and academic freedom, while constituting an attack on the Palestinian right to self-determination and on the struggle to democratise Israel. In the unfolding debate, my voice as an academic and an Israeli dissident deserves to be heard. I do not stand alone; more than 60 Israelis in UK academia have recently written an open letter to our vice-chancellors and academic senates, urging them to reject the IHRA working definition."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
9 Feb 2021	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs opposes government use of IHRA definition of antisemitism	Jewish Council on Urban Affairs	"As a Jewish organization dedicated to social justice, we are deeply committed to the fight against antisemitism. We believe that adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism at the city or state level is not an effective strategy to fight antisemitism as it exists today. JCUA joins Jewish organizations such as the Union for Reform Judaism and Bend the Arc in expressing concern that politicizing the definition of antisemitism could be used to criminalize free speech rather than protect Jewish safety. Legal tools to prosecute hate crimes against Jewish people already exist. In our work on economic, racial, and immigration justice throughout Chicago, we have learned that additional criminalization does not make our communities safer."
9 Feb 2021	British universities must stand firm against government's 'antisemitism' ultimatum	Middle East Eye/Jamie Stern-Weiner	"Pro-Israel campaigners have themselves dismissed the actual two-sentence definition as "very generalist and vague" (Campaign Against Antisemitism) or even "totally neutered ... [and] unmoored from any current reality" (Simon Wiesenthal Center). But it can still serve as an inoffensive cover under which to smuggle spurious examples of antisemitism that stigmatise any criticism of Israel. If there were any doubt on this score, here's what a senior official at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said: "The IHRA definition is in itself a minimalist definition. What turns it into an essential definition in our eyes is the list of examples." One leading pro-Israel organisation went so far as to insist that "essentially the definition is the examples". In practice, pro-Israel advocacy groups have wielded this definition of antisemitism with "the subtlety of a mallet" - I am quoting one of its authors - to stifle speech on campuses."
6 Feb 2021	Codifying IHRA's definition of antisemitism as law is harmful - opinion	Jerusalem Post/Nadav Tamir	"If opposition to or criticism of Zionism is antisemitic, then a significant part of the Jewish people in the past was antisemitic, including organizations that today are supporters of the State of Israel and fighters against antisemitism. The two ends of the spectrum in the Jewish religious movements – the ultra-Orthodox on the one hand and the Reform movement on the other – also opposed Zionism, and it would be ridiculous to say that they were antisemitic. There are also many who oppose nationalism of any kind, including Zionism. There are many Jews in the BDS movement, and falsely portraying them as antisemitic or 'self-hating Jews' harms both the fight against antisemitism and the fight against BDS, which should be based in legitimate, substantive critique and not on exaggerated smears. Accusing critics of Israel and Zionism of antisemitism pushes many who resent the manipulative use of Jewish victimhood to avoid a principled debate on their claims into the arms of BDS."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
4 Feb 2021	Facebook's Latest Proposed Policy Change Exemplifies the Trouble With Moderating Speech at Scale	Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF)/Jillian C. York and David Greene	"According to reports, the company is under pressure to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-semitism, which functionally encompasses harsh criticism of Israel within it. This definition has been criticized by others in the Jewish community. A group of 55 scholars of anti-semitism, Jewish history and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict called it 'highly problematic and controversial'. A US-based group called Jewish Voice for Peace, working in collaboration with a number of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim groups, has launched a campaign to urge Facebook not to include 'Zionist' as a protected category to their hate speech policy. While there is no denying that 'Zionist' can be used as a proxy for 'Jewish' in ways that are anti-semitic, the term's myriad uses make it a prime example of what makes moderation at scale an impossible endeavor."
4 Feb 2021	We 66 British academics and Israeli citizens reject the government's imposition of the IHRA	Vashti Media (UK) (Article about the letter is here)	"UK universities must remain firm in their commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech, and to the fight against all forms of racism, including antisemitism. The flawed IHRA definition does a disservice to both of these goals. We therefore call on academic senates in England to reject the governmental decree to adopt it or, where adopted already, to revoke it."
4 Feb 2021	How should US anti-Semitism be defined in the Biden era?	New Statesman/Emily Tamkin	"The issue before Jewish groups of whether or not to adopt this definition – and, critically, whether to push to have this particular definition further inform US policy – is one of debate in the American Jewish community and across the American Jewish institutional spectrum. It's a debate about free speech, about power and about who gets to speak for American Jews."
4 Feb 2021	Artists like me are being censored in Germany – because we support Palestinian rights	The Guardian/Brian Eno	"Recently, an exhibition of my artwork was cancelled in its early stages because I support the nonviolent, Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. The cancellation was never publicly declared, but I understand it to have been the consequence of cultural workers in Germany fearing that they and their institution would be punished for promoting someone labelled as 'antisemitic'. This is the work of tyranny: create a situation where people are frightened enough to keep their mouths shut, and self-censorship will do the rest... We should all be alarmed by this new McCarthyism. Artists, like all citizens, must be free to speak out and take meaningful action, including principled boycotts, against systems of injustice. If left unchallenged, the silencing of dissent and the marginalisation of minority groups will not stop with Palestinians and those who support them."
03 Feb 2021	Quick Facts: The IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism	Institute for Middle East Understanding (IMEU)	"It conflates legitimate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism...It conflates anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism...It threatens freedom of speech & academic freedom"

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
31 Jan 2021	Facebook is getting pulled into a fight about the politics of Israel	The Verge/Russell Brandom	“On November 10th, a Facebook employee sent out an unusual email to an unknown outside party, hoping to arrange a conversation about how the platform moderated against anti-Semitism. ‘We are looking at the question of how we should interpret attacks on ‘Zionists,’” reads the letter, whose recipient was redacted, ‘to determine whether the term is a proxy for attacking Jewish or Israeli people.’ That strange but seemingly innocuous email has set off a firestorm in certain corners of the left. Since Tuesday, activists have been circulating a petition calling on the platform to halt any potential changes to the way Facebook moderates the word ‘Zionist.’ Both sides agree the term is often used as part of racist rhetoric that is accurately described as hate speech and should be removed. At the same time, the term is also used by Jewish critics of specific Israeli policies, particularly the country’s settlement policy. Classifying the term as hate speech would end up stifling those criticisms — at least on Facebook.”
31 Jan 2021	How the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is shielding Israel from criticism	Canadian Dimension/Fitsum Areguy	"Greg Bird, a Wilfrid Laurier University professor, said that the IHRA definition is designed to limit the scope of such criticism of Israel. Light criticism is allowed, but nothing that addresses Israel’s foundational structures, ethno-nationalist ideologies, and larger settler colonial project. Bird is one of over 450 Canadian academics who signed a letter to oppose the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. He also noted that the short definition lacks an anti-racist and decolonial framework..."
29 Jan 2021	New chair of equalities watchdog is against call for unis to adopt IHRA	Jewish News/Times of Israel (UK)	“The new chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission has said that she is against the call for universities to sign up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Speaking in a personal capacity during a House of Lords debate around antisemitism on campus, Baroness Falkner said: ‘I am afraid that I do not support the call for an IHRA definition.’ She said it was ‘xtremely poorly worded and probably unactionable in law,’ adding that it ‘directly conflicts with the duty on universities to protect free speech.’”
28 Jan 2021	BRISMES Statement Regarding the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism	British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)	“Founded in 1973, BRISMES aims to encourage and promote the study of the Middle East region, and to provide a forum for educators and researchers working in Middle East Studies. As part of our remit, we are committed to supporting academic freedom, particularly in relation to issues involving discussions of the region. It is precisely within this context that as experts on the region we have studied and analysed the IHRA definition and consulted widely. While we welcome steps to root out antisemitism and all forms of racism from university campuses, we have come to the conclusion that this particular definition risks conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism and will have a detrimental impact on researchers and students. It is especially telling that of the eleven illustrative examples the definition relies upon, seven relate to Israel.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
26 Jan 2021	Thirty-nine words about antisemitism are splitting the Jewish community	The Forward/Arno Rosenfeld	“There’s a storm brewing in the American Jewish community over a definition of antisemitism that appears, upon first glance, quite banal. ‘Antisemitism,’ it reads in part, ‘is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.’ But the language, adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2016, comes packaged with a host of examples that describe various criticism of Israel as antisemitic. As much of the Jewish establishment makes federal adoption of the IHRA definition a top priority for the Biden administration, it has become a proxy for a wider rift in the Jewish community over the politicization of antisemitism.”
26 Jan 2021	RFA Executive Motion On Anti-Semitism and the IHRA	Ryerson Faculty Association (RFA)	“BIRT, The Ryerson Faculty Association unequivocally supports the academic freedom of its members. This freedom includes the right to pursue research and open inquiry in an honest search for knowledge that is free from institutional censorship, including that of the government. While the RFA opposes antisemitism and all forms of racism and hatred, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s Working Definition of Antisemitism poses a serious threat to academic freedom in our university. The IHRA definition of antisemitism misconstrues antisemitism to include a broad range of criticism of the State of Israel. The IHRA definition thus undermines important anti-racist and decolonial initiatives in Canadian educational institutions. It can also be used to censor political speech and restrict the academic freedom of teachers and researchers who have developed critical perspectives on the policies and practices of the State of Israel. Such targeted attacks will have a chilling effect on the academic freedom of our members in the classroom, in their research, and in campus politics more broadly.”
25 Jan 2021	Bend the Arc opposes government use of IHRA definition of antisemitism	Bend the Arc	“As an organization committed to dismantling antisemitism, we don’t believe this approach to defining antisemitism is what will actually build safety for the Jewish community,’ said Stosh Cotler, CEO of Bend the Arc: Jewish Action. ‘We know that to confront the increase in antisemitic violence we need to confront those responsible for using antisemitism to manufacture fear and division, not legalize definitions that serve as diversions from the threats we face. We need a multi-pronged approach that uses the existing tools of government as well as structural reforms that ensure a thriving and inclusive democracy where every single one of us is safe, no matter our race, class, or faith. That’s why we’ve made recommendations to the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security to address white nationalist infiltration of law enforcement and update old, disproven theories of radicalization, and calling on Congress to pass laws that strengthen the inclusive nature of our democracy, which will ultimately build safety for our entire community.’”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
25 Jan 2021	Reform Jewish Institutions Affirm IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism [as education tool, NOT to be codified into law]	Union of Reform Judaism - the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Women of Reform Judaism, and ARZA: Association of Reform Zionists of America	<p>The groups “endorse the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance “Working Definition of Antisemitism” (IHRA) as a tool for monitoring and raising awareness” but “we share concerns expressed by other supporters, both in the Jewish community and in broader civil society, that the examples appended to the definition were drafted in a time and context different from the one before us today and can obscure even as they strive to illuminate. The examples seek primarily to clarify when Jews are targeted for harassment because of their real or actual connection to Israel or Zionism. A stated commitment to Israel’s well-being does not preclude antisemitic attitudes. At the same time, questioning Israeli government policies does not automatically denote one’s views as antisemitic. “ and “several of the definition’s examples involve protected speech. Our commitment to principles of free speech and concerns about the potential abuse of the definition compel us to urge its use only as intended: as a guide and an awareness raising tool. The definition should not be codified into policy that would trigger potentially problematic punitive action to circumscribe speech, efforts which have been particularly aimed at college students and human rights activists. If the effect of application of the IHRA definition is to limit free speech, it threatens to divide the broad coalition needed to combat antisemitism.”</p>
25 Jan 2021	B’Tselem, apartheid, and correcting the ethical grammar on Israel/Palestine	Writing From the Edge/Robert A. H. Cohen	<p>“Meanwhile, where does this leave the formal leadership of the Jewish community and its disastrous love-affair with the IHRA definition of antisemitism? It’s already a document which creates conflict and suppresses free speech. But what happens when an Israeli NGO has effectively described the State of Israel as a racist endeavor? The new language of truth and moral clarity should tell us to feed the IHRA document through the shredder.”</p>
24 Jan 2021	Anti-Semitism and Israel: Right-wing Zionists play a deadly word game	salon.com/Doug Neiss	<p>“Seven of the 11 illustrative examples listed are likewise unobjectionable, but the other four are troubling. They all relate to Israel and raise the question of whether promulgating a new definition of anti-Semitism is a valid undertaking if the purpose is to shield Israel from criticism as no other nation is shielded. Making Israel prominent in a definition of anti-Semitism also raises the question of the relationship between the Jewish state and the Jewish people. Clearly, they are not identical, whatever impression Zionists may want to give. For one thing, a good deal of the criticism of Israel and its policies the definition seeks to proscribe comes from diaspora Jews, on and off campus. Israel’s watchdogs can call these Jews self-hating and exclude them in their own minds from the Jewish people, but they still feel a need to muzzle them and other critics. In effect, the IHRA definition privileges hardline Jewish Zionists over other Jews.”</p>

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20 Jan 2021	Smearing, Silencing and Antisemitism	Obiter (Osgoode Hall Law School Campus Newspaper)/Faisal Bhabha	“The fight against antisemitism, like the battles against all forms of discrimination and hate, is important and deserves public attention. The IHRA definition, and the aggressive campaigning of pro-Israel groups like B’nai Brith, do nothing to protect Jews from discrimination. Instead, they promote racism, denigrate Palestinians and smear their supporters. Arguing against a smear is not fair or easy. The threat of censorship that a smear produces is real. It drives up the cost of expression; it can make certain types of expression prohibitive. Smears seek only to silence and punish. This is a threat to everybody who cares about freedom, not just the smeared. Sadly, the climate is only worsening and those in power seldom have the will or courage to denounce false accusations of antisemitism. To counter this trend, it is more important than ever for individuals of conscience to stand up for freedom of expression rights, particularly of marginalized voices and especially in the university setting.”
19 Jan 2021	Stellungnahme zum EU-Handbuch zur Anwendung der IHRA-Arbeitsdefinition des Antisemitismus	Opinion on the EU manual on the application of the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism - Statement by the Jewish Voice for Just Peace in the Middle East to the EU manual on the application of the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism	(Translated from German) “...this handbook makes the shortcomings of the IHRA definition and its examples even more of a practical benchmark for combating anti-Semitism. Even the main author of the definition, Kenneth Stern, has spoken out against its use as a means to suppress freedom of expression, as it is increasingly used to silence activists supporting Palestine Solidarity and to limit their scope of action as much as possible. How is that supposed to help fight anti-Semitism? It is not in the interests of Jews that the actual meaning of anti-Semitism as hostility and discrimination should be concealed by being mixed up with factual, critical arguments, and that human rights activists - including many Jews - should be defamed as anti-Semitic. Instead of repeatedly standing behind the Israeli occupation and the oppression of the Palestinians, the EU should rather follow its supposed principles, which are based on international law and human rights!”
17 Jan 2021	How Israel Is Harming the War on Antisemitism	Haaretz/Noa Landau	“The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance is an international project that seeks to define what antisemitism is for countries and organizations worldwide in order to help them fight it, legally and educationally. On the face of it, this is a worthy goal. But the definition IHRA adopted in 2016 has become the subject of a fierce political controversy, with the Israeli government orchestrating and intensifying the drama.”
15 Jan 2021	Handbook for academics - The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism & Canadian Universities/Colleges - What you need to know	Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) — Canada/NOIHRA (landing page is here); by By: Academic Alliance Against Antisemitism, Racism, Colonialism & Censorship in Canada (ARC)	“If adopted, the IHRA definition will place Canadian academics, especially those conducting anti-racist and decolonial scholarship, at great risk of being falsely accused of being antisemitic, which could result in intimidation, censorship, job precarity, and costly litigation.”
12 Jan 2021	New Israel Fund [Canada] changes course on IHRA definition	Canadian Jewish News	“the New Israel Fund of Canada (NIFC) has withdrawn its support because it, like other progressive groups, says there is “worrying” evidence that the IHRA definition will be used to suppress free speech by equating any criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.”

