



University of Plymouth Statement on adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism

The University of Plymouth is proud to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in line with [Home Affairs Select Committee 2016](#). Alongside Universities across the sector, we adopt the definition in full and there is nothing that will prevent freedom of thought or freedom of expression by adopting this definition; it will not only protect academic freedom of speech but will protect our Jewish staff and students from anti-Jewish racism.

The IHRA definition is as follows:

Antisemitism/anti-Jewish racism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism/anti-Jewish racism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism/anti-Jewish racism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- 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.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”



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The University of Plymouth has also included the following clarifications 'to ensure that freedom of speech is maintained in the context of discourse about Israel and Palestine, without allowing antisemitism to permeate any debate', as recommended by the [Home Affairs Select Committee 2016](#):

- It is not antisemitic to criticise the government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent;
- It is not antisemitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest antisemitic intent.

The IHRA definition is a useful tool for our University Community in understanding anti-Jewish racism or antisemitism however it may present itself online, on campus or outside of the University. The definition is used by Student Conduct, Student Complaints and Human Resources in establishing whether behaviour is antisemitic/racist against Jewish people. Staff, students, contractors and visitors can find more information on how the University defines discriminatory behaviour by using our [online glossary](#).

The University of Plymouth stands with our Jewish staff and students in tackling anti-Jewish racism and ensuring our campus is a welcoming place for all.

Professor Judith Petts CBE
Vice-Chancellor, University of Plymouth

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