

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 140 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.**



Signed,



**Academic Engagement Network**  
United States

**ACOM**

**Acción y Comunicación sobre Oriente Medio (ACOM)**  
Spain



**ACT.IL**  
Worldwide



**ACT Zionist Council**  
Australia

**ALLEANZA PER ISRAELE**

**Alleanza Per Israele**  
Italy



**Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)**  
United States



**Alums for Campus Fairness**  
United States



**Am Yisrael Foundation**  
United States



**American-Israeli Collaboration Enterprise (AICE)**  
United States



**Americans for Peace & Tolerance (APT)**  
United States

**AIJAC**

**Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC)**  
Australia



**Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations**  
Belgium



**Belgian Friends of Israel (BFOI)**  
Belgium



**B'nai B'rith Canada**  
Canada

**bicom**

**Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM)**  
United Kingdom



**Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA)**  
United Kingdom



**Center for Information & Documentation Israel (CIDI)**  
The Netherlands



**Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)**  
Canada



**Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI)**  
United States



**Club Z**  
United States



**Conference On Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference)**  
Germany



**Coalition for Jewish Values**  
United States



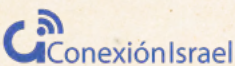
**Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA)**  
Worldwide



**Comunidad Chilena De Israel**  
Israel



**Con Israel Y Por La Paz**  
Argentina



**Conexión Israel**  
Latin America



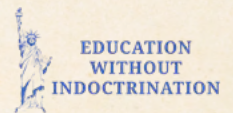
**Creative Community for Peace (CCFP)**  
United States



**Dutch Support for Israel**  
The Netherlands



**Eagles Wings**  
United States



**Education Without Indoctrination**  
United States



**Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)**  
United States



**Europe Israel Public Affairs (EIPPA)**  
Europe



**European Jewish Association (EJA)**  
Europe



**European Leadership Network (ELNET)**  
Europe



**European Maccabi Confederation (EMC)**  
Europe





**European Young Students Countering Antisemitism & Racism (EYSCAR)**  
Europe



**Executive Council of Australian Jewry**  
Australia

**Feldman Foundation California**  
United States

**Feldman Foundation Texas**  
United States



**Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)**  
United States



**Freedom Center**  
United States



**Friends of Israel Initiative**  
Spain



**Fuel for Truth**  
United States



**Fuente Latina**  
Worldwide



**God's Heaven Universal Church**  
Brazil



**Hasbara Fellowships**  
United States



**Hatikwa**  
Italy



**Hatzad Hasheni**  
Latin America



**Haym Salomon Center**  
United States



**Hebraica**  
Brazil



**Hochberg Family Foundation**  
United States

**Honest Reporting**  
Worldwide



**Honestly Concerned**  
Germany



**I Like Israel (ILI)**  
Germany



**InfoEquitable**  
France



**Initiative 27. Januar**  
Germany



**Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-SE)**



**Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP)**



**International Movement for Peace and Coexistence**  
Belgium

IRELAND ISRAEL



**Ireland Israel Alliance**  
Ireland



**Israel Advocacy Movement**  
United Kingdom

**Israel Always**



**Israeli American Council (IAC)**  
United States



**Israel Britain Alliance**  
United Kingdom



**Israel Christian Nexus**  
United States



**Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC)**  
United States



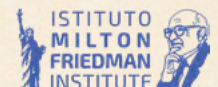
**Israel Sin Fronteras**  
Ecuador



**Israellycool Israel Advocacy**  
Israel



**Inter Provincial Chief Rabbinate for The Netherlands**  
The Netherlands



**Istituto Milton Friedman**  
Italy





Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

**Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)**  
Israel



**Jerusalem Institute of Justice**

**Jerusalem Institute of Justice**  
Israel



**Jewish Community Council of South Australia**  
Australia



**Jewish Community Council of Victoria**  
Australia



**Jewish Community Council of Western Australia (Inc)**  
Australia



**Jewish Student Union Germany (JSUD)**  
Germany



**Jewish Policy Center**  
United States



**Jewish War Veterans of the USA**  
United States



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



**Licra Paris**  
France



**Maccabee Task Force (MTF)**  
United States



**Maccabi World Union**  
Worldwide



**Makkabi Deutschland**  
Germany



**Med Israel for Fred (MIFF)**  
Norway, Denmark & Iceland

**Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation**  
United States



**Middle East Forum (MEF)**  
United States



**Mideast Freedom Forum Berlin (MFFB)**  
Germany



**My Truth**  
Israel



**Nahost Friedens Forum (NAFFO)**  
Germany



**National Council of Young Israel**  
United States



**National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC)**  
United States



**NC Coalition for Israel**  
United States



**New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies**  
Australia



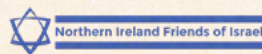
**Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust**  
United States



**NGO Monitor**  
Israel



**North West Friends of Israel**  
United Kingdom



**Northern Ireland Friends of Israel**  
United Kingdom



**Online Antisemitism Taskforce**



**Online Hate Prevention Institute**  
United States



**Organisation Juive Europeenne**  
France



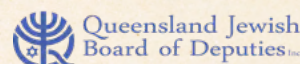
**Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce**  
United States



**Osservatorio Antisemitismo of the CDEC Foundation**  
Italy



**Palestinian Media Watch (PMW)**  
Israel



**Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies**  
Australia



**Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights**  
Canada





**Reservists on Duty (ROD)**  
Israel



**RI Coalition for Israel**  
United States



**Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)**  
United States



**Simon Wiesenthal Center**  
Worldwide



**Solomon - osservatorio sulle discriminazioni**  
Italy



**StandWithUs**  
Worldwide



**State Zionist Council of Queensland**  
Australia



**State Zionist Council of Western Australia**  
Australia



**StopAntisemitism.org**  
United States



**Students Supporting Israel (SSI)**  
United States & Canada



**Sussex Friends of Israel**  
United Kingdom



**Sweden Israel Alliance (SIA)**  
Sweden



**Swedish Zionist Federation**  
Sweden



**The Gemunder Family Foundation**  
United States



**The International Legal Forum (ILF)**  
Worldwide



**The Israeli-Jewish Congress (IJC)**  
Israel



**Thej.ca**  
United States

**The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation**  
United States



**The Lawfare Project**  
United States



**The Milstein Family Foundation (MFF)**  
United States



**The Philos Project**  
United States



**The Pinsker Centre**  
United Kingdom



**The Reut Group**  
Israel



**Thirty (30) years after**  
United States



**Together We Vouche for Each Other**  
Israel



**UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI)**  
United Kingdom



**Unione Giovani Ebrei D'Italia (UGEI)**  
Italy



**United Nations Watch**



**United with Israel**



**Wertelinitiative-jüdisch-deutsche Positionen**  
Germany



**World Values Network (WVN)**  
United States



**Zachor Legal Institute**  
United States



**Zionism Victoria**  
Australia



**Zionist Federation of Australia**  
Australia



**Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)**  
United States