



The following resolution herewith has been proposed by the following parties:

Rosemarie Goldstein (Wellesley College) and Hannah Siegel (SMU), Co-Presidents

Jewish on Campus supports the adoption of the IHRA definition in identifying antisemitism on college campuses.

Resolution 1
Guideline for Defining Antisemitism: IHRA

Introduction

Jewish students on college campuses have faced both verbal and physical attacks, vandalism, and other incidents on the basis of their ethnicity or religion. This is a pattern that we see increasing across the country, witnessing more and more events. As antisemitism is ever changing, identifying many events or speech as antisemitism becomes more difficult. Adoption of the IHRA (International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance) definition is non-binding and permits universities to better understand and identify such incidents.

Assumptions

This has been endorsed based off the following assumptions:

- I. Freedom of speech is guaranteed within the United States, and such adoption would not prohibit persons from exercising such rights. However, it provides universities with the resources to identify whether said free speech entails antisemitism.
 - A. IHRA is not an enforcement or punishing tool but rather one used for identification purposes.
 - B. It is not intended for the purpose of silencing students.
 - C. It allows individuals to criticize Israel without crossing the line into antisemitism.
 - D. In many cases, protected speech may not constitute punishment or a Title VI violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. However, a guideline for antisemitism permits universities to educate and better understand the climate on their campus.
 - E. Conduct is punished, not the speech itself.
- II. Criticism of Israel is not necessarily antisemitic, and students will be permitted to do so. IHRA permits universities to understand when discourse extends beyond mere criticism and treads on antisemitism hereto:
 - A. Said criticism imposes a double standard on Israel, one of which would not be applied to other countries.
 - B. Said criticism that delegitimizes Israel as a state, arguing that it should not have a right to exist or should not be a Jewish nation.
 - C. Said criticism that demonizes Israel, Israelis, and Jews, placing harmful stereotypes, libels, and dehumanizing attitudes on such. Examples of this may include Holocaust inversion.

Articles

Article I: Definition

- I. Note the spelling of the word “antisemitism” as written throughout this resolution, rather than the incorrect yet often-used spelling of “anti-Semitism”.
 - A. According to the [IHRA website](#), using the spelling of “anti-Semitism” is incorrect because it leads to the idea that the term opposes “Semitism” (a “pseudo-scientific racial classification” notably used by Nazis) or “Semites” (the peoples who spoke the Semitic languages originally from the region of the Middle East).
 - B. The source goes on to state that ever since the coining of the term “antisemitism,” it was meant to define the hatred and discrimination that the Jewish people faced historically and continue to experience.
 - C. Therefore, the correct spelling of this term is “antisemitism” and is written as such throughout this resolution.
- II. The IHRA definition of antisemitism is as quoted below:
 - A. *“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*
 - B. This definition is in use by the U.S. Department of State and by approximately [30 colleges and universities](#) within the United States.
- III. Examples of antisemitic incidents under this definition, as listed on the IHRA website, include:
 - A. Making stereotypical statements against Jews, especially using common historical antisemitic tropes such as:
 1. Claiming that Jews control the world, governments, banks, or other institutions
 2. Blaming Jews for various historical events
 3. Other classic antisemitism, such as the blood libel
 - B. Denying the Holocaust or denying the seriousness of the Holocaust
 - C. Accusing the Jewish people of dual loyalty and being more loyal to Israel than their own country
 - D. “Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination”
 - E. See the [IHRA Resource website page](#) for more examples of antisemitism under this definition.

Article II: University Usage and Implementation

- I. It is recommended that universities use the aforementioned definition as a standard and guideline for identifying antisemitism on campus.
- II. The definition may be applied to speech by students, faculty, staff, on-campus guests, and other parties as it is applicable .

