

Letter from Jewish Leadership Council

Dear Council Leader,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Jewish Leadership Council to ask you to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and its examples within your council policies.

The definition and the examples were officially adopted by the HM Government in December 2016 and the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to all local authorities in England to encourage them to do the same. Since then the definition has been adopted by the devolved governments in Scotland and Wales and by the leadership of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat, SNP and Plaid Cymru party's.

The definition and the examples has also been adopted by the CPS, College of Policing, the Mayors of London, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester and also over 150 local councils across the country. In London 26 out of the 32 Boroughs have now adopted the definition and in Greater Manchester 9 out of the 10 Metropolitan Boroughs.

All representative bodies of British Jews and experts in tackling antisemitism and the entire Senior Rabbinic leadership from all Jewish denominations support the definition with all of the examples in the link below.

Incidents of antisemitism are unfortunately on the rise across the UK and as an umbrella body for Jewish communal institutions we believe that first step in combatting this evil is to adequately define it which is why we are asking local authorities to adopt the definition into their own policies.

The full text of the definition and examples can be found here:

https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press_release_document_antisemitism.pdf and a the draft motion from the first local authority that adopted the

definition can be found at

<http://committeepapers.barnet.gov.uk/documents/s37797/14.3%20%20Opposition%20amendment%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Rawlings.pdf>

IHRA's document is intended to be adopted as a whole with the examples complementing the definition and illustrating how contemporary antisemitism expresses itself.

We strongly request on behalf of our Jewish communities that your local authorities formally adopt the full IHRA definition with examples. Our team would be happy to discuss further with you or your local councillors in greater detail.

Kind Regards and I wish you a Merry Christmas and restful break over the festive period.

Simon Johnson
Chief Executive
The Jewish Leadership Council