

CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS 2015 MOTION ON ANTISEMITISM

The Honourable Irwin Cotler (Member of Parliament for Mount Royal)
speaking in the House of Commons February 24, 2015:

[Mr. Speaker](#), there have been discussions among the parties and if you seek it,
I think you will find unanimous consent for the following motion. I move:

That, in the opinion of the House:

- a. there has been, in the words of the Joint Statement issued following [the meeting](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on January 22, 2015, “an alarming increase in antisemitism worldwide,” including the firebombing of synagogues and community centres, the vandalizing of Jewish memorials and cemeteries, incendiary calls for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people, and anti-Jewish terror;
- b. this global antisemitism constitutes not only a threat to Jews but an assault on our shared democratic values and our common humanity;

Therefore the House:

- a. declares its categorical condemnation of antisemitism;
- b. reaffirms the importance of the Ottawa Protocol on Combating Antisemitism as a model for domestic and international implementation;
- c. reaffirms, in the words of the Ottawa Protocol, that, “Criticism of Israel is not antisemitic, and saying so is wrong. But singling Israel out for selective condemnation and opprobrium – let alone denying its right to exist or seeking its destruction – is discriminatory and hateful, and not saying so is dishonest;”

And the House further calls upon the government to:

- a. continue advancing the combating of antisemitism as a domestic and international priority;
- b. expand engagement with civil society, community groups, educators, and other levels of government to combat antisemitism and to promote respect, tolerance, and mutual understanding.

The Speaker: Does the hon. member have the unanimous consent of the House to propose this motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion.
Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

(Motion agreed to)

GLOBAL

Canada's Parliament unanimously condemns rise of anti-Semitism

FEBRUARY 26, 2015 6:37 AM

OTTAWA (JTA) — Canada's Parliament unanimously adopted a motion condemning the rise of anti-Semitism around the world.

The Feb. 24 motion grew out of a four-hour discussion, called a “take-note” debate, in the House of Commons on the rise of global anti-Semitism.

The motion cited “an alarming increase in anti-Semitism worldwide,” including “the firebombing of synagogues and community centers, the vandalizing of Jewish memorials and cemeteries, incendiary calls for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people, and anti-Jewish terror.”

The measure reaffirmed “the importance of the Ottawa Protocol on Combating anti-Semitism as a model for domestic and international implementation,” and called on the government to “continue advancing the combating of anti-Semitism as a domestic and international priority.”

“This global anti-Semitism constitutes not only a threat to Jews but an assault on our shared democratic values and our common humanity,” it stated.

It also reaffirmed, in the words of the 2010 Ottawa Protocol, that “criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitic, and saying so is wrong. But singling Israel out for selective condemnation and opprobrium — let alone denying its right to exist or seeking its destruction — is discriminatory and hateful, and not saying so is dishonest.”

The measure called on Ottawa to continue fighting anti-Semitism “as a domestic and international priority; expand engagement with civil society, community groups, educators, and other levels of government to combat anti-Semitism; and to promote respect, tolerance, and mutual understanding.”

The debate was initiated by Jason Kenney, the minister of multiculturalism, and Liberal lawmaker Irwin Cotler, a former justice minister and a prominent human rights advocate who recently addressed the inaugural United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Anti-Semitism.