

RESOLUTION NO. 19 - 2023

ADOPTING the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples of antisemitism, as an important educational tool to address the growing problem of antisemitism in America.

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment based on actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society that undermines democracy; and

WHEREAS, Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, which are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest attack in Jewish American history took place on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers and injuring several more; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish Cincinnati community has experienced over 67 incidents of reported antisemitism since 2020, including vandalism, targeted attacks, school incidents, and online harassment; and

WHEREAS, City officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must be given the tools to do so; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policy-making all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (“IHRA”), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations, and which reads in full:

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; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA offers the following examples to serve as illustrations of antisemitism:

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; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition has proven to be an essential tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education; now, therefore,

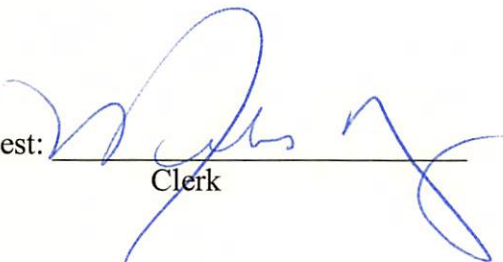
BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Mayor and City Council hereby adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (“IHRA”) Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples of antisemitism, as an important educational tool to address the growing problem of antisemitism in America.

Section 2. That Council supports the Administration’s efforts to ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is made available as an educational resource for all City departments that are responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

Section 3. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council.

Passed March 15, 2023

Attest: 
Clerk


Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Submitted by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys