



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

02 March 2020

Fact Sheet: Working Definition of Antisemitism

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

1. Antisemitism has led the international community to take a number of steps in recent years: in 2004 the OSCE issued the Berlin Declaration and appointed a Personal Representative on Combatting Antisemitism; in Dec 2015 the European Commission appointed the 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](#) – 25 of which are EU member countries.
4. The IHRA is the first intergovernmental body to adopt this working definition.
5. The recommendation that the IHRA adopt the working definition came from the experts of IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.
6. The working definition of antisemitism aims to guide the IHRA in its work and to illustrate how antisemitism can manifest itself.
7. 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 Fundamental Rights Agency.
8. The working definition of antisemitism has also been used, for example, by the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism, the UK's College of Policing and in police training in Estonia.
9. The Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism call for adoption of the working definition in their [London](#) and [Ottawa](#) protocols.
10. To date, the working definition has been adopted or endorsed by the following governments and bodies: the [United Kingdom](#) (12 December 2016), [Israel](#) (22 January 2017), [Austria](#) (25 April 2017), [Romania](#) (25 May 2017), [Germany](#) (20 September 2017), [Bulgaria](#) (18 October 2017), [Belgium](#) (14 December 2018), [Slovenia](#) (20 December 2018), [Sweden](#) (27 January 2018), [Lithuania](#) (24 January 2018), the [Republic of North Macedonia](#) (6 March 2018), [the Netherlands](#) (27

November 2018), [Slovakia](#) (28 November 2018), [Republic of Moldova](#) (18 January 2019), [Czech Republic](#) (25 January 2019), [Hungary](#) (18 February 2019), [Canada](#) (27 June 2019), [Luxembourg](#) (10 July 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), Serbia (27 February 2020).

11. In June 2017 the [Scottish Government](#) formally adopted the working definition of antisemitism.

12. On 17 September the [Government of Jersey](#) adopted the working definition.

13. [According to the US State Department](#), “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 US Department of Education.

14. [The Government of Canada states](#) that it “strongly supports the working definition of antisemitism.”

15. On 1 June 2017, the European Parliament voted to [adopt a resolution](#) calling on member states and their institutions to adopt and apply the working definition of antisemitism.

16. 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.”

17. On 17 January 2020, [Chelsea FC](#) and [West Ham United](#) adopted the working definition. Crystal Palace FC, AFC Bournemouth, Burnley FC, and Brighton & Hove Albion FC also pledged to use the working definition in their working practices.