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12 Jan 2021	Progressive Israel Network Groups Oppose Codification of IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, Citing Strong Potential for Misuse	<p>Progressive Israel Network (Ameinu, Americans for Peace Now, Habonim Dror North America, Jewish Labor Committee, J Street, Hashomer Hatzair, Reconstructing Judaism, Partners for Progressive Israel, the New Israel Fund, and T’ruah)</p> <p>Also see: Left-wing Jewish Alliance Calls on Biden to Reject Antisemitism Definition That Includes anti-Zionism (Haaretz); Progressive Jewish groups oppose codification of IHRA antisemitism definition (JPost); Left-Wing Jewish Groups’ Rejection of Holocaust Alliance Antisemitism Definition Meets Criticism (Algemeiner)</p> <p>Jerusalem Post: Progressive Jewish groups oppose codification of IHRA antisemitism definition</p> <p>Twitter threads/statements: New Israel Fund, Truah (and here), APN, Partners for a Progressive Israel, J Street,</p>	<p>“As organizations that care deeply about the State of Israel and about the wellbeing of the Jewish people, we are deeply committed to the struggle against antisemitism. We are thus obligated to share our concerns about ways in which the effort to combat antisemitism is being misused and exploited to instead suppress legitimate free speech, criticism of Israeli government actions, and advocacy for Palestinian rights. In particular, the effort to enshrine in domestic law and institutional policy the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, with its accompanying “contemporary examples,” risks wrongly equating what may be legitimate activities with antisemitism. This effort has created opportunities for abuse and politicization by the outgoing Trump administration and others, undermining the moral clarity of the effort to dismantle antisemitism.”</p>
12 Jan 2021	IHRA definition of anti-semitism is ‘not fit for purpose’ at universities, academics conclude	<p>Morning Star (UK)/Bethany Reilly</p>	<p>“A controversial definition of anti-semitism is ‘not fit for purpose within a university setting’ and cannot be legally enforced, a major report by a group of UCL academics has concluded. Universities have come under increasing pressure from Education Secretary Gavin Williamson to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of anti-Jewish prejudice. However, the report published today says that the definition is “not fit within a university setting” and is a weak tool for university action against anti-semitic harassment.”</p>
11 Jan 2021	Israeli-British Academics Call to reject the IHRA’s ‘working definition of antisemitism’	<p>Open letter signed by 63 Israel-British Academics, to Vice Chancellors, Members of Academic Senates, all other UK Academics and Students & Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP Secretary of State for Education</p>	<p>“Fighting antisemitism in all its forms is an absolute must. Yet, the IHRA document is inherently flawed in ways that undermine this fight. In addition, it threatens free speech and academic freedom, and constitutes an attack both on the Palestinian right to self-determination and the struggle to democratise Israel.”</p>
11 Jan 2021	Imposing IHRA definition risks increasing anti-Jewish sentiment	<p>Times of Israel/Geoffrey Alderman</p>	<p>“So where does that leave the IHRA definition? Even its cheerleaders agree that it was never intended to be used as a legally enforceable instrument, to be forced down the throats of unwilling and cynical academicians – a process that is bound to increase anti-Jewish sentiment.”</p>
11 Jan 2021	Israel’s Leaders Are Trying to Cancel the Debate Because They Know They’re Losing	<p>Jacobin Magazine/Bashir Abu-Manneh (University of Kent)</p>	<p>“The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) “working definition of anti-Semitism” has become a hot political topic, from Britain to the United States. Though the IHRA’s Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial has described it as “non-legally binding,” the working definition is being used by governments, civil society groups, and political institutions as part of a concerted effort to suppress criticism of Israel.”</p>

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8 Jan 2021	Universities can be challenging places for Jews but they don't need IHRA	Times of Israel/Matan Rosenstrauch (SOAS student)	"Their aim is to protect Israel from being criticized publicly, and the IHRA definition is a fantastic tool for them to implement that. This is typical of what Yair Wallach (Senior Lecturer in Israeli Studies at SOAS) calls an "Israel-centred" understanding of antisemitism, one that privileges the protection of the Jewish state. According to this right wing interpretation, the best way to fight antisemitism is not to struggle for civic equality for all minorities, but rather to defend Israel – even when Israel becomes less and less democratic. The IHRA is not used to protect pro-Israeli freedom of expression, but to shut any critical discussion on Israel, labeling those who dare to speak too much about Israel antisemitic."
7 Jan 2021	Antisemitism definition is undermining free speech	The Guardian - Lawyers and retired judges argue that the IHRA working definition undermines freedom of expression, and Gavin Williamson is wrong to forcefully impose it on universities Also see: Williamson wrong to force universities to abide by antisemitism definition, say lawyers ; Legally and morally wrong' to force unis to accept IHRA, lawyers say in letter	"The IHRA added to the definition illustrative examples of statements that could be antisemitic "taking into account the overall context". The majority of these examples do not refer to Jews as such, but to Israel. They have been widely used to suppress or avoid criticism of the state of Israel. The impact on public discourse both inside and outside universities has already been significant."
31 Dec 2020	Yes, the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is intended to censor political expression	Canadian Dimension/Michael Bueckert - Vice President of Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME); PhD in Sociology and Political Economy from Carleton University.	"Plainly, the biggest supporters of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism see it as a vehicle for shutting down political expression about Israel, and want to apply it to various activities, including anti-Zionist scholarship, a student boycott of Israel, or even a vote to support Palestinians at the United Nations. In the eyes of pro-Israel advocacy groups, everything they don't like can be said to violate the IHRA definition. This is not a hypothetical threat to free speech, but a very real and tangible one...If the IHRA definition is indeed enforced in a way that silences critics of Israel, this will not be 'distortion,' a 'misapplication,' or even a 'weaponization' of the definition—it will be the definition's intended outcome, the very thing it was built to do."
29 Dec 2020	Government adviser Lord Mann and antisemitism expert David Feldman clash over IHRA definition	The Jewish Chronicle (UK)/ft comments from David Feldman, director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck College, London Also see: Two leading antisemitism experts clash during fiery Limmud debate	"Describing IHRA as a 'feeble and outdated approach', Professor Feldman said it posed 'a danger', because of the way 'its supporters cannot agree on what it says.' He charged 'advocacy groups' — singling out the Simon Wiesenthal Centre — with using the definition as 'a tool to stifle free speech' and said it was 'a threat to legitimate protest'"

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
28 Dec 2020	In Canada, the IHRA definition has begun to stifle pro-Palestinian voices	+972 Magazine/By Mohammad Fadel and Shireen Salti	“Under this working definition, legitimate critiques of Israel and its policies, such as “claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor,” may be condemned as antisemitic. Many critics have rightly warned that these provisions threaten the free speech rights of Canadians and will likely be used to silence criticism of Israel...The IHRA’s definition, unfortunately, attempts to obfuscate facts that are abundantly clear to those who know the realities on the ground. Israel has always been racially discriminatory toward indigenous Palestinians, including those who are citizens, who comprise about 20 percent of its population. But the state has become even more racist and intolerant in recent years.”
23 Dec 2020	The IHRA censors Palestinians by design, not by accident	Vashti Media/Ben White	“As the above evidence demonstrates (and it is by no means comprehensive), the WDA is undeniably being used to silence and smear Palestinians and their allies. Furthermore, given the stated views of the key individuals behind the WDA [Working Definition of Antisemitism], it is simply not credible to suggest that such activities constitute a ‘misuse’ of the definition. As these facts become more widely known and understood, the kind of pushback against the WDA already seen from various quarters is – and should be – only set to grow.”
18 Dec 2020	Israel is using the IHRA to silence its critics	Vashti/Jonathan Shamir (Haaretz)	“Many debates surrounding the IHRA — its precise legal and operational reach, the relationship between the definition and the appended examples, and the precise contours between antisemitism and anti-Zionism — quickly fade into insignificance when compared with the way it has been implemented by Israel and its allies abroad. While leading legal scholars have cast doubt on the IHRA’s basis in law, a report by Tel Aviv-based International Legal Forum (ILF) see’s its efficacy as an instrument that can be wielded to ostracise those who don’t fall into line. ‘Even without legal force, IHRA allows us to properly identify antisemitism and antisemitic actions. Antisemitism can then be subject to the proper response from society, which is rejection and condemnation’, the ILF report’s authors note.”
17 Dec 2020	Christians and Israel	Planet Magazine/Mike Joseph (Welsh genocide historian)	“In 2018, between the sea and the river Jordan, the number of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs reached approximately 6.5 million, equalling the number of Jews. Fifty years of Jewish settlement in Palestinian land have rendered an independent Palestinian state unviable, as it was designed to do. The ‘two-state solution’ is a fiction designed to silence criticism and distract from reality. What lies ahead is a fully apartheid state – democracy for the Jews, for the Palestinians, a reduced West Bank turned into several new Gazas, held down by Israel’s military and technological prowess; a Jewish state unconcerned at ‘becoming the Jewish people’s worst enemy’, exploiting Western guilt over the Holocaust to delegitimise Western censure and particularly Jewish censure, a state confident in the fervent support of the ‘useful fools’ of the Christian West: the exact scenario for which the IHRA’s sham ‘antisemitism’ code is designed.”

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16 Dec 2020	Report of the Academic Board Working Group on Racism and Prejudice	University College - London Also see: UCL academics set to rescind adoption of IHRA definition of antisemitism	“With regards to UCL Council’s 2019 adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, the Working Group recommends that AB advise Council to retract the definition and offer a clarification of existing legal duties with relation to antisemitism. The reasons for this recommendation have been outlined at length in the report, but notably the IHRA working definition is not appropriate for adjudicating complaints of antisemitism in a proscriptive manner. As we have examined in detail, the working definition potentially conflates statements critical of the State of Israel with antisemitism. By blurring these boundaries, the IHRA working definition risks undermining academic freedom at UCL. In its uneven application as a basis for complaints, it is liable to lead to allegations that UCL is targeting vocal advocates of particular positions on debates related to Israel and Palestine and placing undue burdens of proof on those accused of antisemitism. As a proscriptive tool, the IHRA working definition creates a rift between various groups on campus that is not helpful for communal cohesion at UCL. Without legal force it will remain a distraction from its stated educational purpose, namely to challenge antisemitism however expressed.”
15 Dec 2020	How to fight antisemitism without threatening academic freedom	University Affairs, Canada/Shannon Dea - Shannon Dea is the dean of arts and a professor of philosophy at the University of Regina.	“...most of the companion examples actually support important scholarship rather than threatening it. The difficulty comes in with the third example: ‘Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.’ This example alone blocks critical scholarship about Israel.”
10 Dec 2020	Pompeo's Attack on BDS is About Protecting Settlements—Not Defending Jews Opinion	Newsweek/Yair Wallach (SOAS)	“This is the latest, and most extreme version of the ‘New Antisemitism’ philosophy: the idea that opposition to Israel is today the primary mode of antisemitism, because the Jewish State is the sovereign embodiment of the Jewish people, ‘the Jew among nations.’ If Israeli rule over the West Bank is now integral to Israel’s political model, opposing it is, by definition, antisemitic. Israel’s ethno-national Jewish character has to be defended, even if it means discrimination, exclusion and oppression of Palestinians. Nothing demonstrates this more than the looming appointment of Effi Eitam, a retired right-wing general, as the director of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Remembrance Centre in Jerusalem. Eitam had previously called for the expulsion of most Palestinians from the West Bank, and for the disenfranchisement of Arab citizens of Israel.”
10 Dec 2020	Steering the Biden administration wrong on anti-Semitism	Times of Israel/Ken Stern	“for the past decade, Jewish groups have used the [IHRA] definition as a weapon to say anti-Zionist expressions are <i>inherently</i> anti-Semitic and must be suppressed. Reasonable people can have different opinions about when anti-Semitism is reflected in anti-Zionism. But is this – having the government label anti-Zionism anti-Semitism — the number one way we want to ask the new administration to fight the problem?”

