



WHAT IS ANTISEMITISM?

In 2005, the EU Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), now the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), adopted a “working definition of antisemitism” which has become the standard definition used around the world, including by the European Parliament, the UK College of Policing, the US Department of State, the US Senate, and the 31 countries comprising the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. In 2016, the powerful House of Commons Home Affairs Committee joined Campaign Against Antisemitism’s longstanding call for the British government and its agencies, as well as all political parties, to formally adopt the International Definition of Antisemitism, following which the British Government formally adopted the definition. Campaign Against Antisemitism also uses the International Definition of Antisemitism.

INTERNATIONAL DEFINITION OF

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antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Manifestations might include the targeting of the State of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

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

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination (e.g. by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour).
- Applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of

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supporters and accomplices during
War II (the Holocaust).

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



EXPERT LEGAL OPINION ON ADOPTING THE DEFINITION

In July 2017, Campaign Against Antisemitism published the opinion of expert counsel on the adoption of the International Definition of Antisemitism. David Wolfson QC and Jeremy Brier, who acted for Campaign Against Antisemitism *pro bono*, drew up the nine-page opinion. The opinion includes a detailed assessment of the definition itself, considers the application of the definition in difficult cases, and contains useful advice for politicians and public bodies (such as universities) which are considering using the definition.

The opinion states that: “The Definition is a clear, meaningful and workable definition. The Definition is an important development in terms of identifying and preventing antisemitism, in particular in its modern and non-traditional forms, which often reach beyond simple expressions of hatred for Jews and instead refer to Jewish people and Jewish associations in highly derogatory, veiled terms (e.g. ‘Zio’ or ‘Rothschilds’). Public bodies in the United Kingdom are not ‘at risk’ in using this Definition. Indeed, this Definition should be used by public bodies on the basis that it will ensure that the identification of antisemitism is clear, fair and accurate. Criticism of Israel, even in robust terms, cannot be regarded as antisemitic *per se* and such criticism is not captured by the Definition. However, criticisms of Israel in terms which are channels of expression for hatred towards Jewish people (such as by particular invocations of the Holocaust or Nazism) will in all likelihood be antisemitic.”

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THE ADOPTION OF THE IHRA DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

OPINION

A. INTRODUCTION

1. We are instructed by the Campaign Against Antisemitism to provide an Opinion on the decision of the Government of the United Kingdom to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA") definition of antisemitism ("the Definition"). In particular, we are asked to consider the meaning of the Definition, its usefulness and potential application in public life.
2. For the avoidance of doubt, we have prepared this Opinion independently. We have no direct involvement with the Campaign Against Antisemitism.

Read the full opinion

B. SUMMARY OF OPINION

3. By way of a summary, our opinion is as follows:
 - (1) The Definition is a clear, meaningful and workable definition.
 - (2) The Definition is an important development in terms of identifying and preventing antisemitism, in particular in its modern and non-traditional forms, which often reach beyond simple expressions of hatred for Jews and instead refer to Jewish people and Jewish associations in highly derogatory, veiled terms (e.g. "Zio" or "Rothschilds").
 - (3) Public bodies in the United Kingdom are not "at risk" in using this

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United States Senate

United States Department of State

• Her Majesty's Government

• House of Commons Home Affairs



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• European Parliament• International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance• Government of Albania• Government of Argentina• Government of Austria• Government of Bulgaria• Government of Cyprus• Government of the Czech Republic• Government of France• Government of Germany• Government of Greece• Government of Israel• Government of Italy• Government of Kosovo• Government of Latvia• Government of Lithuania• Government of North Macedonia• Government of Panama• Government of Romania• Government of Serbia• Government of Slovakia• Government of Sweden• Government of Switzerland• Government of Uruguay | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Committee• London Assembly• College of Policing• Judicial College• National Union of Students |
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Justice, justice, you shall pursue - צדק צדק תרדף

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