

Institutional actors reject the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism – snapshot

Groups politically shielding the Israeli government advertise the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as a “global gold standard” and the “international consensus definition of antisemitism”. However, in reality, the IHRA definition is highly controversial and rejected by [leading scholars](#) and [human rights groups](#), also [Israeli NGOs](#). It has also been sharply criticized by the [UN Special Rapporteur on Racism](#).

Less known: moreover, the IHRA definition has been rejected by dozens of institutional actors in Canada, the United States and Europe. Below follows a non-exhaustive list of such rejections between May 2017 and the present. This list has been compiled with the help of [Jamie Stern-Weiner](#) and [Independent Jewish Voices Canada](#). See also IJV Canada’s [#NoIHRA microsite](#).

- March 2026: The Italian “Order of Journalists” (CNOG) [adopts](#) a motion to “primarily rely” on the [Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism](#) (JDA), effectively **abandoning** the IHRA definition, which had previously been [embraced](#) by the CNOG president
- January 2026: On his first day in office, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani [revokes](#) an executive order of his predecessor, who had adopted the IHRA definition
- August 2025: The 45th General Council of the United Church of Canada [votes](#) to endorse the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) **instead** of the IHRA definition
- July 2025: Brazil [withdraws](#) from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), thereby **distancing** itself from the IHRA definition
- May 2025: German party Die Linke [adopts](#) a [motion](#) endorsing the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) **instead** of the IHRA definition
- April 2025: The Hague City Council [votes](#) for using the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) **instead** of the IHRA definition in the city’s [action plan](#) for countering antisemitism
- January 2025: With its “[Action Plan](#) to Enhance Monitoring and Response to Antisemitism”, the United Nations **resists** a long political pressure campaign to endorse the IHRA definition
- June 2024: Council of the University of Cape Town (UCT) [votes](#) to **reject** the IHRA definition “in favour of the Jerusalem Declaration”
- January 2024: Berlin’s Senator for Culture [retracts](#) an IHRA definition-based clause from public funding, due to legal concerns and widespread [criticism](#) across the cultural sector
- August 2023: Academic Board of La Trobe University **excludes** IHRA’s examples when [adopting](#) the IHRA definition, while adopting the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) “as guidelines”
- July 2023: Clifton City Council [removes resolution](#) for adopting the IHRA definition from the agenda
- June 2023: National Conference of the Australian Greens [adopts resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition

- June 2023: 11 leading Israeli civil society and human rights NGO, including B'Tselem, issue [statement](#) urging the UN **not to validate and promote** the IHRA definition
- April 2023: 104 civil society organizations, including leading human rights NGOs [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#), co-sign [letter to UN leaders](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition in the UN context and beyond
- April 2023: Australian National University (ACU) **rejects** the IHRA definition, arguing “it has sufficient protections and measures in place to help prevent and respond to any form of discrimination”
- March 2023: Federal Council of the Quebec Federation of University Teachers (FQPPU) **adopts** a [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2023: Winnipeg City Council **refrained** from adopting a motion endorsing the IHRA definition, after a majority in its Human Rights Committee **opposed** adopting it
- March 2023: Australian National University (ANU) **resists** pressure to adopt the IHRA definition, a move welcomed by the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and the Australian National University Students’ Association (ANUSA)
- February 2023: American Bar Association (ABA) **removes** the IHRA definition from [resolution](#) condemning antisemitism
- February 2023: Student Senate of the University of California Berkeley **votes** against the IHRA definition
- January 2023: 42 organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) **call** on co-sponsors of proposed American Bar Association (ABA) resolution to **remove** all references to the IHRA definition
- November 2022: Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2022: UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism publishes [report](#) **rejecting** the IHRA definition due to the human rights violations it facilitates
- October 2022: National Council of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2022: University of Aberdeen **adopts** the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) **instead** of the IHRA definition
- September 2022: York Region District School Board **votes** to **indefinitely postpone** adopting the IHRA definition
- May 2022: Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- April 2022: Queen’s University Faculty Association (QUFA) **adopts** motion **opposing** the IHRA definition