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10 Dec 2020	In Germany, a Witch Hunt Is Raging Against Critics of Israel. Cultural Leaders Have Had Enough	Haaretz/Itay Mashiach Text of German cultural leaders (in German & English) is here . NYT: German Cultural Leaders Warn Against Ban on Israel Sanctions Movement German article in Suddeutsche Zeitung ; also see: Nothing Can Be Changed Until It Is Faced ; In Germany, cultural groups worry about conflation between BDS and antisemitism ; Antisemitism claims mask a reign of political and cultural terror across Europe	"It is not every day that a broad and diverse spectrum of influential members of the German establishment come together to express a unanimous critical position on the most sensitive issue on the country's public agenda: the battle against antisemitism. In Germany, it constitutes no less than a cultural earthquake."
10 Dec 2020	Jews Across the Globe Applaud Statement by Palestinian and Arab Academics, Journalists and Intellectuals	Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) — Canada	"We, Jewish groups and individuals from across the globe, applauded the recent powerful statement and set of principles signed by 122 Palestinian and Arab academics, journalists, and intellectuals regarding the definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and the way this definition has been applied, interpreted and deployed. As the letter states so compellingly: 'The fight against antisemitism should not be turned into a stratagem to delegitimize the fight against the oppression of the Palestinians, the denial of their rights and the continued occupation of their land.'"
10 Dec 2020	Jewish Federations Urge Biden to Promote Controversial Definition of Antisemitism	Jewish Currents/Mari Cohen	"[Kenneth] Stern speculated that broader use of the definition could lead to the federal government curtailing its support of human rights groups or even cultural festivals based on their stance on Israel/Palestine. He said it is possible that use of the definition could lead to litigation on constitutional grounds for impeding free speech or assembly."
9 Dec 2020	Who's against adopting the IHRA antisemitism definition?	Times of Israel (Blogs)/Corey Balsam (IJV)	"the IHRA definition also has a great many detractors who sharply criticize the definition, including its accompanying list of 11 illustrative examples, and how it has been deployed to attack and discredit advocates for Palestinian human rights. As Birmingham scholar Rebecca Ruth Gould argues, the IHRA definition is 'one of the most contentious documents in the history of efforts to combat antisemitism.'"
9 Dec 2020	With this flawed antisemitism definition, Britain is closing down academic freedom	Middle East Eye/Sai Engler (lecturer in political economy of the Middle East at Leiden University)	"the adoption of the IHRA definition will do little in the fight against antisemitism - in fact, it will likely harm the ability of anti-racist campaigners to fight back effectively - while instead targeting Palestine activists and delegitimising opposition to Zionism."
Dec 2020	TITLE VI, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND THE PROBLEM OF COMPLIANCE	JOURNAL OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LAW (2021)/ Frederick Schaffer (From 2000 to 2016, Mr. Schaffer was General Counsel and Senior Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs of the City University of New York)	"Whatever one's view of the extent to which speech that is critical of Zionism or of the State of Israel may be anti-Semitic, the more critical problem with the Executive Order is that the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism, with its illustrations that include certain types of anti-Zionist or anti-Israel speech, when incorporated into a legally enforceable test for discrimination, is likely to curtail or shut down debate and thereby infringe on free speech and academic freedom."

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4 Dec 2020	Yes, Palestinians have the right to speak about antisemitism	The Forward/David Myers (teaches Jewish history at UCLA, where he directs the Luskin Center for History and Policy. He is the president of the board of the New Israel Fund.)	"To stigmatize as antisemitic those who imagine Israel as a state of its citizens or who regard its policies as racist is effectively to deny them the right to advocate for justice for Palestinians. And to equate these advocates to antisemites who plot and execute murderous attacks on Jews is a dangerous deflection, as well as an injustice both to the fight against antisemitism and to the struggle for justice for Palestinians."
4 Dec 2020	Americans for Peace Now Refuses to Adopt 'Weaponized' Definition of Antisemitism	Haaretz - Hadar Susskind/Jim Klutznick (APN) ["U.S. Jewish nonprofit says the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition is 'already being abused to quash legitimate criticism and activism directed at Israeli government policies'"] Full text of APN letter to the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations is here	"We cannot accept the imprecise, overreaching wording of the definition's examples,' the APN leaders wrote. 'We can't accept it because we are witnessing how it is already being abused, indeed weaponized, to quash legitimate criticism and activism directed at Israeli government policies by tarnishing individuals and organizations as antisemitic.' These examples 'cross the line into the realm of politics and are already being used to score political points in the United States, and to quash legitimate criticism of deplorable Israeli government policies,' they wrote."
2 Dec 2020	The government should not impose a faulty definition of antisemitism on universities	The Guardian/David Feldman [director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism at Birkbeck, University of London]	"We all know how the path to hell is paved. But it is a warning worth repeating for Gavin Williamson. The secretary of state for education intends to rid universities in England of antisemitism, but his intervention not only threatens to provoke strife and confusion – it also places academic freedom and free speech on campus at risk."
29 Nov 2020	A group of 122 Palestinian and Arab academics, journalists and intellectuals express their concerns about the IHRA definition	The Guardian	"In recent years, the fight against antisemitism has been increasingly instrumentalised by the Israeli government and its supporters in an effort to delegitimise the Palestinian cause and silence defenders of Palestinian rights. Diverting the necessary struggle against antisemitism to serve such an agenda threatens to debase this struggle and hence to discredit and weaken it."
28 Nov 2020	Union members call on King's College to let them criticize Zionism, Israel	Jerusalem Post	"Union members at King's College London have called on the university to revoke its adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, claiming that its stipulation that anti-Zionism is antisemitism constitutes revisionist history."

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23 Nov 2020	Statement from 420+ Current UK Students on IHRA Definition of Antisemitism	Palestine Solidarity Campaign	"As students in the UK, we are deeply concerned that the space to bring the facts of the past and ongoing dispossession faced by Palestinians into the public domain, including in UK universities, is under severe threat by the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism with its attached examples. We believe that the IHRA definition is a threat to the fundamental right for Palestinians to describe their lived experience of oppression. The discredited definition, and specifically its illustrative examples, conflates anti-Semitism and legitimate criticism of the laws, policies and constitutional order of the State of Israel."
23 Nov 2020	The IHRA definition will not help fight anti-Semitism	Al Jazeera/Mark Muhannad Ayyash - Associate Professor of Sociology at Mount Royal University in Calgary, Canada.	"Despite the IHRA's claim that the definition is non-legally binding, the definition and its adoption, according to American scholar Rebecca Ruth Gould, 'comes to function as ... a quasi-law, in which capacity it exercises the de facto authority of the law, without having acquired legal legitimacy'. In short, the IHRA definition seeks to make rather banal and soft criticisms of Israel acceptable (eg, policy X failed because of certain unintended consequences, a misreading of the political conditions, etc.) while censoring more serious and necessary critiques (ie, the Palestinian critique of the colonial foundations of the Israeli state and the need to transform them)."
18 Nov 2020	It's Not About Antisemitism. it's About Free Speech	Canadian Jewish Record/Amos Goldberg - Holocaust historian at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem	"Unfortunately, this definition – and especially the 11 examples appended to its original text – help very little, if at all, to fight antisemitism. Rather than helping to stamp out antisemitism, several of these examples actually serve to curb free speech on Israel and its policies against the Palestinians, shaping the debate over Israel-Palestine in a way that practically silences the Palestinian voice."
18 Nov 2020	Ontario's adoption of IHRA's antisemitism definition isn't the first act of its kind to target Palestinians, and it won't be the last.	Passage/Dalya Al Masri - Palestinian journalist focused on human rights advocacy.	"the IHRA working definition of antisemitism included in the OIC wrongly conflates criticism of Israeli human rights abuses with antisemitism, thereby criminalizing Palestinians and anyone else who dares speak against Israeli apartheid. For example, it considers someone calling Israel a racist state to be antisemitic. Even Kenneth Stern, the lead drafter of the IHRA definition, said in a 2019 Guardian article that 'rightwing Jewish groups' have taken the definition and 'decided to weaponize it' against pro-Palestinian advocacy."
15 Nov 2020	Criticizing Israel is not antisemitic — it's academic freedom	The Conversation/Jasmin Zine ,Greg Bird, & Sara Matthews (Wilfrid Laurier University)	"Globally, scholars who criticize Israel are facing an increasingly uphill battle to protect their academic freedom. At the heart of the issue rests the new definition of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Proponents of the IHRA definition are part of what some are calling a new antisemitism movement that seeks to label criticism of Israel as antisemitic."
15 Nov 2020	New human rights order risks restricting criticism of Israel	The Conversation/Reem Bahdi (Univ of Windsor)	"I am the first and only tenured law professor in Canada with a Palestinian background. I can attest that conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism deeply affects Palestinians. The conflation silences the ability to bear witness to the Israeli government's atrocities against Palestinians at precisely the time when such witnessing is urgently needed."

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12 Nov 2020	Weaponizing Anti-Semitism, State Department Delegitimizes Human Rights Groups	The American Prospect/Lara Friedman - Foundation for Middle East Peace	<p>“Traditionally, ‘anti-Semitism’ means hostility and prejudice toward Jews because they are Jews—a scourge that has imperiled Jews throughout history, and is a source of resurgent threats to Jews today. The IHRA definition, in contrast, is explicitly politicized, refocusing the term to encompass not only hatred of Jews, but also hostility toward and criticism of the modern state of Israel. For example, it labels as anti-Semitic ‘applying double standards’ to Israel or requiring of Israel ‘behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation. While it notes that ‘criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic,’ in practice this ‘double standard’ language has paved the way for attacking virtually all criticism of Israel as <i>prima facie</i> anti-Semitic, based on the simplistic argument that focusing criticism on Israel, when other nations are guilty of similarly bad behavior, can only reflect animus against Jews. According to this logic, it is anti-Semitic to challenge Israel’s occupation of Palestinian lands—unless one is equally challenging occupation anywhere. Likewise, boycotting or calling to boycott Israel or settlements to protest violations of Palestinian rights is considered anti-Semitic—unless one is similarly boycotting every country guilty of violating the rights of any people, anywhere. The IHRA definition also stipulates that it is anti-Semitic to deny ‘the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor’—notwithstanding the fact that other peoples, including Palestinians, are denied self-determination, and other nations have their existence challenged, including, for example, by Israelis who argue that the state of Jordan should be replaced with Palestine. Yet, this line has become the basis for indicting anyone who identifies as anti-Zionist, or who supports boycotts of Israel or settlements, as anti-Semitic, irrespective of their reasoning and absent evidence that their views are grounded in hostility toward not Israel, but Jews.”</p>
7 Nov 2020	The Saturday Debate: Is the IHRA definition the right way to fight anti-Semitism?	The Star [“No” position taken by Michele Landsberg and Avi Lewis	<p>“Just like the scorpion’s, the sting of the IHRA definition is in its tail, an appended list of 11 examples of antisemitism. Seven of them are focused on criticism of Israel. This points to what is really going on: pro-Israel organizations are campaigning for the IHRA definition so they can use it to shut down legitimate debate of Israel’s policies and to harass and silence critics.”</p>
5 Oct 2020	Tackling the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism	Brian Klug, senior research fellow and tutor in philosophy at St. Benet’s Hall, Oxford; member of the philosophy faculty at Oxford University	<p>“Defenders of the definition point to a sentence in the text that says: ‘However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.’ At first sight, this seems to provide for free speech, but actually it does the opposite, for it implies that excessive criticism of Israel is, in and of itself, antisemitic. But it is not – any more than excessive criticism of the PLO is necessarily racist against Arabs or Palestinians. Excessive criticism is just a fact of political life, especially when feelings run as high as they do in the context of Israel and Palestine...The line between contentious and non-contentious speech is different from the line between antisemitic and non-antisemitic speech (or racist and non-racist speech in general). It is vital that these two lines are clearly distinguished. The Working Definition blurs them.”</p>

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22 Sept 2020	Redefining anti-Semitism on Facebook	Al Jazeera/Nebe Gordon - Marie Curie Fellow and Professor of International Law at Queen Mary University of London.	“This definition, which has been endorsed or adopted in some official capacity by more than 30 countries, includes 11 examples of anti-Semitism, several of which involve criticism of Israel. This is just the latest concrete manifestation of how any critique of the Israeli government and its politics now assumes the taint of anti-Semitism. There is, to be sure, some irony here. Historically, the fight against anti-Semitism has sought to advance the equal rights and emancipation of Jews. Yet, in the IHRA definition those who speak out against the subjugation of Palestinians are called anti-Semites. Thus, instead of enabling the struggle against those wish to oppress, dominate and exterminate Jews, this new definition of anti-Semitism comes after those who wish to take part in the struggle for liberation from colonial rule. In this way – as Judith Butler has observed – ‘a passion for justice [is] renamed as anti-Semitism.’”
7 Sept 2020	Joint letter of 56 scholars to Facebook: Don't adopt the "IHRA definition of antisemitism"	56 scholars on antisemitism Also see: Dear Facebook: Please don't adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism	“we wish to issue a stark warning against adoption and application by Facebook of the definition of antisemitism used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)... the IHRA definition is highly problematic and controversial ...It is also not neutral nor nuanced. The aforementioned“contemporary examples of antisemitism” attached to it extend to criticism directed at the State of Israel and conflate such criticism with antisemitism. These examples are treated as an integral part of the definition.Worse, the examples are being weaponized to attack, delegitimize and silence activists, experts, human rights defenders and civil society organizations criticizing the State of Israel and Zionism within the limits of freedom of speech.Such abuse has been condemned by leading scholars of antisemitism.”
19 Aug 2020	Israel-Advocacy Groups Urge Facebook to Label Criticism of Israel as Hate Speech	Jewish Currents/Lara Friedman - Foundation for Middle East Peace	“as attorney Kenneth Stern—an expert on antisemitism who was the lead drafter on the text that became the IHRA definition—has repeatedly expressed, this definition and its examples were never intended to be used as a formalized, enforceable definition of antisemitism, and turning them into one has raised serious free speech concerns. The American Civil Liberties Union described early efforts to codify the IHRA into law as ‘part of a disturbing surge of government-led attempts to suppress the speech of people on only one side of the Israel-Palestine debate . . . on college campuses, in state contracts, and even in bills to change the federal law.’ If social media networks like Facebook adopt the Israel-related examples in the IHRA definition and allow these to guide their hate speech policies, it will likely lead to similar efforts to suppress free speech, this time in the online sphere.”

