

International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Non-Legally Binding Working Definition of Antisemitism

The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, so with evidence that the scourge of antisemitism is once again on the rise, we resolved to take a leading role in combating it. IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is.

The working definition of antisemitism

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.

- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

CITY OF PEABODY



24 LOWELL STREET
PEABODY, MA 01960

P. 978-538-5700
F. 978-538-5980

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.

PROCLAMATION

I, EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR., Mayor of the City of Peabody, Massachusetts, by virtue of the authority vested in me, by the people of Peabody, as an elected official, do hereby proclaim Thursday, January 27, 2022, as:

**“INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY”
And Recognizing the Month of January
as
“HOLOCAUST EDUCATION MONTH”
In the City of Peabody**

WHEREAS, Thursday, January 27, 2022 is International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and marks the 77th Anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp; and

WHEREAS, honoring the victims and survivors begins with our renewed recognition of the value and dignity of each person. It demands from us the courage to protect the persecuted and speak out against bigotry and hatred; and

WHEREAS, on this anniversary we recommit ourselves to combatting the global rise in anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, recent acts of hate across our country serve as a painful reminder of our obligation to condemn and combat rising anti-Semitism in all its forms, including the denial or trivialization of the Holocaust; and

WHEREAS,

this anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made confronting this terrible chapter in human history and on our continuing efforts to end genocide; and

WHEREAS,

the working definition of anti-Semitism reads as follows: "antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

NOW, THEREFORE, may it be resolved that the City of Peabody hereby recognizes January 27, 2022 as "**International Holocaust Remembrance Day**"; and

FURTHER, may it be resolved that the City of Peabody hereby recognizes January as "**Holocaust Education Month.**"

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and the seal of the City of Peabody, Massachusetts, this 27th day of January, 2022.



EDWARD A. BETTENCOURT, JR.
Mayor, City of Peabody



Proclamation

We, the Select Board of the Town of Danvers, Massachusetts, by virtue of the authority vested in us by the people of Danvers, as elected officials, do hereby proclaim **Thursday, January 27, 2022**, as **"International Holocaust Remembrance Day"** and recognize the month of January as **"Holocaust Education Month"** in the Town of Danvers.

- Whereas,** Thursday, January 27, 2022, is **"International Holocaust Remembrance Day"** and marks the 77th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp; and
- Whereas,** Honoring the victims and survivors begins with our renewed recognition of the value and dignity of each person, it demands from us the courage to protect the persecuted and speak out against bigotry and hatred; and
- Whereas,** On this Anniversary we recommit ourselves to combatting the global rise in anti-Semitism; and
- Whereas,** Recent acts of hate in Danvers serve as a painful reminder of our obligation to condemn and combat rising anti-Semitism in all its forms, including the denial or trivialization of the Holocaust; and
- Whereas,** This Anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the progress we have made confronting this terrible chapter in human history and on our continuing efforts to end genocide; and
- Whereas,** The definition of anti-Semitism reads as follows: *"anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."*

Now, therefore, may it be resolved that the Town of Danvers hereby recognizes **January 27, 2022**, as **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** and the month of January as **Holocaust Education Month**.


Town of Danvers Select Board


Gardner S. Trask III, Chairman


Daniel C. Bennett


Maureen A. Bernard


Matthew E. Duggan


David A. Mills

December 7, 2021