



# Combating Antisemitism

## *The Time is Now*

### Antisemitism is a problem for all Canadians

---

All Canadians should be deeply concerned about the alarming rise of antisemitism in Canada. History has shown that what starts with Jews, never ends with Jews. Taking a stand against antisemitism insulates all Canadians from the threat of hate.

Statistics Canada reports show a significant rise in hate crimes across Canada. The Jewish community is consistently the most frequently target, with a 63% increase from 2016 to 2017. An antisemitic hate crime occurs, on average, once every 24 hours.

This has a severe impact on Jewish life in Canada. A 2018 Environics Institute study revealed that close to four in ten Jewish Canadians report downplaying their Jewish identity in public. Young Jewish Canadians are twice as likely to have experienced discrimination because of their Jewish identity.

Now is the time to act.

### Defining antisemitism

---

The first step in effectively combating antisemitism is identifying it. The world's oldest hate is constantly evolving and manifests in many forms. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was established in 1998, and today consists of 34 member countries, each of whom recognizes that international coordination is needed to combat antisemitism.

In 2016, IHRA member states adopted by consensus a working definition of antisemitism, grounded in decades of collaborative research by global experts on antisemitism and Holocaust denial. The working definition with its illustrative examples addresses a range of contemporary activities and rhetoric that amount to antisemitism. This includes making demonizing, dehumanizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews, holding Jews as a collective responsible for the wrongdoings of a single Jewish person, denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying the scope or fact of the Holocaust.

### A united approach to combating hate

---

Today, the IHRA definition serves as a vital tool in the fight against antisemitism.

IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism has been endorsed by more than 20 national governments, the European Union, as well as the UN's Secretary General and Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The definition has also been implemented by various government and non-government agencies, such as the United Kingdom Judicial College, the Berlin State Police, and Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).

Canada, home to one of the largest Jewish communities in the world, is a global leader in fighting against hatred and discrimination in all forms, including antisemitism. The Government of Canada formally integrated the IHRA definition into its Anti-Racism Strategy in 2019. The definition has been subsequently endorsed by the municipalities of Vaughan, ON and Westmount, QC, as well as the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

### Bill 168: Combating Antisemitism Act

---

The Bill requires the Government of Ontario to be guided by the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and illustrative examples as adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance plenary on May 26, 2016, when it interprets Acts, regulations and policies designed to protect Ontarians from discrimination and hate amounting to antisemitism.

The passing of this act and the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism is an important and necessary step in addressing the alarming rise of hate in Ontario.