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31 July 2018	Palestinians in the UK speak out for the right to freedom of speech	Omar Al-Qattan Chairman of the board of trustees, AM Qattan Foundation, Atallah Said Chairman, British Palestinian Policy Council, Professor Kamel Hawwash University of Birmingham, Professor Karma Nabulsi University of Oxford, Nadia Hijab Author and human rights advocate, Dr Aimee Shalan Charity chief executive, Ben Jamal Director, Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Mazen Masri Managing director, Edgo, philanthropist, Sawsan Asfari Philanthropist, founder educational charities, Zaher Birawi Chairman, Europol Forum, Salma Karmi-Ayyoub Barrister, Professor Suleiman Sharkh University of Southampton, Professor Izzat Darwazah UCL, Dr Adam Hanieh Reader in development, Soas, Dr Dina Matar Soas, Feras Abu Helal Editor-in-chief, journalist, Dr Nimer Sultany Senior lecturer in public law, Soas, Dr Ghada Karmi Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, Akram Salhab Refugee and migrant organiser, Karl Sabbagh Author and publisher, Dr Ahmed Khalidi Academic visitor, St Antony's College, Oxford, Samir Eskanda Musician, Selma Dabbagh Author, Ahmed Masoud Writer and director, Omar Shweiki Director, HE educational charity, Hanna Khalil Playwright, Kareem Samara Musician Ahmed Ziat Humanitarian aid coordinator	"As British Palestinians, some citizens, others still stateless refugees, we remain bound by our common history, when previous generations of Palestinians were violently denied the right to self-determination by the British colonial power ruling Palestine from 1918. Deprived of our sovereign rights to our land, we were dispossessed of it by force in the establishment of the state of Israel, which the British colonial occupation oversaw through 1947 to 1948. There exist vast bodies of publicly available records, scholarly evidence and official testimonies to affirm these facts. The reality of the Palestinian people's ongoing dispossession belongs to the public space: Palestinian people have the right to impart information about these present and past injustices, as every British citizen has the right to hear this information, along with the ideas and arguments that emerge directly from it. Accordingly, any use by public bodies of the IHRA examples on antisemitism that either inhibits discussion relating to our dispossession by ethnic cleansing, when Israel was established, or attempts to silence public discussions on current or past practices of settler colonialism, apartheid, racism and discrimination, and the ongoing violent military occupation, directly contravenes core rights. First, the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, who remain protected by international laws and conventions; and second, the rights of all those British citizens who stand by our side, in the solidarity of a common humanity."
28 Jul 2020	The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism: Denying Antisemitism by Erasing Palestinians	The Political Quarterly/Rebecca Ruth Gould - Professor of Islamic Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Birmingham	"This article is among the first to adopt a global perspective on the definition—both its history and its content—clarifying the political stakes of this definition and broader paratextual apparatus for a general audience, and provides an explanation of why it should be rejected rather than used to censor Israel-critical speech."
8 Jun 2020	Waging Lawfare	Jewish Currents/Natasha Roth-Rowland	"When the dust settled, the order's true function came into focus: quashing speech and activism critical of Israel—especially on college campuses—and further delegitimizing the Palestinian cause, using civil rights law as a tool. The order instructs government agencies to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in complaints involving antisemitism on college campuses, and to refer to the controversial International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as a guide. It specifically names a section of the IHRA definition that lists ways in which criticism of Israel may be considered antisemitic. By the end of the month, three federal complaints had been filed with the Department of Education (DoE) alleging antisemitism on various campuses."

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27 Feb 2020	Independent Jewish Voices: Open Letter from 400+ Canadian Academics Opposing the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism	<p>“UPDATED: Over 400 Canadian academics have now signed on to an open letter” opposing the IHRA definition of antisemitism.”</p> <p>Canadian Federation of Students statement in support of the IJV stance.</p>	<p>“Antisemitism is an imminent and increasingly deadly threat to Jews. However, we do not believe that the adoption of this definition serves the purpose of defeating this insidious form of hatred. The IHRA definition, which has recently been adopted by the Canadian government, is worded in such a way as to intentionally equate legitimate criticisms of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism. This conflation undermines both the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and the global struggle against antisemitism. It also serves to shield Israel from accountability to universal standards of human rights and international law. We believe that the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism by Canadian academic institutions would create a “chilly climate” in relation to forms of teaching, research and activism on Israel and Palestine. We urge all those who value honest debate and academic freedom to reject the imposition of a definition that would imperil the pursuit of truth and the legitimate expression of dissent.”</p>
20 Feb 2020	States are Moving to Class Criticism of Israel as Antisemitism	<p>Jewish Currents/Lara Friedman - Foundation for Middle East Peace</p>	<p>“Kenneth Stern, the lead author of the IHRA definition, has long made clear that the language was never intended to be used this way, and that doing so raises serious free speech concerns. Such concerns have proved well-founded, with Trump’s executive order opening the door for a flood of complaints tied to alleged antisemitic incidents. All of the alleged offenses relate to violations of the IHRA’s Israel-related provisions, which fall outside the scope of what has traditionally been defined as antisemitism—that is, hostility toward Jews simply because they are Jewish. Universities that have already come under attack in the two months since the issuance of the executive order include Georgetown, Columbia (two separate claims), UCLA, Duke and the University of North Carolina, and Georgia Tech, as well as Middle East Studies National Resource Centers (NRCs) nationwide. “</p>
30 Jan 2020	Fault lines in the fight against racism and antisemitism	<p>Institute of Race Relations/Liz Fekete</p>	<p>“The Palestinian diaspora in the UK is being dispossessed of the right to interpret their experience of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, even as the diversity of Jewish opinion in the UK is denied, leading to the stereotyping and denigration of dissenting voices of Jewish socialists and Jewish anti-Zionists, who are in danger of being pilloried as ‘fringe Jews’.”</p>
9 Jan 2020	The scholar who wrote the definition of anti-Semitism says it’s been subverted	<p>Times of Israel/Erik Cortellessa, interviewing Kenneth Stern</p>	<p>“Stern, who now directs the Bard Center for the Study of Hate, said that right-leaning Jewish leaders had been pushing for the adoption of the definition in educational settings for a decade. ‘Since 2010, people on the Jewish right have been trying to take the definition, marry it with the powers under Title VI and use it as a way to try and suppress pro-Palestinian speech on campus,’ he said. ‘As much as I might agree with some of the criticisms of that speech, there’s a way you deal with that on a campus: You think critically about it and push back.’”</p>

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January 2020	Backgrounder on Efforts to Redefine Antisemitism as a Means of Censoring Criticism of Israel	Palestine Legal	"Antisemitism—hatred, violence, intimidation or discrimination targeting Jews because of their ethnic and religious identity—is rampant and deadly. Despite the clear threat of anti-Jewish rhetoric and attacks from white supremacists, however, many Israel lobby groups have instead focused on redefining antisemitism to include criticism of Israel. The backgrounder below explains the attempts by Israel lobby groups to redefine antisemitism to include criticism of Israel and to use the redefinition as a tool to censor political debate by tarring those who support Palestinian rights as anti-Jewish."
January 2020	OCCUPATION and SHRINKING SPACE - THE ATTACK ON CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY AND IN ISRAEL	11.11.11 (Belgian NGO platform)	"Since its adoption, the IHRA definition has already proven to be an effective tool to attack criticism of the State of Israel and its policies. For example, after its adoption by the UK government in December 2016, the IHRA definition was used to put pressure on the organizers of events about Israel and its violation of Palestinian rights, accusing them of anti-Semitism because they were allegedly singling out Israel and applying double standards. A few of such events have consequently been cancelled in the UK. In Germany, the Bundestag also adopted a motion equating the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement with anti-Semitism, which references the IHRA definition. This motion already has negative consequences for the democratic space in Germany.."
19 Dec 2019	‘Completely wrongheaded’: Local Jewish studies profs skewer Trump’s order targeting campus anti-Semitism	Jewish Weekly/Gabe Stutman	"Professors such as John Efron (Koret Professor of Jewish History at UC Berkeley) and Steven Zipperstein (Koshland Professor in Jewish Culture and History at Stanford University) said they could not offer support for the order, which relies on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance resolution that anti-Israel activity is akin to anti-Semitism. ‘You’ll have a very, very hard time finding such support [for the executive order] among those of us who understand the workings of university life,’ Zipperstein wrote in an email to J. The Jewish studies professors contacted by J. tended to see the order as, at best, an empty gesture by the administration meant to score political points or, at worst, a dangerous incursion into the free-speech rights of those who would critique Israel on college campuses, longtime bastions of free speech."
13 Dec 2019	I drafted the definition of antisemitism. Rightwing Jews are weaponizing it	Kenneth Stern/The Guardian	"Fifteen years ago, as the American Jewish Committee’s antisemitism expert, I was the lead drafter of what was then called the “working definition of antisemitism”. It was created primarily so that European data collectors could know what to include and exclude. That way antisemitism could be monitored better over time and across borders. It was never intended to be a campus hate speech code, but that’s what Donald Trump’s executive order accomplished this week. This order is an attack on academic freedom and free speech, and will harm not only pro-Palestinian advocates, but also Jewish students and faculty, and the academy itself."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
12 Dec 2019	How Donald Trump is Saving the Occupation by Dismantling the First Amendment	Responsible Statecraft/Lara Friedman - Foundation for Middle East Peace	<p>“At the heart of Trump’s executive order is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. This definition includes a set of illustrative examples provided as guidelines setting limits on what is to be considered legitimate criticism of Israel, unlike anything that exists for any other country or issue...According to these guidelines, criticism of Israel is <i>ipso facto</i> antisemitism if it focuses solely on Israel, rather than targeting other countries with similar critiques. Likewise, criticism of Israel that questions Israel’s right to exist is considered, again, <i>ipso facto</i> antisemitism. What will that mean in practice? We will soon find out, but as a guess: A Palestinian talking about her lived experience under occupation? Almost certainly antisemitism. A Palestinian refugee talking about what it means to want to return to his ancestral homeland or challenging the Israeli narrative of Israeli manifest destiny in a land-without-a-people-for-a-people-without-a-land? Antisemitism! Student activists trying to organize support for Palestinian human and civil rights? Antisemitism! Likewise, experts and academics on Israel-Palestine like me, or like my colleagues in Israeli human rights groups, talking about their areas of expertise? Say it with me now: Antisemitism. Given that numerous groups are already waging lawfare against critics of Israel on U.S. campuses, this is by no means hypothetical. Indeed, mere hours after Trump signed his order, a Republican congressman, working in close cooperation with one of the groups that has for years been attacking Israel-related free speech on U.S. campuses, sent a letter demanding that the Department of Education investigate and halt funding to a major U.S. university for activities critical of Israel that now must be deemed antisemitism. The goal of this effort, and the ones that will certainly follow, is clear: to punish campuses that protect free speech on Israel-Palestine, and to have a chilling effect on academic institutions across the board, ensuring that campus administrators and donors choose to preemptively quash criticism and activism related to Israel rather than risk reputational harm, legal jeopardy, and potential loss of funding.”</p>
12 Dec 2019	The Real Purpose of Trump’s Executive Order on Anti-Semitism	The New Yorker/Masha Gessen	<p>“Both Kushner and the executive order refer to the definition of anti-Semitism that was formulated, in 2016, by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; it has since been adopted by the State Department. The definition supplies examples of anti-Semitism, and Kushner cited the most problematic of these as the most important: ‘the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity’; denial to ‘the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavor’; and comparing ‘contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.’ All three examples perform the same sleight of hand: they reframe opposition to or criticism of Israeli policies as opposition to the state of Israel. And that, says Kushner, is anti-Semitism.”</p>

