

To combat the world's oldest form of hatred, we must define it.

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism...

...is essential

Sometimes antisemitism is easy to identify. Other times, because of the evolving nature of the world's oldest hatred, it can be hard to spot. The first step in combating this persistent form of bigotry is accurately identifying it. This is why the IHRA definition of antisemitism is so important.

The IHRA definition helps us determine what is, and what is not, antisemitic, which allows us to work toward a society that is better for ALL of us, Jewish and non-Jewish alike. History has repeatedly taught us that when antisemitism is left unchecked, it undermines society to the detriment of all.

...has its roots in Canada

Canada is one of the 34 member countries in IHRA and, for 20 years, has played a leadership role in the development of the IHRA definition.

...is deliberately smeared by its detractors

The IHRA definition is advisory, rather than legally binding. It encourages freedom of expression, and welcomes legitimate criticism that is a core attribute of all liberal democracies. While a vocal minority seek to mischaracterize the IHRA definition as stifling debate about Israel, the text of the definition clearly states:

"... criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. "

...is used widely

The Government of Canada included the IHRA definition in Building a Foundation for Change: Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy 2019–2022, with the definition's use supported by the Conservatives, Liberals, and NDP. Increasingly, provinces and municipalities are integrating it into their fight against hatred, with cross-party support for its adoption.

The IHRA definition is used around the world by governments, civil society organizations, and institutions dedicated to combating antisemitism. Endorsed by more than 34 countries, the IHRA definition has also been adopted by the European Union, the UN Secretary General, and the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief.

