

THE IHRA DEFINITION: EXTENDED FACTS

On May 26, 2016 in Bucharest, the Plenary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism under the chairmanship of Romania.

1. **Antisemitism has led the international community** to take a number steps in recent years: In 2004 the OSCE issued the [Berlin Declaration on Antisemitism](#) and appointed a Personal Representative on Combatting Antisemitism; in December, 2015, the European Commission appointed its first Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism.
2. **The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues**, and accordingly has the responsibility to deal with the issue of antisemitism as it is directly embedded in the organization's founding document, the [Stockholm Declaration](#).
3. **The IHRA Plenary consists of 34 Member Countries**, including Canada.
4. **At a January 19, 2020, Ministerial Meeting, IHRA members issued a declaration** reaffirming the fundamental principles of IHRA, including: the acceptance of *"our responsibility as governments to continue working together to counter Holocaust denial and distortion, antisemitism, and all forms of racism and discrimination that undermine fundamental democratic principles"*.
5. **The IHRA is the first intergovernmental body** to adopt a working definition of antisemitism.
6. **The recommendation that the IHRA adopt the working definition** came from the experts of IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.
7. **The working definition of antisemitism aims** to guide the IHRA in its work and to illustrate how antisemitism can manifest itself.
8. **The adopted working definition of antisemitism is based** on a definition first published by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in 2005, now the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency.
9. **The working definition of antisemitism has also been used**, for example, by the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism, the United Kingdom's College of Policing and in police training in Estonia.
10. **In addition, the United Kingdom football clubs of Chelsea and West Ham** have adopted the IHRA working definition, a sign that, even in the sports world, the importance of taking concrete action against antisemitism is recognized.

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11. The Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism called for adoption of the working definition in their [Ottawa Protocol of 2010](#).
12. According to the United States Department of State: “As a member of IHRA, [the United States now uses this working definition](#) and has encouraged other governments and international organizations to use it as well”. The working definition has also been adopted for domestic use by the United States Department of Education.
13. On 1 June, 2017, the European Parliament [adopted a resolution](#) calling on member states and their institutions to adopt and apply the HRA working definition of antisemitism.
14. In September, 2018, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres [acknowledged](#) “the efforts of the 31 member countries of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance to agree on a common definition of antisemitism.”
15. On June 4, 2019, the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States announced that the IHRA definition [would be applied](#) to the work of the OAS.
16. To date, the working definition has been adopted or endorsed by the following jurisdictions and governments:

The United Kingdom (12 December 2016)

Israel (22 January 2017)

Austria (25 April 2017)

Scotland (27 April 2017)

Romania (25 May 2017)

Germany (20 September 2017)

Bulgaria (18 October 2017)

Lithuania (24 January 2018)

Republic of North Macedonia (6 March 2018)

Netherlands (27 November 2018)

Slovakia (28 November 2018)

Belgium (14 December 2018)

Slovenia (20 December 2018)

The Republic of Moldova (18 January 2019)

Czech Republic (25 January 2019)

Hungary (18 February 2019)

Canada (27 June 2019)

Greece (8 November 2019)

France (3 December 2019)

Cyprus (18 December 2019)

Italy (17 January 2020)

Sweden (21 January 2020)

Uruguay (27 January 2020)

Westmount City Council, Canada (3 February 2020)

Serbia (27 February 2020)

York Regional Council, Canada (30 April 2020)

Argentina (8 June 2020)

Spain (22 July 2020)