

# Coalition of More than 120 NGOs Calls on Facebook to Create a Comprehensive Hate Speech Policy on Anti-Semitism

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WASHINGTON - On Friday, A coalition of more than 120 NGOs submitted a letter to Facebook, urging the social media company to implement a comprehensive hate speech policy on anti-Semitism that incorporates the full International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of Anti-Semitism.

Online Anti-Semitism has spiked in recent years. Community standards on Facebook and other social media platforms have failed to address the growing threat. Facebook's Director of Content Policy Stakeholder Engagement, Peter Stern, shared in a webcast last May that Facebook did not have a robust policy aimed at combatting online anti-Semitism. While he described the usefulness of the IHRA working definition, he admitted that the company did not fully embrace it. More recently, in June, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg publicly committed to revising the company's policies to fight hate speech.

The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism was already adopted by the US State Department and over 40 other countries. The coalition explains "the full IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism provides Facebook an effective, neutral, and nuanced tool to protect Jewish users from hate speech and imagery that incites hate and oftentimes leads to violence."

Organizations joining this call to action include StopAnti semitism.org, Zachor Legal Institute, NGO Monitor, Honest Reporting, Zionist Organization for America (ZOA), Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce, National Council of Young Israel, Jewish Policy Center, RI Coalition for Israel, Haym Salomon Center, Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET), Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA), Jewish War Veterans, Israel Christian Nexus, Eagles' Wings, Philos Project, Hasbara Fellowships and National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC).

The letter follows the findings and recommendations outlined in "The New Anti-Semites", which documents how the global rise in Anti-Semitism has been driven by social media. The report, presented by StopAntisemitism.org and Zachor Legal Institute last December, and endorsed by over 60 American NGOs, describes online Anti-Semitism as

"one of the most acute forms of anti-Semitism today."

President of Zachor Legal Institute Marc Greendorfer said:

"Today's Anti-Semitism is particularly potent online. Our New Anti-Semites report demonstrates how it breeds new forms of the age-old hatred manifesting in the delegitimization campaign against Israel which is blatantly anti-Semitic according to the IHRA working

definition of anti-Semitism.

Hate speech and hate crimes are highly correlated. Social media platforms must assume responsibility to protect users and combat this inciteful hatred. The volume and velocity at which anti-Semitism grows online require greater responsibility on behalf of the platforms that enable them to spread. There is no free pass to amplifying anti-Semitism. We're not just fighting hate speech; we're

fighting for people's safety."

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**ABOUT StopAntisemitism.org:**

StopAntisemitism.org works to hold Anti-Semites accountable and to create consequences for their bigoted actions by exposing the threat that they present to all Americans and showing how their ideologies conflict with American values, morals, and principles. To learn more, please visit [www.StopAntisemitism.org](http://www.StopAntisemitism.org).

**To**  
**Facebook, Inc. Board of Directors**  
**1 Hacker Way**  
**Menlo Park, CA 94025**

**Date**  
**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

## Open Letter to Facebook: Adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Dear Facebook Board of Directors,

We applaud your recent announcement regarding the revision of Facebook policy standards on hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. We are confident that Facebook can successfully protect and support users, meet corporate social responsibility concerns of stakeholders, and continue to lead the social media industry.

As part of your efforts, we call on you to fully adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism as the cornerstone of Facebook's hate speech policy regarding antisemitism.

Facebook's Director of Content Policy Stakeholder Engagement, Peter Stern, recently attested to the usefulness of the IHRA working definition when Facebook first developed its hate speech policy. However, Mr. Stern admitted that **Facebook does not have a policy aimed at combatting online antisemitism**. He further admitted that Facebook does not embrace the full adoption of the IHRA working definition because the definition recognizes that modern manifestations of antisemitism relate to Israel.

In accordance with the recommendations outlined in the "The New Antisemites" report, which call on social media platforms to eliminate antisemitic content by adopting the IHRA working definition as the basis for content removal policies, **we the undersigned coalition of 128 organizations, urge Facebook to implement a hate speech policy on antisemitism that includes the full IHRA working definition at its core.**

**Nearly 40 countries have already endorsed or adopted the IHRA working definition in some official capacity, either through their membership in the IHRA or independently.** In the United States, in addition to the adoption by the State Department, the recent Executive Order on Combatting Anti-Semitism instructs the Department of Education to consider the IHRA definition when evaluating Title VI Civil Rights Act complaints of discrimination.

