



A CONTRIBUTION TO CANADA'S PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2018 G7 SUMMIT IN CHARLEVOIX

B'nai Brith Canada is the country's oldest national Jewish organization, founded in 1875, with a long history of defending the human rights of Canadian Jews and all Canadian regardless of religious affiliation. We advocate for the interests of the grassroots Jewish community in Canada and for its rights such as freedom of conscience and religion.

B'nai Brith addresses the twin challenges of antisemitism and hate speech, and hate crimes, linking them to the broader threat of discrimination and human rights, a universal issue that affects all Canadians and individuals everywhere.

We interpret broadly the concept of 'inclusion' – which we see as one of Canada's themes for the G7 Summit, going beyond gender equality and women's empowerment. We believe that antisemitism, hate speech and hate crimes, and religious discrimination threaten the capacity of all groups to feel welcome in their societies.

Governments bear the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety, security and equal rights of all their citizens. Jewish communities deserve no less than their neighbours. Together with NGOs and civic leaders, G7 governments can mobilize the public to reject antisemitic hatred, whether it comes from hate groups or political parties, and to encourage the use of instruments and best practices to combat discrimination and promote pluralism.

Action to combat antisemitism would fit naturally with another of Canada's priority themes, promoting a more peaceful and a more secure world. Modern forms of antisemitism can be regarded as the canary in the coal mine – signalling attacks on pluralism and democracy. Warnings are already present, in Europe, North America, and elsewhere.

As G7 host, Canada is well-placed to lead on these issues, particularly given our commitment to freedom of religion or belief, including the ability to worship in peace and security, as a fundamental human right. Canada has an added opportunity to reinvigorate the commitments made in the Nov. 10, 2010, *Ottawa Protocol on*

Combatting Antisemitism. To this end, **Bnai Brith Canada offers the following proposals for consideration**, particularly in the lead-up to the April 22-24, 2018, meeting of ministers responsible for foreign affairs and security:

1. A reaffirmation of the commitments enshrined in the *Ottawa Protocol on Combatting Antisemitism*, specifically:

- Encouraging leaders of all religious faiths to use all means possible to combat antisemitism and all forms of religious hatred and discrimination.
- Working with universities to encourage them to combat antisemitism with the same seriousness in which they confront other forms of hate.
- Establishing an international task force of internet specialists, including parliamentarians and experts, to create common indicators to identify and monitor antisemitism and other manifestations of hate online, and to develop policy recommendations for governments, social media platforms, service providers and international frameworks to address these problems.

2. A reaffirmation of the commitments made in the 2004 Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) *Berlin Declaration on Combatting Antisemitism*, specifically:

- Condemning without reservation all manifestations of antisemitism.
- Declaring unambiguously that international developments or political issues, including those in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, never justify antisemitism.
- Condemning all attacks motivated by antisemitism or by any other forms of religious or racial hatred or intolerance, including attacks against synagogues and other religious places, sites and shrines.

3. A recommendation that the Milan Ministerial Council of the OSCE this December approve a working definition of antisemitism based on that adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2016.

4. A commitment by G7 governments that they will promote greater awareness of this definition within their countries and internationally, to help educate officials, legislators, journalists and teachers regarding the contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, including Holocaust denial and diminishment.

5. A commitment by G7 governments to develop and implement national action plans to combat antisemitism along the lines, as an example, of that adopted in Norway, including commitments to:

- Appoint national coordinators on combatting antisemitism;
 - Hold regular consultations with representative Jewish community organizations; and
 - Prepare regular reports on the progress of implementation.
6. **A commitment that G7 governments will – using as a point of departure the G7 Interior Ministers’ joint statement made at Ischia, Oct. 20, 2017, and the issues elaborated in Recommendation #1, above – expand their efforts to counter the terrorist threat on the Internet, to countering antisemitism and hate speech insofar as these also represent threats to national security and public safety.**

References

Ottawa Protocol on Combatting Antisemitism

<http://www.cjnews.com/news/ottawa-protocol-combating-anti-semitism>

Berlin Declaration on Combatting Antisemitism of the OSCE

<https://www.osce.org/cio/31432?download=true>

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance – Working Definition of Antisemitism

<https://holocaustremembrance.com/media-room/stories/working-definition-antisemitism>

Government of Norway – Action Plan Against Antisemitism, 2016-2020

<https://www.regjeringen.no/contentassets/dd258c081e6048e2ad0cac9617abf778/action-plan-against-antisemitism.pdf>

G7 Interior Ministers Statement of October 20, 2017

<https://www.osce.org/cio/31432?download=true>