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
12 Dec 2019	Why Trump’s Judaism executive order is too narrow and too broad	Washington Post Editorial Board	“The order signed Wednesday by the president specifically targets colleges and universities by classifying Judaism not only as a religion but also as a race or nationality, thereby enabling the federal government to penalize institutions deemed to tolerate a climate of bias. This is too narrow in training its sights only on academia when so many hateful occurrences have occurred at synagogues, Jewish cemeteries and elsewhere. It deals with campus incidents too broadly by threatening to suppress speech that may be reflexively labeled as bigoted if, for instance, it attacks Israel. If criticism of Israeli policies is reflexively conflated with anti-Semitism, then robust debate and academic freedom will suffer.”
12 Dec 2019	Trump anti-Semitism order could undermine free speech	LA Times Editorial Board	“an executive order signed by President Trump on Wednesday, supposedly to further that goal, includes language that is far too broad and could end up undermining free speech on campus, a cause to which the president also has committed his administration...Harsh criticism of Israel — even if it involves questioning the existence of a Jewish state — is speech protected by the 1 st Amendment. It should also be permitted by private colleges that receive federal funds. Students have a right to be protected from harassment and discrimination, but they don’t need to be shielded from opinions they find objectionable or offensive.”
11 Dec 2019	Trump’s Executive Order and the Rise of Anti-Semitism	New York Times Editorial Board	“Mr. Trump’s executive order points agencies to the definition of anti-Semitism prepared by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. This definition includes several examples of speech that should be covered by the First Amendment, like “claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.” For this reason Kenneth Stern, the lead author of the definition, wrote in the Times that it shouldn’t be applied to higher education. The agency’s definition was prepared for data collectors writing reports in Europe, not for government officials policing campus speech. It is true that anti-Israel speech, whether on campus or in Congress, makes some Jews feel unsafe, especially those who feel that Zionism is intrinsic to Jewish identity. Some worry that critics of Israel too often blame all Jews for the actions of the Jewish state halfway around the world. Others share critics’ concerns about Israeli actions but find themselves unwelcome as allies, because of hostility toward the Jewish state.”
11 Dec 2019	Trump’s Executive Order is a Cynical, Harmful Measure Designed to Suppress Free Speech on College Campuses, Not Fight Anti-Semitism	J Street	““This executive order, like the stalled congressional legislation it is based on, appears designed less to combat anti-Semitism than to have a chilling effect on free speech and to crack down on campus critics of Israel. J Street is committed to fighting all forms of anti-Semitism — and we feel it is misguided and harmful for the White House to unilaterally declare a broad range of nonviolent campus criticism of Israel to be anti-Semitic, especially at a time when the prime driver of anti-Semitism in this country is the xenophobic, white nationalist far-right.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
10 Dec 2019	UPDATED: FIRE statement regarding executive order on campus anti-Semitism	FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights in Education)	"While the order is couched in language intended to paper over the readily evident threat to expressive rights, its ambiguous directive and fundamental reliance on the IHRA definition and its examples will cause institutions to investigate and censor protected speech on their campuses. Having spent 20 years defending speakers from across the political spectrum, FIRE knows all too well that colleges and universities will rush to punish student and faculty speakers in an attempt to avoid federal investigation and enforcement."
6 Dec 2019	A call from Jewish academics to French MPs - An appeal from French academics for the National Assembly to reject the IHRA definition of antisemitism.	Verso Books - A group of 127 Jewish intellectuals from across the world called on French MPs not to support the resolution on combating anti-Semitism that was debated and voted on in the National Assembly on 3rd and 4th December.	"We urge the National Assembly not to support a resolution that wrongly equates anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. Do not support a resolution that approves IHRA's politicized definition of anti-Semitism, especially if it does so without distancing itself from the problematic examples in the definition that concern Israel."
4 Nov 2019	Open Letter to French Deputies from 39 French NGOs and Associations Against the Draft Resolution on Antisemitism/Antizionism	Open letter signed by François Leroux, president of the Platform for French NGOs for Palestine (a grouping of 39 French civil society organizations et associations ; Bertrand Heilbronn, president the Association France Palestine Solidarité (AFPS); Malik Salemkeur, president of the league of Human Rights (LDH); Emmanuel Charles, co-president of RITIMO; Renée Le Mignot, president of the Movement against racism and for friendship between peoples (MRAP); Marc Stenger, president of Pax Christi; Dominique Lesaffre, Director General of Solidarity International for Development and Investment (SIDI); André Rosevègue et Béatrice Orès, president de the Jewish French Union for Peace (UJFP)	[translated from French] the IHRA definition "represents a threat to any legitimate criticism against the State of Israel, regularly accused of violating numerous treaties and instruments of the international law of which France is the guarantor. ..Our organizations are worried about the rise of anti-Semitism in France and believe that the fight against all forms of racism must be waged firmly. We also affirm the right to criticize the policy of any state, including the state of Israel when it commits violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. We are worried about the assimilation between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism that the resolution induces and which amounts to calling into question the right to freedom of expression enshrined in our French law, including constitutional law."
Sept 2019	Expert Opinion on the "Working Definition of Antisemitism" of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance	Rosa Luxemburg Foundation/Peter Ullrich - Dr. phil. Dr. rer. med., Technische Universität Berlin, Fellow at the Center for Research on Antisemitism (ZfA), co-head of the research unit "Social Movements, Technology, Conflicts" at the Center for Technology and Society (ZTG) & member of the Institute for Social Movement Studies (ipb)	"The weaknesses of the "Working Definition" are the gateway to its political instrumentalization, for instance for morally discrediting opposing positions in the Arab-Israeli conflict with the accusation of antisemitism. This has relevant implications for fundamental rights. The increasing implementation of the "Working Definition" as a quasi-legal basis for administrative action promises regulatory potential. In fact, it is instead an instrument that all but invites arbitrariness. It can be used to abridge fundamental rights particularly freedom of speech with respect to disfavoured positions on Israel. In contrast to what the designation "Working Definition" suggests, no further development of the definition to rectify these weaknesses is occurring."

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10 Sept 2019	Canada's new definition of anti-Semitism is a threat to campus free speech	University Affairs (Canada)/Jeffrey Sachs - lecturer in the departments of history and politics at Acadia University.	"Alongside traditional examples of anti-Semitism, the IHRA includes statements like 'denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination,' 'claiming that the existence of Israel is a racist endeavor,' and holding Israel to a standard of behavior 'not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.' In other words, the IHRA definition explicitly conflates criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. Make no mistake, this is about targeting critics of Israel and pro-Palestinian activists, especially those on university campuses. Supporters have been quite clear on this point, suggesting , for example, that universities should use the new definition to censure and silence popular campus events like Israel Apartheid Week and movements like Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)."
10 Aug 2019	I warned that adopting the IHRA would shut down Palestinian protest – I've been proved right	Independent (UK)/Antony Lerman - former director of the UK-based Institute for Jewish Policy Research	"Together with other critics of the definition, I warned that those hit hardest by the steamroller campaign to force Labour to adopt the IHRA text in full in September 2018 on the spurious grounds that it was the "universally accepted," "gold standard" definition, without which the party would never resolve its perceived antisemitism problem, would be Palestinians. Merely by describing their experience of Zionism (self-determination for Jews alone) as dispossession, denial of rights, ongoing Nakba – catastrophe – they would fall foul of the definition, and many would remain silent for fear of the consequences. Never mind that their experiences have been documented, in numerous definitive studies, by Jewish Israeli historians since the 1990s. We also cautioned that adoption by government, local authorities, universities and other public institutions would do nothing to protect Jews. In fact it was likely to make things worse. We were right."
5 Aug 2019	Distorting the definition of antisemitism to shield Israel from all criticism	+972 Magazine/Amos Goldberg (Professor at the Department of the Jewish History and Contemporary Jewry at Hebrew University) & Raz Segal (Assistant Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Stockton University, New Jersey)	"Right-wing politicians, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Israeli right-wing media, have understood that the focus of the fight against antisemitism has shifted from racist nationalists to criticism of Israel, and they use the catastrophic IHRA definition for their purposes...the right understands very well the powerful potential of the IHRA definition, not only for the purpose of shielding Zionism from any criticism, but also for defending the occupation itself. The government of Israel and its representatives, as well as many pro-Israeli organizations all over the world, are remarkably successful in silencing criticism of Israel's policies by playing this card. Using the IHRA's poor definition of antisemitism, they have succeeded in completely changing the discourse: rather than talk about the occupation, the Nakba, or its violation of national, human and civil rights, the dominant public discourse now revolves around what is or is not forbidden when it comes to criticism of Israel, and to what extent said criticism is antisemitic. In this reality, Israel no longer needs to defend itself against allegation — it has a free hand to throw around accusations."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
Jul 2019	A Critique of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism	Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) — Canada	“Antisemitism is a real problem. It must be fought in all its forms. But adoption of the IHRA definition is the wrong approach. Labelling all criticism of Israel’s behaviour as antisemitism does nothing to combat hatred of Jewish people, which today is very often linked to white supremacy. Moreover, silencing legitimate criticism of Israel impedes the struggle for human rights and a just peace in Israel/Palestine. The real fight against antisemitism must be joined to the struggles against racism, xenophobia and hatred of all ethnic and religious groups, as well as to the struggle for equality and human rights for all people—in Canada, in Israel/Palestine and around the world”
18 June 2019	The BCCLA opposes the international campaign to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism	British Columbia Civil Liberties Association	“The IHRA definition of antisemitism is extremely vague, open to misinterpretation, and the document states that it is ‘non-legally binding.’ Not only is the text unsuitable for any legal or administrative purpose in Canada, but the accompanying ‘illustrations’ suggest that the definition conflates critiques of the state of Israel with antisemitism. We were concerned about this blurring of the line between denunciation of actions by the Israeli state and hatred for Jewish people when the House of Commons voted to formally condemn the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign in 2016. We fear that if adopted, the IHRA definition will serve to severely chill political expressions of criticism of Israel as well as support for Palestinian rights.”
Summer 2019	Hate Is on the Rise. How We Respond Matters	Canadian Friends Service Committee/Matthew Legge	“While the IHRA says, ‘criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic,’ several of their illustrations don’t make this at all clear. Such clarity is important, because failing to provide it while adopting the IHRA definition could result in chilling or even criminalizing human rights protests, like the boycott, divestment, sanctions movement. Two professors with expertise on the Holocaust, Amos Goldberg and Raz Segal, have written about how they see this happening. Among other concerns, they note that the IHRA definition means ‘the burden of proof lies with critics of Israel, who are constantly asked to prove that they are not anti-Semites.’”
4 May 2019	The campaign to equate anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism	Al Monitor/Yossi Beilin - former Israeli minister of Justice, minister of religious affairs, former head of Meretz	“The Israeli government’s campaign equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism has achieved considerable success. In May 2016, the International Alliance for Holocaust Remembrance (IHRA) decided to add “targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity” to its definition of anti-Semitism....Israel wants anyone seeking its friendship to identify anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism. I am not sure, however, that this is the right battle for Israel to wage, and I have a hard time understanding how this formula benefits the country. The Zionist idea envisioned all the Jews of the world gathering in Israel, but not everyone who rejects this idea is an anti-Semite.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
1 May 2019	How Not to Fight Antisemitism	Independent Jewish Voices (IJV) — Canada	“The IHRA adopted Stern’s definition quickly and with no debate. It was subsequently picked up by the government of Israel and other Zionist organizations because it was a handy cudgel — with the imprimatur of the IHRA, an organization whose mandate is Holocaust education and memorialization — with which to beat back criticism of Israel, anti-Zionist and Palestinian rights discourses, and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Zionist organizations and their allies are now working to give the IHRA-WDA legal and administrative power, something it was never intended to have and for which it is totally unfit.”
May 2019	Backgrounder on Efforts to Redefine Antisemitism as a Means of Censoring Criticism of Israel	Palestine Legal	“The redefinition brands critics of Israel and advocates for Palestinian rights as anti-Jewish by blurring important distinctions between criticism of Israel as a nation-state and antisemitism. In fact, Jewish people and the Israeli state are not one and the same. Over half the world’s Jewish population lives outside of Israel. Over twenty percent of Israel’s population is not Jewish. The inaccurate assumption that the Israeli government represents Jewish people worldwide is itself antisemitic because it necessarily attributes Israeli government policies and practices to all Jews. Many Jews, including Israeli Jews, join people of all faiths from across the globe in criticizing Israel. Those criticisms are not based on anti-Jewish hate, but on the policies of the government of Israel as a nation-state.”
7 March 2019	Debunking the myth that anti-Zionism is antisemitic	Peter Beinart	“It is an understandable impulse: let the people threatened by antisemitism define antisemitism. The problem is that, in many countries, Jewish leaders serve both as defenders of local Jewish interests and defenders of the Israeli government. And the Israeli government wants to define anti-Zionism as bigotry because doing so helps Israel kill the two-state solution with impunity. For years, Barack Obama and John Kerry warned that if Israel continued the settlement growth in the West Bank that made a Palestinian state impossible, Palestinians would stop demanding a Palestinian state alongside Israel and instead demand one state between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, neither Jewish nor Palestinian, that replaces Israel. Defining anti-Zionism as antisemitism reduces that threat. It means that if Palestinians and their supporters respond to the demise of the two-state solution by demanding one equal state, some of the world’s most powerful governments will declare them bigots. Which leaves Israel free to entrench its own version of one state, which denies millions of Palestinians basic rights. Silencing Palestinians isn’t a particularly effective way to fight rising antisemitism, much of which comes from people who like neither Palestinians nor Jews. But, just as important, it undermines the moral basis of that fight. Antisemitism isn’t wrong because it is wrong to denigrate and dehumanise Jews. Antisemitism is wrong because it is wrong to denigrate and dehumanise anyone. Which means, ultimately, that any effort to fight antisemitism that contributes to the denigration and dehumanisation of Palestinians is no fight against antisemitism at all.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
29 Jan 2019	Letter to Professor Dame Janet Beer on the IHRA definition of antisemitism	British Society of Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES)/Stuart Laing- BRISMES President	“the IHRA definition is incompatible with principles of academic freedom, and likely to stifle freedom of speech in the university system.”
3 Dec 2018	Letter: Civil Rights Groups Demand DOE Assistant Secretary Marcus End Attacks on Free Speech	Center for Constitutional Rights + 10 other civil rights groups	“The IHRA definition of antisemitism provides no new legal protections for Jewish students who are subjected to discrimination. It carves out special treatment for students to be shielded from criticism of Israel. Such protection from political opinions and human rights advocacy against the abuses of a foreign state has no grounding in statute, and in fact would violate the U.S. Constitution and bedrock principles of academic freedom intended to ensure open debate.”
23 Nov 2018	The government that cried 'wolf!'	YNet/Susie Becher - Managing Editor of the Palestine-Israel Journal and a member of the Policy Working Group	“The Israeli government’s calculated obfuscation of the line between anti-Semitism and opposition to its policies, or even opposition to the concept of a Jewish state, should be of concern to Jews worldwide...The problem lies not with the IHRA’s definition itself, which basically speaks of hatred toward Jews. It’s the illustrative examples that give one pause. Among them are “targeting the state of Israel” and “denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination.” With these phrases, the IHRA statement blurs the distinction between hatred of the Jewish people and opposition to Israeli government policies, the notion of Israel as a Jewish state, or even to the very establishment of the State of Israel.”
10 Nov 2018	Israeli Academics and Artists Warn Against Equating anti-Zionism With anti-Semitism	Haaretz/Ofer Aderet	“An open letter from 35 prominent Israelis, including Jewish-history scholars and Israel Prize laureates, was published Tuesday in the Austrian media calling for a distinction between legitimate criticism of Israel, ‘harsh as it may be,’ and anti-Semitism...The signatories accuse Netanyahu of suggesting an equivalence between anti-Israel criticism and anti-Semitism. The official declaration by the conference also notes that anti-Semitism is often expressed through disproportionate criticism of Israel, but the letter warns that such an approach could ‘afford Israel immunity against criticism for grave and widespread violations of human rights and international law.’”
17 Oct 2018	A Climate of Intimidation	Inside Higher Ed/Tallie Ben-Daniel	“White supremacist groups have turned their vitriol to college campuses under the Trump administration. Those hate groups exploit the First Amendment to openly recruit members, stage rallies and garner news-media attention. Faced with this rise of open racism, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, college and university administrations have struggled to balance protecting the First Amendment while also providing a welcoming educational environment to marginalized students. This is surely a time for strong guidance from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights. But instead of providing that guidance, Kenneth Marcus, the assistant secretary for civil rights, has launched a campaign against students who support Palestinian human rights and the colleges and universities that permit them such freedom of speech.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
31 Aug 2018	Anti-Semitism row: Leading QC says IHRA definition unenforceable and misleading	Middle East Eye	“The "working definition" of anti-Semitism adopted in 2016 by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) may suppress legitimate criticism of Israel while failing to cover "the most insidious forms of hostility to Jewish people", a leading British barrister said in a legal opinion released on Friday. Geoffrey Robertson, a renowned legal scholar with expertise on human rights and free speech, said the British government's adoption of the IHRA's definition in 2016 'has no legal effect', as it was announced by Prime Minister Theresa May without input from the parliament. “
30 Aug 2018	WCC comment on IHRA definition of antisemitism	World Council of Churches	“The risk of a vague definition of antisemitism, even if widely accepted, is that it may be misused to pre-empt proper attention to violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.”
20 Aug 2018	How the IHRA antisemitism definition attacks Jews	Planet Magazine/Mike Joseph (Welsh genocide historian)	“The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s code ¹ should worry everyone, especially Jews. It achieves what generations of antisemitism have not, discrediting the very concept of antisemitism, by weaponising it in defence of the Israeli government.”
18 Aug 2018	Legal Form and Legal Legitimacy: The IHRA Definition of Antisemitism as a Case Study in Censored Speech	Law, Culture & the Humanities/Rebecca Ruth Gould	“The challenge posed by legal indeterminacy to legal legitimacy has generally been considered from points of view internal to the law and its application. But what becomes of legal legitimacy when the legal status of a given norm is itself a matter of contestation? This article, the first extended scholarly treatment of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)’s new definition of antisemitism, pursues this question by examining recent applications of the IHRA definition within the UK following its adoption by the British government in 2016. Instead of focusing on this definition’s substantive content, I show how the document reaches beyond its self-described status as a “non-legally binding working definition” and comes to function as what I call a quasi-law, in which capacity it exercises the <i>de facto</i> authority of the law, without having acquired legal legitimacy. Broadly, this work elucidates the role of speech codes in restricting freedom of expression within liberal states.”
17 Jul 2018	First-ever: 40+ Jewish groups worldwide oppose equating antisemitism with criticism of Israel	Social justice organizations from around the world	“The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, which is increasingly being adopted or considered by western governments, is worded in such a way as to be easily adopted or considered by western governments to intentionally equate legitimate criticisms of Israel and advocacy for Palestinian rights with antisemitism, as a means to suppress the former. This conflation undermines both the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality and the global struggle against antisemitism. It also serves to shield Israel from being held accountable to universal standards of human rights and international law.”

