



Motion on
Combating anti-Semitism:
Young people's responsibility

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NOVI SAD, SERBIA, 22-24 NOVEMBER 2018

Preamble

Anti-Semitism and its manifestations contradict fundamental values as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹, the European Convention on Human Rights² and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union³. Anti-Semitism reflects deep-rooted prejudice in society against Jews, which will only be overcome by increased awareness-raising efforts among the population and strong political condemnation. Historically, manifestations of anti-Semitism have shown how prejudice and intolerance can lead to systematic harassment, discrimination and ultimately mass killings and genocide. Still today, persisting stereotypes, insults and physical violence are experienced on a daily basis by members of the Jewish community across Europe.

These worrying trends are mirrored in the Jewish community's perception of anti-Semitism, as shown by the 2013 Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) Survey: Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and

¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>

² The European Convention on Human Rights, https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf

³ The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

perceptions of anti-Semitism⁴. At the same time, these same incidents have thus far failed to appropriately raise the concerns of civil society at large. Awareness-raising, in-depth understanding by policy makers, and commitment to act are key elements in bridging this gap.

The European Youth Forum acknowledges:

- a. That anti-Semitism is a form of racism that is under no circumstances acceptable;
- b. That fighting racism and fascism is a core mission and responsibility for European youth;
- c. The Council of Europe Resolution 2106 (2016) on “Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe”⁵ as a starting point for action;
- d. The European Parliament resolution on combating anti-Semitism (2017/2692(RSP))⁶ as a starting point for action;
- e. That the number of anti-Semitic incidents in Council of Europe Member States has risen significantly in recent years as reported by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe⁷ (OSCE) and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights⁸ (FRA), among other bodies

The European Youth Forum resolves

- I. To reaffirm its commitment to tackling anti-Semitism in all of its forms;
- II. To adopt and apply the legally non-binding working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the 31 States of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), including all the examples included therein. (Annex 1)
- III. To encourage Member Organisations to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism with its examples;
- IV. To take appropriate disciplinary action when instances of anti-Semitic speech or action occur among its lay leadership, Secretariat, volunteers and Member Organisations;
- V. To provide opportunities for educational training on anti-Semitism;
- VI. To publicly denounce actions that are anti-Semitic based on the aforementioned definition;
- VII. To advocate with Council of Europe Member States to take appropriate action against anti-Semitism;
- VIII. To advocate with Council of Europe Member States to protect and valorise the Jewish cultural heritage as well as the Jewish languages in Europe, such as the Yiddish and the Judaeo-Spanish.

⁴ Discrimination and hate crime against Jews in EU Member States: experiences and perceptions of anti-Semitism, <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2013/technical-report-fra-survey-discrimination-and-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member>

⁵Resolution 2106 (2016), Renewed commitment in the fight against anti-Semitism in Europe: <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22716&lang=en>

⁶ The European Parliament resolution on combating anti-Semitism (2017/2692(RSP)) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B8-2017-0383&language=EN>

⁷ <http://hatecrime.osce.org/what-hate-crime/anti-semitism?year=2016>

⁸ <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2017/antisemitism-overview-2006-2016>

ANNEX 1

IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism



Bucharest, 26 May 2016

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.