

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 “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](#), including [Israeli NGOs](#). It has also been sharply criticized by the [UN Special Rapporteur on Racism](#).

In addition, 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. The list has been compiled by PhD candidate [Jamie Stern-Weiner](#) (Oxford University) and [Independent Jewish Voices Canada](#). See also IJV Canada’s [#NoIHRA microsite](#).

- January 2024: Berlin’s Senator for Culture [revokes](#) IHRA-based clause from public funding, due to legal concerns and after widespread [criticism](#) across the cultural sector
- July 2023: Clifton City Council [removes resolution](#) for adopting IHRA definition from the agenda
- June 2023: National Conference of the Australian Greens [adopts resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- June 2023: 11 leading Israeli civil society and human rights NGO, including B’Tselem, issue [statement](#) urging the UN to **avoid** 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](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- March 2023: Federal Council of the Quebec Federation of University Teachers (FQPPU) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- March 2023: Human Rights Committee of Winnipeg City Council [declines](#) to adopt motion to adopt IHRA definition
- March 2023: Australian National University (ANU) [resists](#) pressure to adopt 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](#) references to IHRA definition before passing [resolution](#) on antisemitism
- February 2023: Student Senate of the University of California Berkeley [rejects](#) resolution to adopt 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 IHRA definition
- November 2022: Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- October 2022: National Council of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

- May 2022: Senate of University of Aberdeen [adopts](#) Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (JDA) **instead** of IHRA definition
- May 2022: Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Anthropology Society (CASCA) [adopts resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- April 2022: Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA) [adopts](#) motion **opposing** IHRA definition
- December 2021: Board of the Association for Jewish Studies endorses [report](#) **opposing** adoption of any single antisemitism definition including IHRA definition
- December 2021: University of Toronto [accepts](#) recommendation of Anti-Semitism Working Group **opposing** adoption of IHRA definition
- November 2021: National Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- November 2021: General Union of Professors of the University of Montreal (SGPUM) endorses [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- September 2021 Meeting of Ravensbourne University London [declines](#) to adopt IHRA definition
- June 2021: Congress of the National Federation of Teachers of Quebec (FNEEQ-CSN) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- June 2021: Assembly of the University of Warwick adopts [resolutions](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- June 2021: [Race and Faith Commission](#) of the University of Brighton publishes [report](#) **opposing** adoption of IHRA definition
- May 2021: Executive Board of the Mount Royal Faculty Association (MRFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- May 2021: British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) issues [statement](#) **opposing** imposition of IHRA definition on UK universities
- April 2021: Student Senate of the City University of New York (CUNY) [rejects](#) resolution to adopt IHRA definition
- April 2021: University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- April 2021: Executive Committee of the University of Regina Faculty Association (URFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- April 2021: General Assembly of the Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- April 2021: European International Studies Association (EISA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

- March 2021: Branch Membership Meeting of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3097) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- March 2021: Middle East Studies Association of North America (MESA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA examples
- March 2021: General Meeting of the Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** 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** IHRA definition
- March 2021: Membership Meeting of the Union of Professors of the University of Quebec at Montreal (SPUQ) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- March 2021: Students' Union at the City University of London adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- March 2021: Jewish Faculty Network issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- February 2021: Executive Committee of University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association (USFA) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- February 2021: Association of Academic Staff University of Alberta (AASUA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- February 2021: Ontario College of Art & Design Faculty Association issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- February 2021: Association of Professors of the University of Ottawa (APUO) [adopts](#) motion **opposing** IHRA definition
- January 2021: Executive Committee of the Ryerson Faculty Association adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- January 2021: New Israel Fund of Canada (NIFC) issues [statement](#) **withdrawing** support for IHRA definition
- November 2020: Executive of the Wilfred Laurier Faculty Association (WLUFA) [adopts](#) resolution and issues statement **opposing** IHRA definition
- November 2020: Branch of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3906) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- October 2020: CUPE Ontario issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition
- October 2020: Branch Executive Committee of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3903) adopts [resolution](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

October 2020: Nipissing University Faculty Association issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

October 2020: Executive Committee of the St. Jerome's University Academic Staff Association [adopts](#) resolution **opposing** IHRA definition

October 2020: Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

July 2020: York University Faculty Association (YUFA) endorses [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

July 2020: Osgoode Hall Faculty Association (OHFA) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

March 2020: Canadian Union of Postal Workers issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

March 2020: Canadian Labour Congress issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

February 2020: Canadian Federation of Students issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition and endorsing [alternative definition](#) by Independent Jewish Voices

February 2020: Branch of Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE 3908) endorses [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

February 2020: Wellington City Council [resolution](#) to adopt IHRA definition is **withdrawn** after it had become [controversial](#) in the Jewish community

January 2020: Montreal City Council [resolution](#) to adopt IHRA definition is **withdrawn** 'after it failed to gain support'

December 2019: Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

July 2019: Vancouver & District Labour Council issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

June 2019: British Columbia Civil Liberties Association issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

October 2018: 20 European trade unions issue [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

August 2018: World Council of Churches issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

May 2018: Annual General Meeting of civil rights group Liberty adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

May 2017: Civil liberties group PEN America issues [statement](#) **opposing** IHRA definition

May 2017: Congress of the University and College Union (UCU) adopts [motion](#) **opposing** IHRA definition