

1. Raise awareness and understanding about antisemitism within your city by officially adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, and its 11 examples, as a statement to your residents and the broader community that you and your city recognize the issue of antisemitism and are committed to combating it with the support of the many who have already adopted the definition. City representatives can utilize local media outlets to effectively communicate this commitment to their city.
2. Strengthen the capacity of your city's institutions to effectively address antisemitism by incorporating the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism into relevant training programs for municipal staff and residents, including your law enforcement agency's training programs as a guideline for identifying, and preventing antisemitic criminal offenses. Develop a comprehensive code of conduct for municipality employees that emphasizes the importance of including Jewish and Zionist communities in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.
3. Establish and enforce a zero-tolerance policy against antisemitism in collaboration with law enforcement and prosecutors, ensuring stringent application of laws against antisemitic acts, including harassment, violence, and public disturbances. Appoint a high-ranking official to lead the policy against antisemitism at the local level, while also establishing an internal process to address emerging opportunities and challenges in the fight against antisemitism.
4. Partner with local primary, middle, and high schools, as well as higher education institutions, to protect Jewish students from antisemitic behavior, enforcing accountability for those who create a hostile educational environment.
5. Implement Holocaust education programs for your residents, public schools and for your municipal staff, providing comprehensive education on the Holocaust, its historical context, and its impact, with the aim of promoting understanding, empathy, and the prevention of future atrocities and contemporary antisemitism.
6. During periods of escalating tensions in the Middle East, address conflicts by remaining vigilant of rising tensions on the local level. Support Israel's right to exist and self-defense, while balancing the principles of freedom of speech and the right to demonstrate with the need for ensuring the safety of the Jewish community. Stand in solidarity with Israel and condemn Israel-related antisemitism. Denounce terrorist actions, such as the October 7th, 2023 attack by Hamas, and affirm Israel's efforts to minimize civilian harm in Gaza.
7. Promote tolerance and intercommunal harmony by initiating and supporting interfaith and multicultural grassroots initiatives, programs, and projects. Allocate dedicated resources to promote interfaith and intercultural understanding. Facilitate meaningful dialogues to cultivate mutual respect and appreciation among all faiths and cultures represented in your city.
8. Work with law enforcement to enhance security for Jewish community centers, including synagogues and schools, in response to increased threats. Establish a dedicated hotline to allow residents to directly report hate crimes.
9. Celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month with city events that recognize the historical and ongoing contributions of Jews to American culture and society.

10. Foster cultural exchange and understanding through twin cities agreements with Israeli towns. These agreements can serve as platforms for meaningful cultural exchanges, facilitating the sharing of ideas, values, and experiences, and promoting mutual respect and cooperation.
11. Implement the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism on the local level through the inclusion of Jewish studies in curricula, expanding media literacy education, leveraging Department of Justice resources for hate crime reporting and training, transitioning to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) for hate crimes data, and collaborating with nongovernmental partners for local solidarity-building projects.

If you would like further information on the plan or wish any assistance in implementing it, please contact **CAM Chief of Staff Arthur Maserjian** at [arthur@combatantisemitism.org](mailto:arthur@combatantisemitism.org).

# IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM



Antisemitism is the world's most enduring form of hatred, insidiously reinventing itself over the millennia. Recent years have seen a dangerous resurgence of this hatred worldwide, threatening Jewish communities and undermining social cohesion. Local leaders, and mayors in particular, have a crucial role to play in confronting antisemitism where it is most directly felt—on the streets of the communities where Jews live their day-to-day lives.

A key tool in curbing this hatred is the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism**, the world's gold standard definition and a key pillar in government strategies to combat all forms of antisemitism.

## USAGE

The IHRA definition is being used around the world by municipal officials to develop training and educational programs for city staff and law enforcement personnel, and devise zero-tolerance policies against hatred and discrimination. Its impact has been bolstered by broad-based backing across the religious, political, ideological, and cultural spectrums.



## ADOPTIONS

According to a new report authored by the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) and the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University, a total of **1,216 entities**—including international institutions and organizations, national and local governments, NGOs, universities, athletic clubs, and corporations—have adopted or endorsed the definition through December 2023.

Overall, **45 countries**—including the United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and France—have adopted the definition. **In the U.S., 34 state governments have done so**, either via legislation or executive actions, along with **89 city and county governments**, with Cincinnati, Dallas, and Kansas City among those doing so in the past year.



**45**  
COUNTRIES



**34**  
U.S. STATES



**89**  
U.S. CITIES  
AND COUNTIES

*The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) is a non-partisan, global Jewish human rights movement uniting over 750 organizations and nearly four million people, across all religions and faiths, to combat the world's oldest hatred.*

If you would like assistance from CAM on this important issue, please reach out to Arthur Maserjian at: [arthur@combatantisemitism.org](mailto:arthur@combatantisemitism.org)



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## DRAFT PROCLAMATION: IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

**WHEREAS**, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society;

**WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data, Jewish Americans are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate in the U.S., and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate;

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

**WHEREAS**, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policymaking all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions;

**WHEREAS**, in May 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA", by consensus vote of its member states, adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism, including eleven (11 contemporary examples, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations;

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

**WHEREAS**, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is used by agencies of the United States Government and has been adopted or endorsed by more than 1,216 entities across the world including by 45 countries, over 514 municipalities and regional governments, over 345 educational institutions, and 312 other organizations;

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education; and has been adopted by 34 U.S. States and more than 89 U.S. counties and cities;

**WHEREAS**, the city of [INSERT CITY NAME] values religious diversity and interfaith tolerance, and the Jewish community is an inseparable part of our social fabric, culture, and heritage;

**WHEREAS**, on [INSERT DATE OF INCIDENT], the City/State of [INSERT CITY/STATE NAME] experienced firsthand the real-life consequences of antisemitism, when [INSERT DETAILS OF INCIDENT];

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF [INSERT CITY NAME]:**

Section 1. The recitals and findings contained in the Preamble to this Proclamation are hereby adopted by reference and incorporated herein as if fully set forth in this Section.