- III. Its usage is only for incidents regarding verbal or written speech, including but not limited to: classroom discussions, social media posts, papers, speeches, and private and public conversations.
 - A. Incidents including but not limited to vandalism, destruction of property, intimidation and harassment, stalking, theft, threats, or assault and battery are not defined or to be used in the lens of IHRA. Such events constitute legal implications and extend beyond the premise of speech.
 - 1. Example: A student asserting that he wants to kill Jews does not fall under free speech and therefore not under the scope of IHRA. This constitutes a threat.
 - B. The IHRA Definition may be used to identify patterns or understand events leading up to an antisemitic crime.
- IV. Such a definition should be adopted by administrative bodies and organizations involved in protecting and investigating the civil rights of students.
- V. Universities may use this definition during diversity training and bias workshops.
- VI. Universities may not use this definition as a sole justification of punishment, only for educational purposes. As referenced in Section III, it may be used to identify antisemitic attitudes of a student.
 - A. Example: A Jewish student's assault on campus may not necessarily constitute a hate crime, as the motive is unknown. Investigation of student's social media pages may show antisemitic speech, as defined by IHRA. Noting these two aspects may permit proper authorities to identify the connection between the student's antisemitic attitudes and attacks.
 - B. Example: A non-Jewish student who posts that he thinks Jews are funny looking cannot have punishment levied against him. Such rhetoric is protected speech. Using the IHRA definition, the university may note this as antisemitic, track it, and offer educational resources.
- VII. The definition may be used as a tracking mechanism.
- VIII. Reported incidents that reference antisemitic speech may be investigated, identified, and analyzed under IHRA.
- IX. Universities should be mindful that antisemitism mutates and is ingrained within society. Persons may unintentionally perpetuate it. Education rather than punishment, under the guise of this definition, allows persons to understand the repercussions of their speech and promote better cultural awareness.
 - A. While the intent of said speech may be helpful in identifying whether said speech resulted from a lack of education or knowledge, it does not preclude the fact that this rhetoric may be harmful and constitutes antisemitism under the IHRA definition.
 - 1. Example: A student asks a Jewish classmate if his family controls any media companies. The student believed that this was acceptable and did not realize it was based on antisemitic stereotypes. The

school should use this as an opportunity to educate the student on the harm behind his speech.

Amendments

- I. Freedom of speech is guaranteed within both the United States and Canada. In Canada, hate speech is not protected speech and prohibited under the Criminal Code Provisions Targeting Hate, 319(1). This regards communicating statements which reference hatred towards one group and may cause breach of peace.

Voting

21 Ambassadors voted “aye.” 0 voted “nay.” 1 abstained. 19 were not present. Voting occurred on 09/19/2021.

Representative of American Musical and Dramatic Academy, **Abstain**

Representative of Georgia Institute of Technology, **Aye**

Representative of Barnard College/List College, **Absent**

Representative of Kansas State University, **Absent**

Representative of Binghamton University, **Absent**

Representative of Lassonde at York University, **Absent**

Representative of Boston University, **Aye**

Representative of Middlebury College, **Absent**

Representative of Brandeis University, **Aye**

Representative of Northern Michigan University, **Aye**

Representative of Brown University, **Absent**

Representative of Northwestern University, **Absent**

Representative of California State University (Long Beach), **Aye**

Representative of Oregon State University, **Aye**

Representative of Columbia University, **Absent**

Representative of Queen’s University, **Aye**

Representative of Duke University, **Aye**

Representative of Roanoke College, Absent	Representative of University of Michigan, Aye
Representative of Rutgers University, Absent	Representative of University of Notre Dame, Aye
Representative of Ryerson University, Aye	Representative of University of Pennsylvania, Absent
Representative of Simmons University, Aye	Representative of University of Pittsburgh, Aye
Representative of Stanford University, Absent	Representative of University of Vermont, Aye
Representative of Tufts University, Aye	Representative of Vanderbilt University, Absent
Representative of University at Buffalo, Aye	Representative of Vassar College, Absent
Representative of University of British Columbia, Absent	Representative of Wake Forest University, Absent
Representative of University of California (San Diego), Aye	Representative of Washington University in St. Louis, Aye
Representative of University of Chicago, Absent	Representative of West Virginia University, Absent
Representative of University of Florida, Aye	Representative of Western Washington University, Aye
Representative of University of Miami, Aye	

Approval

Approved by Rosemarie Goldstein (Wellesley College), Co-President 09.19.2021

Approved by Hannah Siegel (SMU), Co-President 09.19.2021

Approved by Ruthy Attias, Ambassador Coordinator, 09.19.2021

Approved by Jewish on Campus 09.19.2021