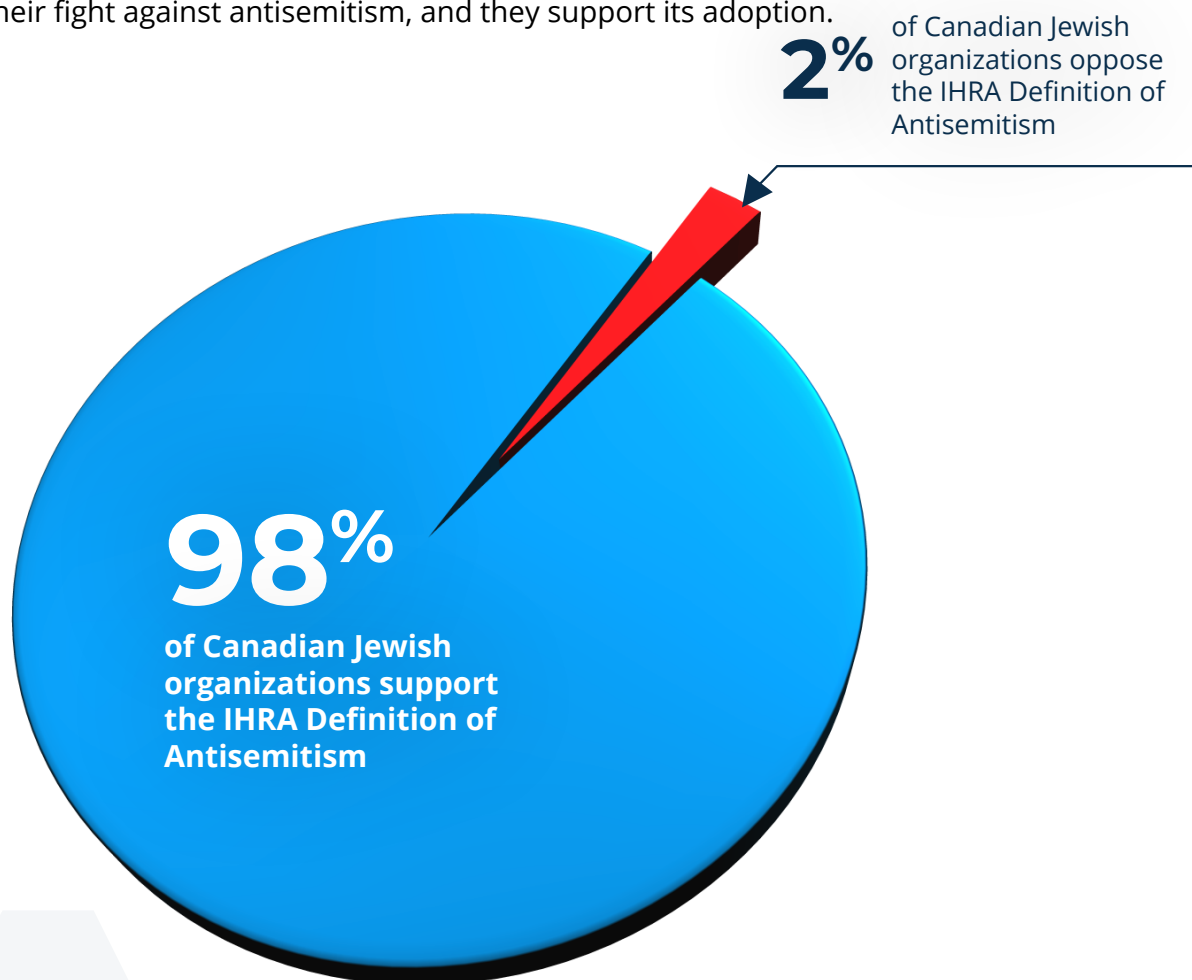
...is necessary in Canada

Canada is one of the best countries in the world in which to be Jewish, but statistics tell us that we are not immune to hatred. Reports from the Peel, Toronto, York, Hamilton, and Ottawa Police departments demonstrate that Jews are disproportionately targeted by hate crimes. In Toronto, where 3.8% of the population is Jewish, in 2018, Jews were victims in 36% of hate crimes. In Hamilton, in 2019, where the Jewish population is 1% of the total, a staggering 69% of religion-motivated hate crimes targeted the Jewish community.

Based on Statistics Canada data, on average, an antisemitic hate crime occurs in Canada once a day.

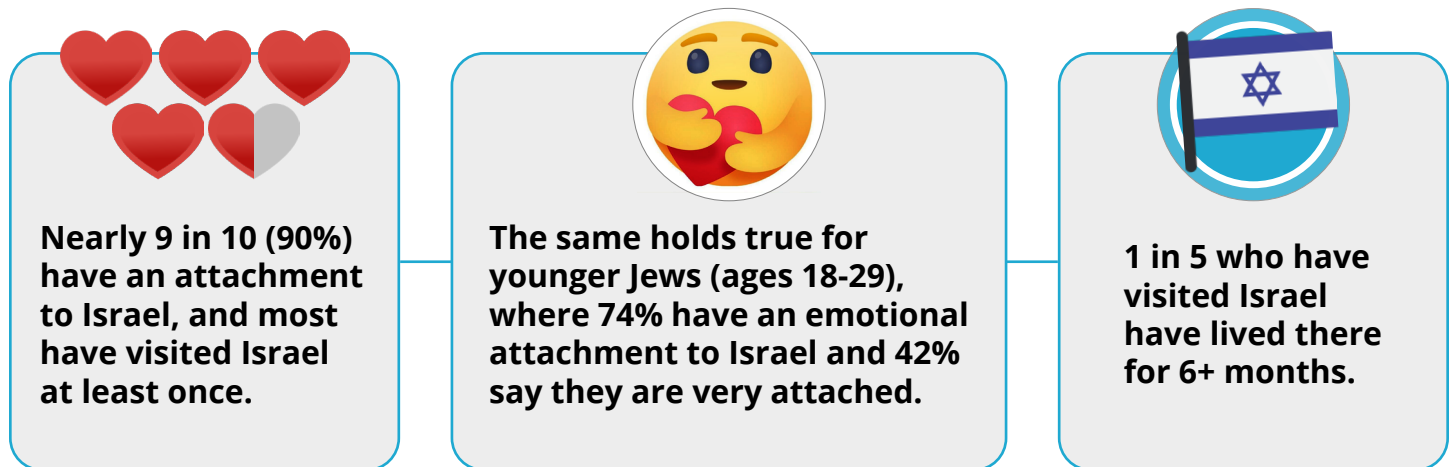
...is supported by Canadian Jewish organizations

The overwhelming majority of Jewish organizations in Canada – community centres, synagogues, youth groups, social service providers, and educational institutions – believe the IHRA definition is an important tool in their fight against antisemitism, and they support its adoption.



