

6 March 2019, Luxembourg City

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to address you in my new capacity as Chair. I would like to begin by thanking Ambassador Sandro De Bernardin for his leadership throughout the last year. I look forward to continuing to work closely with Italy as part of the IHRA Troika together with Germany.

I am delighted to note that to date 17 countries have adopted or endorsed the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including most recently Hungary and France. I am also able to share with you [translations of the Working Definition of Antisemitism](#) which were carried out by the European Parliament's translation department. In the next weeks the Permanent Office will proceed to put the translations on the IHRA website.

Against the backdrop of rising antisemitism, the reaffirmation of our founding document, the Stockholm Declaration, planned for January 2020 takes on an even greater significance. This international Alliance is now entering its 20th year and it is my honour to guide the organization during this important time. In our work we refer to the Stockholm Declaration of 2000, which is not only the birth certificate of the IHRA, it is our code of conduct and it will remain so. But given the challenges ahead of us, we must see whether – at a moment where the last survivors will have left us soon – we can foster a cultural remembrance that vigorously stands up to those who deny or distort the Holocaust.

This significant message should strongly reaffirm our traditional commitments, but also deal with new challenges under new forms of populism and nationalism, with the appalling new appearances of hate speech carried out through the new digital means of our age, and with the abominable threats against Jews who are our fellow citizens.

### **Strategic Implementation Meeting: Mondorf-les-Bains (3-5 June 2019)**

I very much look forward to hosting this result-oriented meeting focusing on the IHRA's deliberations around a significant message for 2020, providing time among the key political and expert leadership to exchange among each other with regard to IHRA's priorities and to offer the opportunity for concrete project work to be done.

We will invite members of the Working Group and Committee Troika, the 2020 expert drafting group, the existing IHRA project groups as well as members of potential new project groups, members of the Grant Review Committee and experts assigned to the country report reviews. Within the next few days and weeks invitees will be provided with further information.

I would like to share with all of you a [Preliminary Work Plan](#) as well as [overview of project outlines and groups](#) to ensure that everyone is aware of what is going on. Furthermore, I would like to encourage you to be in touch with each other via the [IHRAnet on Yammer](#) to ensure wide-ranging support, identify overlaps and useful complements for IHRAs activities. Our projects and initiatives will be successful if we work collectively towards achieving the objectives of the IHRA strategy.

### **Plenary Meetings: Luxembourg City (2-5 December 2019)**

I very much look forward to welcoming all delegates to a full Plenary in Luxembourg City. The meeting will last four days and I am delighted that a presentation of the revised Educational Guidelines will take place, a key component in reaching our strategy objective of sharing good practices. I hope you will all support the dissemination of the outcome of the project.

I count on your support during this important year and am honoured to be leading the IHRA into its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

Best regards,



Georges Santer  
IHRA Chair