

Good afternoon - I'm Alyza Lewin, President of US Affairs for the Combat Antisemitism Movement. I'm an attorney with over 30 years of experience countering religious discrimination. I urge you to adopt the IHRA definition.

One of our greatest challenges is that many people are unable to distinguish between a good-faith political debate about the Middle East, on the one hand, and the vilification of Jews, on the other. They mistakenly think that when the term "Israel" or "Zionist" is mentioned, it's about politics, not Jews. They fail to recognize that the overwhelming majority of Jews see themselves as part of a people, with a shared ancestral heritage rooted in the Land of Israel.

Today, those who recognize that the Jews are a people indigenous to Israel are branded as "Zionists," blamed for the world's misfortune, and

treated as pariahs. Those who target “Zionists” want to you to believe this is about politics – but it’s not. For example, the men who were beaten up in San Jose last week, were not targeted for their political opinions. They were targeted because they were speaking Hebrew.

The IHRA Definition provides a framework for recognizing Jew-hatred and distinguishing it from political debate.

It does not silence, prohibit, or punish speech. It merely defines antisemitism. It safeguards debate while protecting people.

Thank you.