

Agreed Working Definition on Combatting Antisemitism

Definition

Antisemitism is discrimination, prejudice, harassment, exclusion, vilification, intimidation or violence¹ that impedes Jews' ability to participate as equals in educational, political, religious, cultural, economic or social life. It can manifest in a range of ways including negative, dehumanising, or stereotypical narratives about Jews. Further, it includes hate speech, epithets, caricatures, stereotypes, tropes, Holocaust denial, and antisemitic symbols. Targeting Jews based on their Jewish identities alone is discriminatory and antisemitic.

Criticism of the policies and practices of the Israeli government or state is not in and of itself antisemitic. However, criticism of Israel can be antisemitic when it is grounded in harmful tropes, stereotypes or assumptions and when it calls for the elimination of the State of Israel or all Jews or when it holds Jewish individuals or communities responsible for Israel's actions. It can be antisemitic to make assumptions about what Jewish individuals think based only on the fact that they are Jewish.

All peoples, including Jews, have the right to self-determination. For most, but not all Jewish Australians, Zionism is a core part of their Jewish identity. Substituting the word "Zionist" for "Jew" does not eliminate the possibility of speech being antisemitic.

Context

This working definition draws from a range of definitions. It draws particularly on the working definition developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and recommendations of Antisemitism Taskforces at Columbia University, Stanford University, Harvard University, and New York University.

This definition has been developed for incorporation into relevant complaints schemes and disciplinary processes as soon as practicable and will also be used to educate about antisemitism.

Universities are required under statutory obligations, relevant clauses in Enterprise Agreements, University policies and procedures, Staff and Students Codes of Conduct, and their values, to combat antisemitism and other forms of racism.

All UA member universities support explicit action to combat antisemitism as part of their commitment to combatting racism and exclusion in all its forms.