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17 Jul 2018	How should antisemitism be defined? - A panel of Jewish writers considers the IHRA definition of antisemitism, which has generated so much recent debate	Criticizing the IHRA: Stephen Sedley, Geoffrey Bindman, Jacqueline Rose	Sedley: “whatever criticism the IHRA’s “examples” may seek to suppress, both Jews and non-Jews in the UK are entitled, without being stigmatised as antisemites, to contend that a state that by law denies Palestinians any right of self-determination is a racist state, or to ask whether there is some moral equivalence between shooting down defenceless Jews in eastern Europe and unarmed Palestinian demonstrators in Gaza.” Bindman: “the definition and the examples are poorly drafted, misleading, and in practice have led to the suppression of legitimate debate and freedom of expression.” Rose: “We need to go on debating and talking, always alert to the possibility that any one definition, however well-intentioned, however designed to protect the Jews from the suffering and ravages of their own history, might be harnessed on the side of injustice.”
8 July 2018	Richard Burden: Why I’m concerned about the IHRA definition of antisemitism	LabourList.org/ Richard Burden - MP for Birmingham Northfield and chair of the Palestine all-party parliamentary group.	“...Recognising the need to fight antisemitism should have nothing to do with your views on Israel and Palestine. But concern has arisen from cases where the IHRA text has been invoked to suppress legitimate debate over Israel and Palestine, and to hold that statements that allege racism in respect of Israel could be prima facie evidence of antisemitism on the part of those making such statements. But doesn’t this threaten the freedom of speech of those who argue that the increasing discrimination suffered by Palestinians both inside Israel and the Occupied Territories raises worrying parallels with Apartheid? We rightly say we must listen carefully when Jews seek to define the oppression they face, so how can we refuse to do the same when Palestinians speak out about theirs? Whether or not you agree that there are parallels between current Israeli policy and Apartheid, when even former Israeli PM Ehud Barak has used the term Apartheid to describe the current trajectory of Israeli government policy, you’d think it would be far-fetched to believe that discourse like this could be defined as antisemitic here in the UK. Unfortunately, there is already organised pressure to do so, using the wording of the IHRA text as an authority.”
3 July 2018	Congress’s Anti-Semitism Awareness Act Doesn’t Protect Jews - It Protects Israel	The Forward/Barry Trachtenberg - Rubin Chair of Jewish History at Wake Forest University. In November of 2017 he testified about antisemitism on college campuses before the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Congress. He is the author, most recently, of “The United States and the Nazi Holocaust: Race, Refuge, and Remembrance” (Bloomsbury, 2018).	“The ‘Anti-Semitism Awareness Act’ would compel the Department of Education to utilize a questionable definition of anti-Semitism to determine if a wide array of incidents on college campuses, including student protest, are in violation of current anti-discrimination law. The definition of anti-Semitism used by the Act is one formerly employed by the State Department, and is written in such a way that many of the current debates concerning Israel that occur among Jews in Israel and within the American Jewish community would themselves be classified as anti-Semitic. Even the original author of the definition has testified that it is inappropriate for the purposes of legislation. The truth is that the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act is an attempt to suppress student activism and academic speech that is in support of Palestinian human rights. The bill will define opposition to Israeli government policy as anti-Semitism, equate Judaism with Zionism and sanction schools that permit Palestinian human rights activism to occur on their campuses.”

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12 June 2018	What's Wrong With the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act	Inside Higher Ed/ Cary Nelson & Other Members of The Alliance for Academic Freedom	“...We don’t believe that Congress should be in the business of setting forth official definitions of anti-Semitism. And we do not think any definition of anti-Semitism, including one originally drafted with the needs of European data collectors utmost in mind and then adopted (with minor changes) by the U.S. Department of State for diplomatic purposes, has any legitimate application by Congress to contentious political speech on campus. Some of us are scholars of anti-Semitism. We are aware that anti-Semitism’s manifestations change over time. There is a robust debate, both inside the Jewish community and among experts on the issue, over the relationship between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. Sometimes anti-Zionism constitutes anti-Semitism; sometimes it doesn’t. Regardless, Congress has no business deciding when it does or doesn’t, nor should it be in effect stating that political expressions it deems anti-Semitic are essentially presumed relevant to a Title VI case.”
8 June 2018	Enough already. Not all criticism of Israel is anti-Semitism	Los Angeles Times Editorial Board	“is it necessarily anti-Semitic to harshly criticize the Jewish state or to do so without, in the same breath, criticizing Saudi repression? Is it anti-Semitic to argue that Israel should be replaced by something else, such as a secular, binational nation? Even those who believe such criticisms of Israel are simplistic or unfair should see that they are far removed from the sort of insults or personal attacks that a university or the federal government can police without running afoul of the 1st Amendment. Even strong supporters of the state of Israel should acknowledge that while there are, of course, anti-Semites among Israel’s many critics, not all opposition to Israel is inherently anti-Semitic.”
5 June 2018	The Latest Attack on Free Speech in the Israel-Palestine Debate	ACLU/Manar Waheed & Brian Hauss ACLU letter to Congress is here .	“anti-Semitic harassment is already illegal under federal law. The new bill does not change that fact, but its overbreadth makes it likely that it will instead silence criticism of Israel that is protected by the First Amendment.”
4 June 2018	Concerns regarding the “Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2018”	Middle East Studies Association letter to Congress	“Many of the examples provided in that Fact Sheet clearly conflate criticism of Israeli actions and policies, and of Zionism as a political ideology, with anti-Semitism. By embracing them, the bill would require the Department of Education to deploy a very broad and vague definition of anti-Semitism which could have a chilling effect on teaching about, and public discussion of, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on college and university campuses. It would, in fact, likely have the perverse effect of defining as anti-Semitism criticisms of Israel or of Zionism advanced by Israeli or American Jewish scholars, or by some of the Jewish students this legislation is ostensibly designed to protect.”
1 June 2018	Liberty members warn against IHRA's definition of anti-semitism	Morning Star (UK)	“Human rights campaign group Liberty has warned against the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s (IHRA) definition of ‘anti-semitism.’ A resolution passed by members of the group in mid-May says the government-adopted definition blurred ‘the previously clear understanding of the nature of anti-semitism’ and risks ‘undermining the defences against it.’ It also said IHRA’s definition threatened freedom of expression by ‘conflating anti-semitism with criticism of Israel and legitimate defence of the rights of Palestinians.’”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
29 May 2018	New federal anti-Semitism act, same First Amendment problem	The Fire/Will Creeley - Legal Director	"As FIRE has repeatedly pointed out in recent years, incorporating the State Department's definition threatens speech protected by the First Amendment. The State Department definition is problematically vague — it targets "a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews" — and broad enough to allow for the investigation and punishment of core political speech, such as the criticism of Israeli policy. Synchronizing the Department of Education's review of alleged Title VI violations with this unbounded definition places campus speech rights at risk."
24 May 2018	Lawmakers Reintroduce Federal Bill Aimed at Censoring Palestine Advocacy on Campuses	Palestine Legal	"Yesterday, members of Congress announced the reintroduction of the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act (ASAA), a bill aimed at censoring Palestine advocacy on college campuses by imposing on the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) a widely-criticized and overbroad re-definition of antisemitism that classifies virtually all speech critical of Israel as antisemitic. If enacted, it would be used to justify investigations against Palestine activists on campus while adding no new legal protections for Jewish students, who are already covered under federal anti-discrimination laws."
24 May 2018	Defending Rights & Dissent Calls on Congress to Reject Cynically Misnamed Bill Designed to Hamper Human Rights Advocacy	Rights & Dissent	"Anti-semitism, like all forms of bigotry, is reprehensible, but the so-called Anti-Semitism Awareness Act is a cynical attempt to exploit good faith concerns about anti-Semitism to silence student speech. The bill's real target is not anti-semitism at all, but student political speech in support of Palestinian human rights. As such, it is unconstitutional."
23 May 2018	ACLU Statement on Senate Introduction of 'Anti-Semitism Awareness Act'	ACLU	"the proposed bill risks chilling constitutionally protected speech by incorrectly equating criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism. And there is no need for a new bill to protect students from anti-Semitic harassment, because that is already prohibited under Title VI. We worry that the law will lead colleges to suppress speech, especially if the Department of Education launches investigations simply because students have engaged in speech critical of Israel. College campuses should be havens for free expression, and students must be free to express their opinions and viewpoints, so long as they avoid harassment. We urge Congress to reject this dangerous and unnecessary bill."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
7 Nov 2017	Transcript: House Judiciary Committee Hearing, "Examining Anti-Semitism on College Campuses"	See testimony of Professor Barry Trachtenberg, Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History, Director, Jewish Studies Program, Wake Forest University	<p>"Legislation such as the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, however, is not a genuine attempt to contend with actual anti-Semitism. But rather is an attempt to quell what are in fact protected acts of speech that are vital and necessary to the scholarly missions of educational institutions and to the functioning of democratic societies...It would be ill-advised for Congress to establish legal authority on the definition of anti-Semitism that is so deeply contested. To insist that Israel cannot be protested or objected to, to mandate that collective Jewish power cannot be analyzed or debated, or to concluded that Jews--because they were once victims of humanities greatest genocidal crimes--are somehow immune for becoming perpetrators of violence against other people's reinforces the anti-Semitic believe that Jews are fundamentally different people. Most dangerously of all, attempts to broaden the definition of anti-Semitism to encompass phenomena that are clearly not anti-Jewish can only make it more difficult to recognize, isolate, and oppose actual anti-Semitic hatred when it does appear."</p>
7 Nov 2017	Written Testimony of Kenneth S. Stern, Executive Director, Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation	Kenneth Stern, testifying before t the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary	<p>"The definition was not drafted, and was never intended, as a tool to target or chill speech on a college campus. In fact, at a conference in 2010 about the impact of the definition, I highlighted this misuse, and the damage it could do."</p>
7 Nov 2017	Written Testimony of Prof. Barry Trachtenberg, PhD, Wake Forest University	Prof. Barry Trachtenberg, PhD, testifying before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary	<p>"Considering the multiple—and constantly shifting—forms of antisemitism that have emerged since the term "Anti-Semitism" first appeared in Germany in the late nineteenth century, it would be ill-advised for Congress to establish legal authority on a definition of antisemitism that is so deeply contested. To insist that Israel cannot be protested or objected to, to mandate that collective Jewish power cannot be analyzed or debated, or to conclude that Jews, because they were once victims of one of humanity's greatest genocidal crimes, are somehow immune from becoming perpetrators of acts of violence against other peoples, would only reinforce the antisemitic belief that Jews are a fundamentally different people. Moreover, and perhaps most dangerously of all, attempts to broaden the definition of antisemitism to encompass phenomena that are clearly not anti-Jewish can only make it more difficult to recognize, isolate, and oppose actual antisemitic hatred when it does appear."</p>

