



# Legislative Measures to Combat Antisemitism and Radical Extremism in Canada

On March 28, 2025, The Abraham Global Peace Initiative published these recommendations in the National Post - <https://nationalpost.com/opinion/avi-benlolo-make-hate-law-reform-a-federal-election-issue>

## Introduction

The rise of antisemitism and radical extremism in Canada poses a direct threat to the nation's freedom, democracy, and social cohesion. To address these challenges, the Canadian government must take decisive legislative action to protect its citizens and uphold its democratic values. This report outlines key legal measures that can be implemented to counter these threats effectively.

## 1. Strengthening Hate Crime Legislation

- Increase penalties for hate crimes, particularly those targeting Jewish communities and institutions, by amending the Criminal Code to establish harsher sentencing guidelines.
- Expand the definition of hate speech under Section 319 of the Criminal Code to include explicit incitement to violence against religious and ethnic groups, ensuring more effective prosecution of online and public expressions of antisemitism.
- Establish a dedicated federal task force within the RCMP to monitor, investigate, and prosecute antisemitic hate crimes, providing law enforcement with enhanced investigative powers and resources.
- Reform the process of prosecuting hate crimes by removing the requirement that police seek approval from the Attorney General before laying charges. This will depoliticize the process, streamline legal action, and establish stronger legal precedents while maintaining judicial oversight to protect free speech rights.

## **2. Serious Implementation of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism**

- Legislate the mandatory adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in all government institutions, law enforcement agencies, universities, and publicly funded entities.
- Make adherence to the IHRA definition a requirement for funding eligibility for universities, NGOs, media organizations, and unions that receive public subsidies.
- Integrate IHRA compliance into hate crime investigations and legal proceedings, ensuring that antisemitic incidents are properly classified and prosecuted.
- Establish an independent oversight body to monitor implementation and address violations.

## **3. Banning Foreign Extremist Influence**

- Amend the Canada Elections Act and the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act to prevent foreign governments and extremist organizations from funding religious institutions, NGOs, and educational programs that promote radical ideologies.
- Strengthen the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act to enhance monitoring and restriction of foreign financial transactions linked to extremist groups.
- Require foreign-trained imams, religious leaders, and educators to undergo vetting and certification to prevent radicalization within religious institutions.

## **4. Crackdown on Extremist Organizations**

- Amend the Criminal Code to allow for the expedited designation of extremist Islamist groups that incite violence or terrorism as terrorist entities.
- Grant law enforcement agencies enhanced legal authority to dismantle organizations that promote radicalization and antisemitic propaganda, including revocation of charitable status and asset freezes.
- Introduce stronger regulations under the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) Act to monitor and disrupt extremist networks operating within Canada.
- Implement stricter oversight and penalties for online platforms that facilitate extremist recruitment and radicalization, enforcing content removal and legal accountability.

## **5. Addressing Radicalism on Campuses, in Unions, and the Media**

- Establish a federal oversight committee to investigate antisemitism and radicalism in Canadian universities, ensuring accountability for institutions that fail to address discrimination and extremist activities on campus.

- Make university funding contingent on the implementation of robust antisemitism policies, including penalties for faculty members who engage in hate speech or incite violence.
- Introduce laws prohibiting public sector unions from supporting or endorsing organizations linked to terrorist entities or antisemitic rhetoric.
- Strengthen regulatory oversight of media outlets, including the CBC, to prevent the dissemination of extremist narratives, misinformation, and antisemitic propaganda, ensuring journalistic accountability through an independent review board.

## **6. Education and Public Awareness Initiatives**

- Mandate Holocaust and antisemitism education in Canadian schools under provincial curricula, ensuring standardized and comprehensive teaching about historical and contemporary antisemitism.
- Establish federal grants for community-led initiatives that counter antisemitism and radicalization through educational programs, interfaith dialogue, and grassroots engagement.
- Develop national public awareness campaigns through Public Safety Canada to highlight the dangers of radical extremism and its impact on Canadian democracy and social cohesion.

## **7. Strengthening Border Security and Immigration Policies**

- Implement stricter screening measures under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act for individuals entering Canada with suspected ties to extremist groups, requiring additional security checks and intelligence coordination.
- Expand intelligence-sharing agreements with international allies, particularly regarding individuals involved in radicalization or terrorist activities abroad.
- Amend immigration laws to enable the swift deportation of non-citizens found guilty of promoting antisemitism, extremism, or hate speech, prioritizing national security over leniency policies.
- Introduce a values-based test for new immigrants to ensure alignment with Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including protections for women, minorities, and democratic principles. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to Canadian values of equality, human rights, and religious tolerance before being granted permanent residency or citizenship.

## **Conclusion**

To safeguard Canada's democratic values and social harmony, immediate legislative action is required to combat antisemitism and radical extremism. By implementing these measures, the government can take a firm stance against hate while promoting pluralism, coexistence, and the preservation of Canada's democratic foundations. These laws will ensure that all Canadians, regardless of faith or background, can live in peace and security.