- March 2022: Committee A on Academic Freedom and Tenure of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) [issues](#) statement **warning** against the IHRA definition
- December 2021: Jewish Faculty Network (JFN) [formed](#) to **reject** the IHRA definition
- December 2021: Board of the Association for Jewish Studies endorses [report](#) **opposing** adoption of any single antisemitism definition including the IHRA definition
- December 2021: University of Toronto (UoT) [accepts recommendation](#) of its Anti-Semitism Working Group **opposing** adoption of the IHRA definition
- November 2021: National Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- November 2021: General Union of Professors of the University of Montreal (SGPUM) endorses [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- June 2021: Assembly of the University of Warwick adopts [resolutions](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- June 2021: Race and Faith Commission of the University of Brighton publishes [report](#) **opposing** adoption of the IHRA definition
- May 2021: Executive Board of the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- April 2021: National Lawyers Guild [issues](#) Legal Memorandum to the US government **rejecting** the IHRA definition
- April 2021: Student Senate of the City University of New York (CUNY) [rejects resolution](#) to adopt the IHRA definition
- April 2021: University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition, considered a “serious threat to academic freedom”
- April 2021: Executive Committee of the University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- April 2021: General Assembly of the Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA) [adopts](#) motion **opposing** the IHRA definition
- April 2021: European International Studies Association (EISA) issues [statement](#) expressing **deep concern** with the adoption of the IHRA definition “and the current external pressure for the acceptance of the definition at UK universities”
- March 2021: Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the examples attached to the IHRA definition, considered “deeply flawed”
- March 2021: General Meeting of the Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition

- March 2021: Strasbourg City Council [rejects](#) a [resolution](#) to adopt the IHRA definition
- March 2021: General Assembly of the Union of Professors of the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières (SPPUQTR) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2021: Membership Meeting of the Union of Professors of the University of Quebec at Montreal (SPUQ) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2021: Students' Union at the City University of London adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2021: Jewish faculty from Canadian universities and colleges issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- February 2021: Academic Board at University College London (UCL) [votes](#) to **reject** the IHRA definition and [commissioned](#) a Working Group to propose an alternative definition for recommendation to Council, UCL's governing body
- February 2021: Executive Committee of University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- February 2021: Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- February 2021: Ontario College of Art & Design Faculty Association issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition, saying "we condemn any adoption of the IHRA definition with its illustrative examples on the grounds of academic freedom, anti-racism"
- February 2021: Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO) [adopts](#) motion **opposing** the IHRA definition
- January 2021: British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) gives [evidence](#) to the UK government **warning** the IHRA definition "is undermining freedom to teach and research on Israel and Palestine"
- January 2021: Executive Committee of the Ryerson Faculty Association adopts [motion](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition, described as "a serious threat to academic freedom in our university"
- January 2021: New Israel Fund of Canada (NIFC) issues [statement](#) **withdrawing** support for the IHRA definition
- November 2020: Executive of the Wilfred Laurier Faculty Association (WLUFA) [adopts](#) resolution and issues statement **opposing** the IHRA definition
- November 2020: Branch of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3906) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2020: CUPE Ontario issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2020: Branch Executive Committee of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3903) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition

- October 2020: Nipissing University Faculty Association issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2020: Executive Committee of the St. Jerome's University Academic Staff Association [adopts](#) resolution **opposing** the IHRA definition
- October 2020: Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition, described as "the product of an international campaign to redefine antisemitism to include criticism of the State of Israel"
- July 2020: York University Faculty Association (YUFA) endorses [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- July 2020: Osgoode Hall Faculty Association (OHFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2020: Canadian Union of Postal Workers issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- March 2020: Canadian Labour Congress issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- February 2020: Canadian Federation of Students issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition and endorsing an [alternative definition](#) by Independent Jewish Voices
- February 2020: Wellington City Council [withdraws resolution](#) to adopt the IHRA definition, after it had become [controversial](#) in the Jewish community
- January 2020: Montreal City Council [resolution](#) to adopt the IHRA definition is [withdrawn](#) "after it failed to gain support"
- December 2019: Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- July 2019: Vancouver & District Labour Council issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- June 2019: British Columbia Civil Liberties Association (BCCLA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition "because of its threat to freedom of expression"
- October 2018: 20 European trade unions issue [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- August 2018: World Council of Churches issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- June 2018: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) [sends](#) letter to the US Congress **opposing** legislation based on a definition of antisemitism mirroring the IHRA definition
- May 2018: Annual General Meeting of civil rights group Liberty adopts [motion](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition, described as a "threat to freedom of expression"
- May 2017: Civil liberties group PEN America issues [statement](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition
- May 2017: Congress of the University and College Union (UCU) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** the IHRA definition