

## Strengthening the Fight Against Antisemitism: The IHRA Definition in 2024

By the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) and the Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University

**Summary:** In 2024, 34 new entities adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, bringing the all-time total number of global adoptions to 1,264. However, the pace of new adoptions declined significantly — down 64.9% from 2023 and 62.6% from 2022 — highlighting the need for renewed advocacy and meaningful implementation. Despite growing global antisemitism, many institutions have yet to respond with urgency, particularly in higher education and the private sector.

- **Key Statistics:**

- **Total All-Time IHRA Adoptions (as of Dec 31, 2024):** 1,264
- **New Adoptions in 2024:** 34
- **Adoptions from Previous Years Added in 2024:** 14

### U.S. State-Level Developments:

- Georgia, Indiana, and North Carolina - states that had taken neither legislative nor symbolic action to adopt the IHRA antisemitism definition prior to last year - adopted the definition in 2024, raising the total number of adopting states to 37.
- Georgia HB 30 defines antisemitism with the IHRA definition for hate crime investigations. North Carolina's SHALOM Act integrates the IHRA antisemitism definition into state hate crime reporting. Indiana's governor signed an executive proclamation endorsing the IHRA definition.
- Last year, several states expanded on previous symbolic and/or legislative endorsements of the IHRA definition:
  - South Dakota codified the IHRA antisemitism definition through HB 1076 for use in workplace discrimination investigations.
  - South Carolina passed H. 4042 to ensure the IHRA antisemitism definition is used in evaluating discrimination in public institutions.
  - New Hampshire codified the IHRA antisemitism definition with SB 508 after relying on a prior non-binding proclamation.
  - Florida expanded IHRA antisemitism definition implementation through HB 187 to cover hate crime law.

### Municipal Leadership:

- 85% of 2024's new adoptions came from municipal governments.
- Notable examples: Las Vegas (led by Councilwoman Victoria Seaman after participating in CAM's 2023 Mayoral Summit), Barcelona, Putnam County (NY), Brescia, and Woollahra.
- CAM amplified this trend by organizing summits in Beverly Hills and Vienna and launching the Municipal Antisemitism Action Index.

- Cities are incorporating IHRA into hate crime prevention, police training, and public education.

### **Regional Impact in Brazil:**

- Nine Brazilian states adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition in 2024: Brasília, Goiás, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Roraima, Rondônia, Amazonas, Minas Gerais, Paraná.
- One city, Porto Alegre, also adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition.
- In total, entities representing more than 54% of Brazil's total population adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition in 2024.
- This momentum will hopefully inspire similar action across Latin America, where Argentina commemorated the 30th anniversary of the AMIA bombing last July.

### **Campus Adoption Crisis:**

- Despite a 120.8% annual increase in U.S. campus antisemitism (742 incidents in 2024), no American universities adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition in 2024.
- Only one university adoption worldwide was recorded in 2024: Ben-Gurion University (Israel).
- In January 2025, Harvard University agreed to adopt the IHRA antisemitism definition and its examples as part of a legal settlement, acknowledging Jewish and Israeli identities as protected categories under its non-discrimination policy.
- This legal precedent may drive broader IHRA adoption in academia through litigation or regulatory pressure.

### **Public and Private Sector Engagement:**

- Only four public organizations adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition: Jewish Federation of Sacramento Region, Temple Beth Israel Pomona, Muslim American Leadership Alliance (MALA), Counter Extremism Project.
- No private sector adoptions were recorded, signaling reluctance from corporations to take a stance despite rising antisemitism.

### **Federal Legislative Outlook:**

- The Antisemitism Awareness Act (AAA), designed to codify the IHRA antisemitism definition under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, was reintroduced in February 2025.
- The Act would enable the Department of Education to apply the IHRA antisemitism definition when investigating antisemitic discrimination in federally funded institutions.

### International Progress:

- 25 of 27 EU countries had adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition as of the end of 2024.
- Ireland adopted the IHRA antisemitism definition in January 2025, becoming the 26th EU member state to do so.
- Malta remains the only EU country yet to adopt the IHRA antisemitism definition. Advocacy pressure is mounting.

### Strategic Recommendations for 2025:

- **Municipal Outreach:** Focus advocacy efforts on cities with large Jewish populations and histories of antisemitism (e.g., New York City, Toronto, Rome, and Sydney) for IHRA antisemitism definition adoption and integration into municipal law enforcement.
- **University Advocacy:** Leverage legal precedents (e.g., the Harvard settlement) and encourage Title VI compliance. Mobilize donors and alumni to push for IHRA antisemitism definition adoption in policies.
- **State Legislation:** Focus on the 13 remaining U.S. states without IHRA antisemitism definition laws and transform symbolic gestures into enforceable legislation.
- **Civil Society and Corporate Engagement:** Promote the IHRA antisemitism definition among nonprofits, interfaith partners, and major corporations through incentives, CSR integration, and public recognition.
- **Law Enforcement Training:** Encourage cities and states to incorporate the IHRA antisemitism definition into police and law enforcement training programs to improve detection of antisemitic hate crimes and related public safety threats and equip officers and investigators with the tools to identify and respond to antisemitism effectively.

The path forward requires stronger political will, grassroots engagement, and coordinated legal strategies to ensure that the IHRA antisemitism definition is not only adopted symbolically but meaningfully implemented across sectors and regions.