...is supported by the Canadian Jewish community

The Jewish community in Canada is diverse, with a wide range of opinions about most issues, including Israeli politics. However, a connection with Israel is a core component of the identities of the vast majority of Canadian Jews. A 2018 Environics Institute Survey of Jews in Canada illustrated this connection:



- ➔ On the question of **Attachment to Israel**, 90% of Canadian Jews said they have an attachment to Israel, and most have visited at least once.
- ➔ On the question of **Level of Canadian Government Support for Israel**, 81% of Canadian Jews are happy with the support given to Israel or believe that Canadian support should be increased.

Vilifying this connection to Israel means vilifying the deeply held beliefs of hundreds of thousands of Jewish Canadians, for whom a connection to Israel is a core component of their identity. The IHRA definition provides a crucial differentiation between legitimate criticism of Israel and the vilification of the connection most Jews in Canada have to their ancestral homeland.

Appendix A

Canadian Jewish organizations who have given their Support for IHRA include:

Atlantic Jewish Council
Edmonton Jewish Federation
Federation CJA of Montreal
Hamilton Jewish Federation
Jewish Federations Canada-UIA
Jewish Federation of Calgary
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver
Jewish Federation of Ottawa
Jewish Federation of Windsor
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Hillel chapters representing Jewish university and college students across Canada including:

Hillel British Columbia
Hillel Calgary
Hillel Edmonton
Hillel Guelph
Hillel Laurier
Hillel McMaster
Hillel Montreal
Hillel Ontario
Hillel Ottawa
Hillel Queen's
Hillel Ryerson
Hillel University of Toronto
Hillel Waterloo
Hillel Western University
Hillel Winnipeg
Hillel York

Museums and arts organizations including:

Jewish Archives and Historical Society of Edmonton and Northern Alberta
Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada
Montreal Holocaust Museum
Ontario Jewish Archives
Saint John Jewish Historical Society
Toronto Jewish Film Foundation
Toronto Jewish Film Society
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre

Youth and educational organizations including:

Canadian Young Judaea
Federation of Teachers in Hebrew Schools of Toronto
March of the Living Canada
Mesivta Lubavitch Toronto
National Conference of Synagogue Youth
Yeshiva Darchei Torah

Social service and not-for-profit organizations including:

Bernard Betel Centre
Beth Tikvah Foundation of Hamilton
Hamilton Jewish Family Services
Hillel Lodge
Jewish Addiction Community Services Toronto
Jewish Family Services Edmonton
Jewish Family Services of Ottawa
Jewish Family and Child Services Toronto
Jewish Free Loan Toronto
Jewish Immigrant Aid Services Toronto
JVS Toronto
Kayla's Children Centre
Kehilla Residential Programme
Reena
Shalom Village
Tamir
Yetta Nashman Jewish Family Institute

Cultural, religious and community organizations including:

Arbeiter Ring
Asper Foundation
Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism
Communauté juive de la Rive-Sud
Communauté Sépharade Unifiée du Québec
Ga'ava Montreal
Jewish Community Centre of Victoria

Jewish Community of Greater Moncton
Jewish Moroccan Community of Toronto
Jews for Judaism
Jewish Seniors Alliance
Maramoresher Society of Toronto
MERCAZ Canada
Montreal Council of Women
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada
Toronto Board of Rabbis
Va'ad Harabanim of Toronto

Canadian-Israeli and political organizations including:

Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
JSpace Canada
Jewish National Fund of Canada - Toronto Region
New Israel Fund of Canada

Canadian Synagogues including:

Am Shalom Congregation
Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation
Beth Jacob Synagogue
Beth Shalom Synagogue
Bethel Synagogue
Chabad Jewish Centre of Barrie
Congregation Beth Hamidrash
Congregation Machzikei Hadas
Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem
Har Tikvah Congregation of Brampton
Holy Blossom Temple
Kehilat Shalom
Makom
Sephardic Kehila Centre
Shaar Hashomayim
Shaar Shalom Congregation
Shaare Zion Congregation
Shaarei-Beth El Congregation
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
Solel Congregation

Appendix B

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

Below is the complete text of the IHRA definition and examples. Inseparable from the definition, the examples serve to illustrate some of the ways in which antisemitism can manifest, including classic antisemitic tropes and modern-day instances, such as accusations of dual loyalties, ascribing collective responsibility to the entire Jewish community, and propagating conspiracy theories.

The 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.

Appendix B

The IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism cont.

- 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.