The overwhelming majority of civil society organizations at the forefront of efforts to combat antisemitism endorse and encourage the use and adoption of the IHRA working definition. Today's antisemitism undoubtedly includes the delegitimization of Israel's right to exist. This bigotry is expressed in various ways, such as the rejection of Jewish self-determination, Holocaust revisionism and denial, and the application of double standards toward the Jewish state and people.

**Will Facebook join the ranks of the historians, advocates, activists, lawmakers, and leaders who compiled the IHRA working definition? Will Facebook take responsibility and move toward removing the scourge of antisemitism from today's most important online public square?**

Jews today, like many other minority communities, are being targeted and attacked in record numbers. They experience physical violence, harassment, and discrimination offline and online.

Jews overwhelmingly report that online antisemitism is the most acute form of Jew-hatred they experience.


The full IHRA working definition of antisemitism provides Facebook an effective, neutral, and nuanced tool to protect Jewish users from hate speech and imagery that incites hate and oftentimes leads to violence. While the impact of online hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation on our society continues to be researched and explored, we cannot afford to lose any more time in fighting this bigotry and preventing violence.

**We urge Facebook to put words into action and power behind commitment -- and fully adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.**


The open letter to Facebook.

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Signed,




Academic Engagement Network  
United States




ACT  
Zionist Council  
Australia




Alleanza Per Israele  
Italy




Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)  
United States




Alums for Campus Fairness  
United States




Am Yisrael Foundation  
United States




European Leadership Network (ELNET)  
Europe




Jewish Community Council of South Australia




Jewish Community Council of Victoria  
Australia




American-Israeli Collaboration Enterprise (AICE)  
United States




Americans for Peace & Tolerance (APT)  
United States




Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC)  
Australia




Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations  
Belgium




Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)  
Canada




European Jewish Association (EJA)  
Europe




Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)  
United States




Licra Paris  
France




B'nai Brith Canada  
Canada




Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM)  
United Kingdom




Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA)  
United Kingdom




Center for Information & Documentation Israel (CIDI)  
The Netherlands




Comunidad Chilena De Israel  
Israel




Europe Israel Public Affairs (EIPA)  
Europe




Nahost Friedens Forum (NAFFO)  
Germany




National Council of Young Israel  
United States




Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI)  
United States



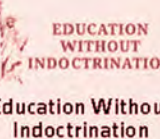
Club Z  
United States




Coalition for Jewish Values  
United States




Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA)  
Worldwide




Education Without Indoctrination  
United States




Israel Britain Alliance  
United Kingdom




Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust  
United States




NGO Monitor  
Israel




Con Israel Y Por La Paz  
Argentina




Conexión Israel  
Latin America




Creative Community For Peace  
United States




Eagles Wings  
United States




European Maccabi Confederation (EMC)  
Europe




Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)  
Israel




Online Hate Prevention Institute  
United States




Organisation Juive Europeenne  
France




Executive Council of Australian Jewry  
Australia




Feldman Foundation California  
United States




God's Heaven Universal Church  
Brazil




Hasbara Fellowships  
United States




Hatzad Hasheni  
Latin America




Maccabi World Union  
Worldwide




Makkabi Deutschland  
Germany




Online Antisemitism Taskforce




Fuel for Truth  
United States




Fuente Latina  
Worldwide




Haym Salomon Center  
United States




Hebraica  
Brazil




Hochberg Family Foundation  
United States




Honest Reporting  
Worldwide




Honesty Concerned  
Germany




Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation  
United States




My Truth  
Israel




Palestinian Media Watch (PMW)  
Israel




I Like Israel (ILI)  
Germany




InfoEquitable  
France




IMPACT  
United States




International Movement for Peace and Coexistence  
Belgium




Ireland Israel Alliance  
Ireland




Israel American Council (IAC)  
United States




Northern Ireland Friends of Israel  
United Kingdom




Osservatorio Antisemitismo of the CDEC Foundation  
Italy




NC Coalition for Israel  
United States




Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC)  
United States




Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce  
United States




Istituto Milton Friedman  
Italy




North West Friends of Israel  
United Kingdom




MidEast Freedom Forum Berlin  
Germany



National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC)  
United States



Maccabee Task Force (MTF)  
United States



Jewish Policy Center  
United States

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