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
2 May 2017 (Updated 14 Sept 2020)	Anti-Semitism bill would suppress open discussion on Israel	The Post & Courier/Shari Rabin (assistant professor in the Jewish Studies program at the College of Charleston) & Joshua Shanes (associate professor)	“In our classrooms, skepticism and critical thinking are encouraged and nurtured, not forbidden because of contemporary political considerations. Our goal is to encourage free and open discourse on the widest possible range of ideas, including controversial ones. How can we possibly nurture an open environment to consider big questions like the nature of the modern state and competing claims between and within nations if, as the bill indicates, such discourse is deemed anti-Semitic? Must we declare the vast majority of rabbinic intelligentsia of a century ago to be anti-Semitic because they opposed the idea of Jewish statehood? What about Jews today who follow those rabbinic voices, or even passionate Zionists who are persuaded by Zionist arguments that support a withdrawal from the West Bank? (The bill’s main sponsor has publicly accused such Jews of anti-Semitism.) Ironically, under this new law, even one of the most respected Israel Studies textbooks in use — Alan Dowty’s Israel/Palestine — might be deemed anti-Semitic for defending the validity of both Israeli and Palestinian narratives. (Dr. Dowty is about to be honored for lifetime achievement by the Association for Israel Studies at Brandeis University.)”
5 May 2017	How Legislative Efforts to Define Antisemitism Threaten Academic Freedom	Academe Blog/Kenneth S. Stern & Ernst Benjamin	“some right-wing Jewish groups and individuals decided to use the antisemitism definition as part of Title VI-based lawsuits. While the cases also included allegations of harassing conduct, they nonetheless complained that about expressions they said transgressed the definition. A finding of a Title VI violation can result in loss of federal funding. Among the complaints, a program about ‘the Occupation,’ a film termed ‘propaganda,’ classroom texts alleged to be ‘one-sided and anti-Israel,’ and a program, ‘Arabs and The Holocaust,’ which allegedly claimed that Israel’s creation was a ‘tragedy’ for Palestinians. As Kenneth Stern (who was then with the American Jewish Committee) and then AAUP President Cary Nelson warned six years ago in a joint statement (later repudiated by the AJC), this is a misuse of the definition and of Title VI, and was an effort to chill political speech.”
4 May 2017	Defining Anti-Semitism	London Review of Books/Stephen Sedley	“Shorn of philosophical and political refinements, anti-Semitism is hostility towards Jews as Jews. Where it manifests itself in discriminatory acts or inflammatory speech it is generally illegal, lying beyond the bounds of freedom of speech and of action. By contrast, criticism (and equally defence) of Israel or of Zionism is not only generally lawful: it is affirmatively protected by law. Endeavours to conflate the two by characterising everything other than anodyne criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic are not new. What is new is the adoption by the UK government (and the Labour Party) of a definition of anti-Semitism which endorses the conflation.”
4 May 2017	Overbroad South Carolina “Anti-Semitism” Bill Offends Free Speech, Makes Same Mistake as Federal Legislation	PEN America	“A proposed South Carolina bill that would require the state to adopt a federal definition of anti-Semitism that encompasses criticism of the state of Israel offends the First Amendment, and would likely chill vigorous debate on campus, PEN America said today.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
25 Apr 2017	S.C. anti-Semitism bill isn't needed	The Post & Courier/Kenneth S. Stern	"I've spent my professional career opposing hatred and anti-Semitism. So why am I against South Carolina adopting a definition of anti-Semitism, based upon one I wrote? H. 3643, now before the Senate Higher Education subcommittee, sounds reasonable. It says the definition of anti-Semitism should be considered when 'reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of a college or university policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion.' But it is really an attempt to create a speech code about Israel. It is an unnecessary law which will hurt Jewish students and the academy."
27 March 2017	IHRA definition of antisemitism not fit for purpose	Opinion by Hugh Tomlinson QC [also see Jewish news/Times of Israel 3 April 2017: Leading lawyer rounds on 'unclear and confusing' IHRA anti-Semitism definition	"In summary, therefore, it is my view that: · The IHRA 'non-legally binding working definition' of antisemitism is unclear and confusing and should be used with caution. The 'examples' accompanying the IHRA Definition should be understood in the light of the definition and it should be understood that the conduct listed is only antisemitic if it manifests hatred towards Jews...The fact that speech is offensive to a particular group is not, of itself, a proper ground for prohibition or sanction. The IHRA Definition should not be adopted without careful additional guidance on these issues. Properly understood in its own terms the IHRA Definition does not mean that activities such as describing Israel as a state enacting policies of apartheid, as practising settler colonialism or calling for policies of boycott divestment or sanctions against Israel can properly be characterized as antisemitic. A public authority which sought to apply the IHRA Definition to prohibit or sanction such activities would be acting unlawfully."
27 Feb 2017	Free speech on Israel under attack in universities	Letter in the Guardian by long list of UK professors	"The spike in far-right antisemitic incidents on UK campuses that you report (UK universities urged to act over spate of antisemitic stickers and graffiti, 18 Feb) seems to reflect the increase in xenophobia since the Brexit vote. Yet the government has "adopted" the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, which can be and is being read as extending to criticism of Israel and support for Palestinian rights, an entirely separate issue, as prima facie evidence of antisemitism. This definition seeks to conflate criticism of Israel with antisemitism."
3 Feb 2017	Correspondent of the Day: Anti-Semitism legislation bad idea	Richmond Times-Dispatch/Kenneth Stern	"The bill's definition is based on one I wrote for European data collectors. It was never intended to regulate campus speech. Yet previous federal complaints have misused the definition, arguing that anti-Israel or anti-Zionist political speech constitutes anti-Semitic harassment, putting the school's federal funding in jeopardy."
28 Dec 2016	Will Britain's new definition of antisemitism help Jewish people? I'm sceptical	David Feldman - professor of history and director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, School of Social Science, History and Philosophy, Birkbeck, University of London), in the Guardian	"Here is the definition's key passage: 'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews.' This is bewilderingly imprecise. The text also carries dangers. It trails a list of 11 examples. Seven deal with criticism of Israel. Some of the points are sensible, some are not. Crucially, there is a danger that the overall effect will place the onus on Israel's critics to demonstrate they are not antisemitic. The home affairs committee advised that the definition required qualification 'to ensure that freedom of speech is maintained in the context of discourse on Israel and Palestine'. It was ignored."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
15 Dec 2016	A Bill to Police Campus Speech	Wall Street Journal/Erwin Chemerinsky and Howard Gillman	"Many people have strong feelings about such views. But the First Amendment protects the expression of all ideas, even if racist and anti-Semitic. Basic principles of academic freedom require that universities do the same. Schools can prevent and punish threats, harassment and destruction of property, but never the expression of views. Yet this bill would require the Education Department to focus on exactly that: the ideas expressed on campus. And the bill covers more than simply hateful speech toward Jewish students. It could include criticizing Israeli policies or arguing against the existence of Israel, speech that is protected by the Constitution."
13 Dec 2016	Why the Proposed "Antisemitism Awareness Act" Is a Bad Idea	The Faculty Lounge/Steve Lubet	"An inclusive definition of antisemitism is important for public understanding and civic education, especially when it comes to Israel, but it would be a wrong to turn it into a bludgeon. The risk, therefore, is that the State Department definition of antisemitism could be used to cut off campus debate over Israel, or to silence advocates of the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement."
12 Dec 2016	Will Campus Criticism of Israel Violate Federal Law?	New York Times/Kenneth S. Stern	"What's next? Should Congress define what speech is Islamophobic? Anti-Palestinian? Racist? Anti-white? How about defining 'anti-United States' speech? We could dust off the files of the House Un-American Activities Committee...If this bill becomes law it is easy to imagine calls for university administrators to stop pro-Palestinian speech. Even if lawsuits alleging Title VI violations fail, students and faculty members will be scared into silence, and administrators will err on the side of suppressing or censoring speech."
6 Dec 2016	Senate Passes Bill Aimed at Silencing Pro-Palestinian Activism on Campuses	Rights & Dissent/Chip Gibbons	"the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act has little to do with actual anti-Semitism, and is instead part of a broader agenda to use the legislative process to punish supporters of Palestinian human rights for their advocacy. It seeks to do so by allowing the Department of Education to use the so-called 'State Department definition of anti-Semitism.'"
6 Dec 2016	The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act would damage free speech rights on campus	LA Times/Liz Jackson- Palestine Legal	"Since Donald Trump's election, a wave of hate attacks have targeted Jews, Muslims and other vulnerable groups. What's the government doing about it? Nothing. But the U.S. Senate did pass a bill last week called the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, which cracks down on the constitutional rights of college students and faculty to criticize Israel. The House will vote on it any day now. The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act endorses the State Department definition of anti-Semitism, which includes "delegitimizing" Israel, "demonizing" Israel or holding Israel to a "double standard." The bill directs the Department of Education to consider this definition when investigating complaints of anti-Semitism on campus. But the bill does not add any new protections for Jewish students; the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Department of Education's interpretation of the statute, already protects Jewish students against discrimination."

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
6 Dec 2016	Letter to Members of Congress from Kenneth S. Stern, Executive Director, Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation	Kenneth Stern, writing to Members of Congress in opposition to “The Anti-Semitism Awareness Act of 2016”	“If denying the right of Israel to exist is enshrined as antisemitism by law, would Congress then pass parallel legislation defining opposition to a Palestinian state as anti-Palestinianism? Would it adopt a definition of racism, perhaps including opposition to affirmative action? Would it pass laws defining Islamophobia, anti-LGBT animus, anti-immigrant bias, anti-white bias, etc.? And if campus political speech cannot employ “double standards,” as the Department of State definition rejects regarding Israel, does this mean that political speech against China or Russia or the U.S. which doesn’t employ parallels against other countries might someday be legally suspect too?”
5 Dec 2016	ACLU letter to Members of Congress opposing Anti-Semitism Awareness Act	ACLU	"Eliminating truly anti-Semitic conduct should be a goal of our entire society. Indeed, we should all actively involve ourselves in encouraging our brothers and sisters to refrain from anti-Semitic conduct and speech. It is offensive and harmful. But the First Amendment prevents the federal government from using its great weight to impose severe penalties on a person simply for sharing a political viewpoint critical of Israel. Indeed, First Amendment protections are most important when speakers take controversial or unpopular positions that might arouse strong feelings, passions, and hostility."
5 Dec 2016	Civil Rights Orgs’ letter to Congressional leaders	Letter to Reps. Goodlatte & Conyers from Palestine Legal, Center for Constitutional Rights, National Lawyers Guild, Jewish Voice for Peace, FCNL, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, Rights & Dissent, AMP, ADC	“As civil and human rights organizations committed to racial justice, we support your efforts to confront racism and bigotry on campuses across the U.S. However, we write to raise concerns with the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act (the Act), which directs the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) to consider a widely discredited re-definition of anti-Semitism in assessing whether alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act are ‘motivated by anti-Semitic intent.’ This vague and overbroad re-definition conflates political criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism, infringing on constitutionally protected speech. The re-definition is especially detrimental to universities, where freedom of speech, critical inquiry, and unfettered debate are integral. The re-definition’s application to college campuses has even been repudiated by its original drafter, Kenneth Stern.”
21 Jun 2016	Campus BDS and the law: First, do no harm	Jewish Journal/Kenneth Stern	“Some in the Jewish community say that academic freedom is important, but not as important as opposing antisemitism. Thus they have advocated universities adopt the Department of State Definition of Antisemitism, to help identify what political speech should be considered bigoted (a de facto speech code based on a definition never intended for campus use); encouraged spying on faculty; and presuming that a faculty member’s politics somehow renders them incapable of evaluating students’ work based on merits, rather than political position. On top of all this, they have brought and threatened lawsuits complaining about political speech. Essentially, the pro-Israel community is perceived to be saying it can’t win the debate on the merits, but instead has to try and shut down the other side.”

