

July 7, 2023

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Ambassador to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10007

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield,

We are Jewish community leaders from all parts of the United States, and are writing to express our strong opposition to a [letter](#) dated June 23, 2023 sent to you by Members of Congress. That letter applauded the U.S. government for not codifying the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)'s](#) working definition of antisemitism into all facets of the U.S. Government. That was a tragic error, and Jewish Members of Congress should know better.

In every generation, antisemitism finds a new façade to justify, even elevate, the same consistent hatred. As we've seen play out from the halls of Congress to college classrooms to law school graduations to social media, today that same hatred focuses upon the State of Israel and Zionism, Jewish self-determination in the Jewish Holy Land.

The IHRA working definition of antisemitism addresses modern expressions of antisemitism by listing the following items along others:

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

We are glad that Secretary of State Antony Blinken agrees, writing "...the Biden Administration enthusiastically embraces the IHRA working definition of antisemitism." In fact, many Jewish groups of all stripes - Democrats and Republicans from the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements – overwhelmingly support the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as the gold standard for identifying antisemitism in its various contemporary manifestations.

To truly combat the world's oldest hatred, it must be properly defined, and that is where the IHRA definition succeeds. If the UN were to adopt the IHRA definition, then it would suddenly find itself with time to devote to the many serious human rights crises it has ignored while obsessively persecuting Israel instead.

We urge you to publicly embrace the IHRA working definition of antisemitism as part of your previous commitments to combat the evil scourge of antisemitism at the United Nations and beyond. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Bryan E. Leib
Executive Director
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