



Dear Representative,

We, the undersigned members of leading American Jewish organizations, are writing to reaffirm our support for the widespread adoption and endorsement of the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) Working Definition of Antisemitism](#). Clearly and accurately defining antisemitism is key to combating its manifestations wherever they may appear.

Following Hamas's October 7th massacre, incidents of discrimination, harassment, and violence directed against Jewish communities in the United States and around the world have dramatically increased. Over three quarters of American Jews feel less safe today since those attacks, and almost half have altered their behavior out of fear of antisemitism. The escalating threat of antisemitic violence and discrimination requires a forceful response from our government.

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism provides a comprehensive and internationally recognized framework to delineate and address contemporary manifestations of antisemitism. It is, moreover, a consensus definition, which is crucial for effective policy implementation. The IHRA definition maintains widespread bipartisan support. It was unanimously adopted by all of the IHRA member states, including the United States. It has since been embraced by more than 1,200 entities around the world, including 35 U.S. States, 91 U.S. cities and municipalities, the U.S. Department of State, and President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, as well as by many other nations. It has been readily endorsed by over 160 Jewish communities and organizations from over sixty-five countries who believe it best describes the various forms of antisemitism and Jew hatred that they confront. Additionally, hundreds of universities, business enterprises, sports associations, civil society organizations, and other institutions have adopted it. Click [here](#) for more information on entities adopting the IHRA definition and the already widespread and established support the IHRA definition has received.

Let us be clear: Endorsement of an alternative definition would undo years of international cooperation and progress in identifying and combating antisemitism and would only create confusion and unequal standards. While the IHRA definition has been adopted by the U.S. and dozens of U.S. allies, these alternatives have, for good reason, garnered no support. To our knowledge, the alternative definitions have not been adopted by *any* governmental entity anywhere in the world. For Members of Congress to legitimize any of the alternate definitions would break international consensus and undermine anti-discrimination efforts domestically and abroad.

More importantly, adoption of any alternate definition of antisemitism would undermine efforts to protect Jewish communities. The IHRA definition's clear and succinct examples include several relating to Israel, which have proven to be especially important in recent months. Its purpose is to inform and

not enforce, and it calls for “taking into account the overall context” of the situation. It further notes that, “criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.” It does not punish speech, even antisemitic speech. Instead, it serves to help lawmakers and others determine when conduct is based on antisemitic bias.

While these are challenging and frightening times, there has been real progress in fostering a collective commitment to combat antisemitism. This is demonstrated in the bipartisan measures promoted by Congress, the actions included in the Administration’s national strategy, and the widespread adoption and endorsement of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. We ask that you remain dedicated to this effort so that Congress will remain a leading voice in the fight against anti-Jewish hate, violence, and discrimination.

Thank you,

American Israel Public Affairs Committee
 American Jewish Committee
 American Zionist Movement
 Anti-Defamation League
 B’nai B’rith International
 Combat Antisemitism Movement
 Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations
 Elie Wiesel Foundation
 Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America
 Israeli American Council
 Jewish Federations of North America
 MERCAZ USA
 National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry
 Rabbinical Assembly
 The Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law
 Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
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