Date	Headline/Link	Source/author(s)	Excerpt
21 Mar 2016	Letter to Janet Napolitano, President of University of California, from Kenneth S. Stern, Executive Director, Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation	Kenneth Stern	“We...are deeply concerned by the proclamation that ‘Anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and other forms of discrimination have no place at the University of California...while anti-Zionism, in many instances, reflects discrimination, the direct equation is too blunt an instrument to adopt. It is not only historically and conceptually inaccurate, it will also chill the ability of students and faculty to express ideas about the Israel/Palestine conflict.”
21 Aug 2015	The University of California, ‘microaggressions,’ and supposedly anti-Semitic criticism of Israel	Washington Post/Eugene Volokh	“Now I generally support Israel, and I do think that much of the criticism of Israel is unfair and quite likely anti-Semitic. But I don’t think the UC administration has any business condemning this sort of political expression related to Israel, whether fair or otherwise, and regardless of what we suspect might be in the hearts of those who make these arguments. What is the right view and what is the wrong view of the conflict in the Middle East should be a matter for academics and students to debate, without the university condemning one side as bigots — which, as with the “microaggressions,” sends a strong message to untenured faculty members, graduate students and others that they had better not say certain things. (Of course, actual discrimination against Jewish students should indeed be spoken out against, and physical attacks, vandalism and disruption of events should be forbidden; but that doesn’t require the adoption of the State Department definition.)”
22 Jun 2015	Should a major university system have a particular definition of anti-Semitism?	LA Times/Kenneth Stern	“Those who want the university system to adopt the definition say it isn’t a speech code (presumably because they recognize that speech codes are likely unconstitutional and anathema to the ideals of academic freedom). But that is precisely what they are seeking.”
22 May 2015	State Department’s Anti-Semitism Definition Would Likely Violate First Amendment on Public Campuses	The Fire/Will Creeley - Legal Director	“In a radio interview yesterday, University of California (UC) President Janet Napolitano stated that she believes the UC system should adopt the U.S. State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism. Responding to recent calls from rabbis, faculty, and alumni for the UC system to adopt the definition, Napolitano told Jeremy Hobson of <i>Here & Now</i> that the Board of Regents will vote on the proposal in July. However, if adopted and used as the basis for discipline by a public university system, the State Department’s definition of anti-Semitism would likely violate the First Amendment by prohibiting protected expression.”
20 Apr 2011	Cary Nelson and Kenneth Stern Pen Open Letter on Campus Antisemitism	Cary Nelson & Ken Stern (American Jewish Committee); letter was later publicly <u>repudiated</u> by the AJC (also see here)	“It is entirely proper for university administrators, scholars and students to reference the ‘working definition’ in identifying definite or possible instances of antisemitism on campus. It is a perversion of the definition to use it, as some are doing, in an attempt to censor what a professor, student, or speaker can say. Because a statement might be ‘countable’ by data collectors under the ‘working definition’ does not therefore mean that Title VI is violated. To assert this not only contravenes the definition’s purpose (it was not drafted to label anyone an antisemite or to limit campus speech), it also harms the battle against antisemitism.”

Communication from Public

Name: Ian Schiffer

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 06:23 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Councilmembers, my name is Ian Schiffer and I am a member of the LA Jewish community my entire life and formerly worked for the Jewish Federation of LA. I am greatly disturbed by the recent antisemitic incidents and grateful for the resolution passed last Thursday. At the same time, I am opposed to the resolution 22-1241 that will be before the Council tomorrow to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This resolution would advance a partisan and controversial definition of antisemitism that can stifle legitimate criticism. The resolution would cause painful division within the Jewish community in a difficult time. At this minute when the city is attempting to come together and show solidarity after the racist reminders and roots of this city, this is the wrong action at the wrong time. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Carly Einfeld

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:11 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: “Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Carly Einfeld”.

Communication from Public

Name: Ed Lazowska

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 07:39 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Ed Lazowska.

Communication from Public

Name: Lyndsay Downs
Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 07:50 PM
Council File No: 22-1241
Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Lyndsay Downs

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 08:02 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism.

Communication from Public

Name: angie

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 08:06 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation Angie

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 08:10 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I am greatly disturbed by recent antisemitic incidents and am grateful for the resolution that passed last Thursday condemning antisemitism. At the same time, I am opposed to the resolution that will be before the Council tomorrow to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism. This resolution would advance a partisan and controversial definition of antisemitism that can stifle legitimate criticism. The resolution would cause painful division within the Jewish community in a difficult time. At this minute when the city is attempting to come together and show solidarity after the racist revelations and antisemitic actions of past weeks, this is the wrong action at the wrong time. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: David Elliott

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 08:43 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With my deep appreciation for your engaging this important issue, David Elliott

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:02 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Given the horrifying rise of antisemitism in our city and beyond from a local rapper's recent Jew Hatred spewed to his followers that outnumber worldwide Jewry, to the white supremacists' banner that hung from the 405, to a current candidate running for City office who attempted to shame an opponent for having 1 supporter who supports a certain country (an imperfect democracy because no democracy is flawless) that happens to have scored better as a democracy than the US itself (https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2021/?utm_source=eiu-website&utm_medium=blog&utm_campaign=democracy-index-2021) and much higher than over 100 other countries that the candidate and other antisemities don't seem to give a damn about or call out, to Jewish diners being attacked while consuming sushi solely because they are Jews, to the California Department of Education's initial ethnic studies curriculum that in its original form brazenly omitted the definition of antisemitism from its glossary and that attempted to falsely paint all Jews with a broad brush of whiteness thereby erasing the diverse rainbow that comprises the ethno-religious Jewish people whose hues are as varied as all of mankind, the City of Los Angeles must take a strong and definitive stand to combat antisemitism. The first step in the fight is defining the venomous beast that is antisemitism. The IHRA definition is the most comprehensive and thorough definition of antisemitism that has been adopted by many countries, some states, and which IS the working definition of antisemitism of the United States State Department. <https://www.state.gov/defining-antisemitism/>. In fact 27 U.S. States have already adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism - quite a number in 2022 in response to the 1930s like resurgence of Jew Hatred we have been witnessing. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/states-adopt-ihra-definition-of-anti-semitism>. The City of Los Angeles should take a proactive measure to protect its Jewish population by combating hate through the adoption of the widely respected IHRA definition of antisemitism.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:10 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of the California Young Democrats' Jewish Caucus, I urge you to vote YES to (1) adopt and (2) request incorporation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism citywide.



California Young Democrats Jewish Caucus

Esteemed Councilmembers:

I am a Los Angeles resident and Chair of the California Young Democrats' Jewish Caucus. On behalf of our caucus, I urge you to **vote YES** to (1) adopt and (2) request incorporation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism citywide.

Please show your allyship with the broader Jewish community. The IHRA definition contains non-binding, broad language that accounts for the manifestations of antisemitism internationally.

Unfortunately, many of those who oppose the definition are anti-Zionists who believe the definition prevents them from criticizing Israel, even though the definition explicitly says, "criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic." It has no impact on anyone's right to free speech. Hate speech is protected.

The definition does acknowledge that criticizing the only Jewish country can be antisemitic. [Anti-Zionism does not need to be antisemitic](#), but it often is in practice. **Denying the link between hatred of Jews and hatred of Israel dismisses our lived experience.**

Los Angeles' leaders must affirm the fact that the demonization of Zionism is sometimes used to spread antisemitism. This includes the [insidious trope of "secret Jewish power."](#) which was spread by "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" which was [distributed throughout the US](#) at Henry Ford's car dealerships. Two weeks ago, this trope [manifested in West LA](#) when a white nationalist group vandalized several billboards with the phrase, "zionist jews control america." The Westside Young Democrats issued a statement calling for elected officials to [vote in solidarity with the broader Jewish community](#).

Please stand with LA's Jewish community by voting to yes on Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfeld's resolution.

Thank you,
Rachel Bracker

Chair
Jewish Caucus
California Young Democrats

Communication from Public

Name: Akiva

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 09:20 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: As a member of LA's Jewish community I strongly oppose adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The IHRA definition is nakedly political and wrongly conflates antisemitism with anti-Zionism. Anti-Zionism is a time-honored Jewish tradition that is practiced by quarter of American Jews (Pew Survey of American Jews, 2020). Anti-Zionism is just as much a part of Judaism as Zionism; the government has no right to tell Jews what to believe when it comes to Israel.

Communication from Public

Name: Dre Guttag

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 04:30 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Mid City West Neighborhood Council please see the attached RFA from June 2021 - when there was not a relevant council file for us to attach the letter to. You'll notice how similar our language is to the motion presented by Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Bob Blumenfield. How our examples of antisemitism from over a year ago are still relevant to the hate the Jewish community is continuing to face. At this point we all know that hate speech is an act of violence and bigoted words lead to bigoted action. Please help protect the Jewish community in Los Angeles by adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism and passing the motion as it is currently written. Speaking personally, thank you to Councilmembers Koretz and Blumenfield for their courage in this challenging time. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation and we appreciate the Councilmembers who have taken the lead. With Appreciation, Dre Guttag

Communication from Public

Name: Michael Elling
Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:11 PM
Council File No: 22-1241
Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Mike Elling

Communication from Public

Name: K.C. Yasmer

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:11 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, K.C. Yasmer

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Friedman

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 04:58 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: To the honorable members of the Los Angeles City Council: As you may know, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is the nation's leading anti-hate and human relations organization combating antisemitism and bigotry of all kinds. We are writing to you today in support of your resolution for the City of Los Angeles to adopt the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples, as a non-legally binding reference point, or tool, that can provide guidance for educational and assessment purposes and as guidance to better understand and address contemporary manifestation of antisemitism (Council File 22-1241). The Working Definition has been adopted by dozens of countries and a growing list of organizations and universities to help monitor, teach about and combat antisemitism. The IHRA Working Definition, initially published by a European Union agency in 2005, has also been used by the U.S. State Department since 2010 and is sometimes referred to as the State Department's Working Definition of Antisemitism. ADL encourages the use of the IHRA Working Definition by the City of Los Angeles and other government agencies to help determine when existing laws may be violated in ways that are antisemitic, such as when a crime may be a hate crime that targets Jews, or when an adverse action may constitute discrimination against Jews. However, applying the IHRA Working Definition must be done in a careful and appropriate manner in order to ensure that doing so protects civil rights under existing law and does not undermine them. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Jeffrey I. Abrams, Regional Director of ADL Los Angeles

Los Angeles Region

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CEO and National Director



October 31, 2022

By electronic delivery only:

Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles
Loa Angeles, California 90012

To the honorable members of the Los Angeles City Council:

As you may know, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) is the nation's leading anti-hate and human relations organization combating antisemitism and bigotry of all kinds. We are writing to you today in support of your resolution for the City of Los Angeles to adopt the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples, as a non-legally binding reference point, or tool, that can provide guidance for educational and assessment purposes and as guidance to better understand and address contemporary manifestation of antisemitism (Council File 22-1241).

The Working Definition has been adopted by dozens of countries and a growing list of organizations and universities to help monitor, teach about and combat antisemitism. The IHRA Working Definition, initially published by a European Union agency in 2005, has also been used by the U.S. State Department since 2010 and is sometimes referred to as the State Department's Working Definition of Antisemitism.

ADL encourages the use of the IHRA Working Definition by the City of Los Angeles and other government agencies to help determine when existing laws may be violated in ways that are antisemitic, such as when a crime may be a hate crime that targets Jews, or when an adverse action may constitute discrimination against Jews. However, applying the IHRA Working Definition must be done in a careful and appropriate manner in order to ensure that doing so protects civil rights under existing law and does not undermine them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JA", written over a white background.

Jeffrey I. Abrams Regional Director of ADL Los Angeles

Communication from Public

Name: Carly Manes

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:15 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I am writing in opposition to the LA City Council adopting the IHRA definition of anti-semitism. As a member of the LA Jewish community, this bill does not align with my Jewish values. The IHRA definition of anti-semitism wrongly and dangerously conflates anti-semitism with anti-Zionism and criticism of the Israeli government. This undermines legitimate acts of anti-semitism and it further allows the excuse of anti-semitism to justify the human rights violations that millions of Palestinians experience daily at the hands of the US and Israeli governments. Vote NO on this measure.

Communication from Public

Name: Joseph Karlan

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:24 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: I'm writing to urge you to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. I am a student at a Los Angeles Unified High School. The IHRA Definition has assisted me when a student was called a "dirty Jew" for simply having a connection to the state of Israel. With the use of the IHRA Definition, this incident was labeled and condemned for what it was, an act of Jew hatred. Without IHRA, Jew haters can hide behind their own maligned definitions for what antisemitism is, leaving Jewish people exposed and targeted without a way to identify anti-Jewish bigotry. Opponents of this initiative have claimed that the IHRA Definition is vague, impedes free speech, and attempts to stifle and criminalize criticism against Israel. A simple reading of the IHRA Definition will prove these baseless claims to be false. Bigotry against Jews is a significantly growing problem, and it won't solve itself. Although less than two percent of the U.S. population is Jewish, the FBI reports that nearly 60 percent of religiously motivated hate crimes have been directed against Jews. Approved in 2016, the IHRA Definition was drafted by experts in the field in order to help institutions recognize, monitor, and fight this new form of antisemitism. It has become the consensus for defining antisemitism worldwide, having been endorsed or adopted by over 850 institutions, including the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, governments of over 30 countries, the EU, the US Departments of Education, Justice and State, and Democratic and Republican presidential administrations. The IHRA Definition covers antisemitism across the political spectrum, and includes 11 examples that describe how this bigotry may occur today. These examples reflect the real life experiences of Jewish people in Los Angeles and around the world. They include slurs that go back thousands of years, along with newer forms of anti-Jewish hate. The Definition explicitly states that criticism of Israel, similar to criticism leveled at other countries, cannot be regarded as antisemitic. However, it also recognizes the reality that rhetoric and actions related to Israel sometimes do cross the line into bigotry against Jews. Despite false claims, the IHRA Definition cannot criminalize any form of speech. It is simply a tool to identify and educate about antisemitism, and can help with

applying existing rules and laws when antisemitism may be involved. Without a consistent definition, those who promote antisemitism will attempt to define the term to exclude their own forms of hate and bigotry, so they can avoid criticism or accountability. I urge you to stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism, by adopting the IHRA Working Definition.

Communication from Public

Name: Emily Keating

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:25 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Emily Keating

Communication from Public

Name: Melissa Algaze

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:28 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Melissa Algaze

Communication from Public

Name: Shelby Blecker

Date Submitted: 10/31/2022 05:29 PM

Council File No: 22-1241

Comments for Public Posting: Please pass 22-1241 as written. Every minority group should have the right to define what hatred against them is and be the leading voice in the conversation. That is not too much to ask for. The right to define antisemitism lies solely with the majority of the Jewish people. I urge Los Angeles City Council to vote yes and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. With appreciation, Shelby Blecker - Admin for Melrose Village Neighborhood Alliance