

Fact Sheet: Adoption of a Working Definition of Antisemitism

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

31 May 2016



1. 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.
2. The IHRA Plenary consists of [31 Member Countries](#)- 24 of which are EU member countries.
3. The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues and has the responsibility to deal with the issue of antisemitism as it is directly embedded in the organization's founding document, the [Stockholm Declaration](#).
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 aims to guide the IHRA in its work and to illustrate how antisemitism could 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 (FRA).
8. Prior to the IHRA adoption, the working definition of antisemitism was already being referred to in some form by a number of bodies (for example, the [European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism](#), the [Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism](#) call for adoption in their [London](#) and [Ottawa](#) protocols, [the U.S Department of State](#) in its antisemitism report, and the [UK's College of Policing](#).)
9. NGOs which deal with monitoring and reporting on antisemitism have been calling for the adoption of the working definition since 2005, for example in the [outcome of the IN@CH/ISCA conference on online antisemitism](#) in April 2016.
10. Together with the IHRA [Working Definition of Holocaust Denial and Distortion](#), adopted in 2013, the working definition of antisemitism provides another tool to allow countries and organizations to identify and thereby combat antisemitism.
11. Initiatives undertaken by other international bodies demonstrate the widespread acknowledgment of the problem of antisemitism: in 2004 the OSCE issued the [Berlin Declaration](#) and appointed a Personal Representative on Combatting Antisemitism; in December 2015 the European Commission [appointed the first Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism](#); the OSCE/ODIHR and the European Parliament Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup (ARDI) will hold a seminar on combatting antisemitism in Brussels in June 2016; the German Chair-in-Office of the OSCE would like to encourage the endorsement of the working definition of antisemitism at the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg on 8/9 December 2016.

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