Section 2. The City of [INSERT CITY NAME] recognizes the growing problem of antisemitism in the U.S. and adopts the non-binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven (11 contemporary examples stated therein, as an important tool to address it.

Section 3. The Mayor of the City of [INSERT CITY NAME] directs city agencies to ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for the Department of Police and other City departments and agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

Section 4. This Proclamation shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

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Mayor [INSERT NAME]

[INSERT CITY NAME]

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# JEWISH AMERICAN

## HERITAGE MONTH

### AT A GLANCE

In 2006, Congress passed a bipartisan resolution "calling on State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe" a full month to celebrate the long history of Jewish contributions to the founding and success of our country. Every year since, the President of the United States has proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), and cities and states are beginning to follow suit. Now, at this time of soaring antisemitism at home and abroad, mayors can have a transformative impact in strengthening their communities and fighting this hatred by proclaiming and implementing JAHM at the municipal level.

### SIGNIFICANCE

The opposite of antisemitism is not tolerance, but an affirmative understanding and appreciation of Jewish history and values, and the deep contributions of that history and those values to the United States. Education around this heritage, which is JAHM's purpose, is a strategic and proactive measure in the fight against antisemitism.

### COALITION

JAHM is thus far supported by over 120 organizations and institutions including the Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Park Service, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Smithsonian Institution, New York Public Library, and others. In 2023, more than 130 municipalities, and 35 states proclaimed Jewish American Heritage Month, many for the first time. The first-ever U.S. National Strategy for Countering Antisemitism, released in 2023, calls on local government bodies and institutions to celebrate JAHM as a positive tool to combat rising hate.

The **Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)** is a non-partisan, global Jewish human rights movement uniting over 750 organizations and nearly four million people, across all religions and faiths, to combat the world's oldest hatred.

If you would like to collaborate with CAM on this important initiative, please reach out to Arthur Maserjian at: [arthur@combatantisemitism.org](mailto:arthur@combatantisemitism.org)



"GIVE ME  
YOUR TIRED,  
YOUR POOR,  
YOUR HUDDLED  
MASSES  
YEARNING TO  
BREATHE FREE"

Emma Lazarus,  
Jewish poet

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR MAYORS

- Proclaiming JAHM for the city and hosting a proclamation ceremony at city hall
- Promoting social media awareness campaigns for local communities
- Convening or co-sponsoring inter-ethnic or interfaith programs that foster mutual celebration of the city's diverse communities
- Sharing educational resources such as school lesson plans, museum exhibits, posters, and multimedia content
- Directing city schools and libraries to implement JAHM programs
- Attending or co-sponsoring concerts or cultural events with high-profile artists or scholars that highlight JAHM themes
- Encouraging the city's historical society to spotlight local Jewish heritage

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# DRAFT PROCLAMATION: JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**WHEREAS** Jewish immigrants to America, ever since their first arrival to our shores in the 16th century, have played a central role in the creation, growth, freedom, prosperity, and strength of the United States of America;

**WHEREAS** The biblical and contemporary history of the Jewish people and the enduring values of the Jewish faith were vital sources of inspiration for the founding of the United States, the Civil Rights movement, America's global leadership in the cause of freedom, Americans' commitment to social justice, and many of our Country's most central tenets;

**WHEREAS** Through core Jewish beliefs such as the creation of man in the image of God, the infinite value of every human life, the need for a weekly Sabbath, and the importance of education in the lives of children, the Jewish community has helped to define America's character and values;

**WHEREAS** Jewish citizens of [State/City], having first settled here in \*\*\*\*, played a central role in \*\*\*\*\* [Importance of Jewish Community to development of State/City], including by serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and the [State] National Guard;

**WHEREAS** Following the rebirth of Zionism and the miraculous return of the Jewish people to the Jewish homeland, the United States was the first country in the world to recognize the State of Israel in 1948, and over the years has developed a deep friendship and unbreakable alliance with the State of Israel based upon shared values and mutual interests;

**WHEREAS** Jewish Americans have made significant contributions to the arts, entertainment, science and technology, government, business, culinary traditions, and other fields in the United States, Jewish Americans have played an important role in shaping American culture;

**WHEREAS** For forty three years, every President of the United States has declared a period of time for celebrating the contributions to the United States of the Jewish community's history, heritage, and culture, and since 2006, the month of May has been Presidentially declared to be Jewish American Heritage Month, pursuant to a bipartisan resolution of Congress;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, \*\*\*\*\*, [Governor/Mayor] of [State/City], do hereby declare and proclaim May 2024 to be Jewish American Heritage Month for the [State/City], and call upon all our citizens to commemorate this occasion by appropriately celebrating the contributions to our Country and [State/City] of the Jewish community's history, heritage and culture; I further call upon the [State Legislature / City Council] to commemorate the occasion through appropriate announcements and programming; I further call upon all schools, colleges, and universities in our [State/City] to commemorate this occasion through appropriate programming for students; I further direct that all [State/City] government offices commemorate the occasion by appropriate announcements and the posting of information relevant to it; I further call upon [State/City] museums and historical societies to host programs relevant to the occasion.



**“PROCLAIM LIBERTY  
THROUGHOUT  
ALL THE LAND UNTO  
ALL THE INHABITANTS  
THEREOF” - Leviticus 25:10**



**COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT**

IN CELEBRATION OF  
**JAHM**  
JEWISH AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH