



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

24 October 2017

Fact Sheet: Working Definition of Antisemitism

On 26 May 2016 in Bucharest, the Plenary of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted a non-legally binding [working definition of antisemitism](#) under the Romanian Chairmanship.

1. The problem of antisemitism has led the international community to take a number of steps in recent years: in 2004 the OSCE issued the Berlin Declaration and appointed a Personal Representative on Combatting Antisemitism; in December 2015 the European Commission appointed the first Coordinator on Combatting Antisemitism; the German Chair-in-Office of the OSCE encouraged the endorsement of the working definition of antisemitism at the 23rd OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg on 8/9 December 2016.
2. The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, and accordingly has the responsibility to deal with the issue of antisemitism as it is directly embedded in the organization's founding document, the [Stockholm Declaration](#).
3. The IHRA Plenary consists of 31 [Member Countries](#) - 24 of which are EU member countries.
4. The IHRA is the first intergovernmental body to adopt this working definition.
5. The recommendation that the IHRA adopt the working definition came from the experts of IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial.
6. The working definition of antisemitism aims to guide the IHRA in its work and to illustrate how antisemitism can manifest itself.
7. The adopted working definition of antisemitism is based on a definition first published by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in 2005, now the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).
8. Similar definitions of antisemitism have been used by the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism, the [U.S Department of State](#) and the UK's College of Policing. The Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Antisemitism call for adoption in their [London](#) and [Ottawa](#) protocols.
9. To date, the working definition has been adopted and endorsed by the following governments and bodies: the [United Kingdom](#) (12 December 2016), Israel (22 January 2017), Austria (25 April 2017), [Scotland](#) (27 April 2017), [Romania](#) (25 May 2017), [City of London](#) (8 February 2017), Germany (20 September 2017), Bulgaria (18 October 2017).
10. On 1 June 2017 the European Parliament voted to [adopt a resolution](#) calling on member states and their institutions to adopt and apply the working definition of antisemitism.

Contact Laura Robertson

lrobertson@holocaustremembrance.com