

THE IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM 2022 ADOPTIONS & ENDORSEMENTS REPORT

BY THE COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT (CAM)
& THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CONTEMPORARY
EUROPEAN JEWRY AT TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
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**COMBAT
ANTISEMITISM
MOVEMENT**



**The Center for the Study of
Contemporary European Jewry**
The Lester and Sally Entin
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ANTISEMITISM IS THE WORLD'S MOST ENDURING FORM OF HATRED, INSIDIOUSLY REINVENTING ITSELF OVER THE MILLENNIA. RECENT YEARS HAVE SEEN A DANGEROUS RESURGENCE OF THIS HATRED WORLDWIDE, THREATENING JEWISH COMMUNITIES AND UNDERMINING SOCIAL COHESION. TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT THIS PHENOMENON, THERE MUST FIRST BE A COMMONLY AGREED-UPON UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT IS. **THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM** WAS DEvised FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, AND HAS GAINED BROAD ACCEPTANCE AS A CRUCIAL TOOL IN CURBING THE WIDE RANGE OF MODERN SOURCES OF JEW-HATRED.

THE SCOPE OF ADOPTIONS IN 2022, HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS REPORT, IS INDICATIVE OF THE DEFINITION'S FAR-REACHING USE ACROSS FAITHS, NATIONALITIES, CULTURES, AND POLITICAL BELIEFS.

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"We have seen over the past months, years, and decades the reminder that antisemitism persists and is pernicious. That's why good intentions are not enough to counter them. That's why we have fought, and will continue to fight hatred and division in our country...We adopted the working definition of antisemitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). And we will continue to firmly defend it."

Canadian Prime Minister
Justin Trudeau, July 2021

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"My government pledges to embrace the definition of antisemitism adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Australia does so as a people, and as a nation. Antisemitism has no place in Australia. It has no place anywhere in the world."

Former Australian Prime Minister
Scott Morrison, October 2021

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"The United States unequivocally condemns antisemitism and views the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as integral to the fight to eliminate this scourge. It is widely accepted and used throughout the world by governments, international organizations, religious and sports entities, and other civil society organizations, which sends a powerful message of solidarity against antisemitism."

U.S. State Department
Spokesperson
Ned Price, Nov. 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



IHRA plenary in Sweden, 2022.
(Magnus Liljegren/Government Offices of Sweden)

**THROUGH
DECEMBER 2022,
A TOTAL OF
1,116
ENTITIES
HAVE ADOPTED OR
ENDORSED
THE DEFINITION**

**91 NEW
ADOPTIONS AND
ENDORSEMENTS
WERE REPORTED
IN 2022 ALONE**

Since the [Working Definition of Antisemitism](#) was adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2016, it has become the most widely-recognized barometer in the collective effort against Jew-hatred, serving as an essential tool to identify and delineate all contemporary manifestations of this age-old societal scourge.

The definition's proven effectiveness is rooted in the mainstream consensus that has coalesced around it worldwide – with a diverse array of international institutions and organizations, national and local governments, NGOs, universities, athletic clubs, and corporations using it as a non-legally binding guiding framework for recognizing modern-day iterations of antisemitism, training and educational programs, policymaking initiatives, and judicial processes.

Support for the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism transcends the political and ideological spectrum, coming from entities and individuals of a broad swathe of religious, national, and cultural backgrounds.

Through December 2022, a total of **1,116 entities** have adopted or endorsed the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

The surpassing of the 1,000 milestone from a previous [report](#) compiled by the **Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM)** and the **Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University** is a telling indicator of the far-reaching impact and influence of the definition and its accompanying 11 explanatory examples of prejudiced and discriminatory behavior against the Jewish people.

A total of **91 new adoptions and endorsements were reported in 2022 alone**, while retroactive data collection from previous years added another 175. More than half – **52%** – of adoptions and endorsements in 2022 took place in the **U.S. and Canada**.

U.S. LEADS WAY IN ADOPTIONS IN 2022



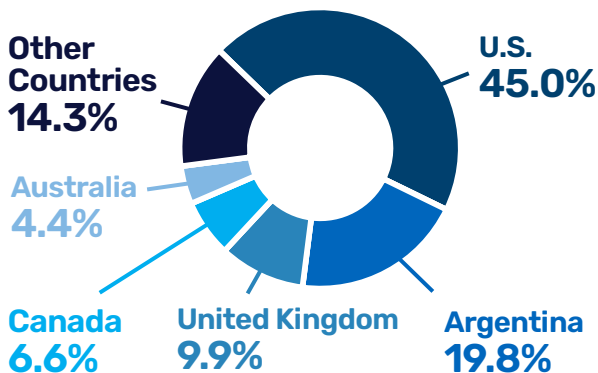
IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism Adoption. (Twitter)

The continued growth of the definition's across-the-board acceptance was particularly pronounced this past year in the United States, where **18 states** adopted it via legislation or executive actions. **More than half – 30 – of U.S. states have now done so**, as have 56 American counties and cities.



Joint Declaration of Second-Annual Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Athens, Greece. (Podimatas)

The largest category for adoptions and endorsements in 2022 were non-federal government entities, including **municipalities, counties, state and provincial governments, with 58 in total**, including 32, or 55%, in the United States. Local authorities and law enforcement agencies under their jurisdiction have a crucial role to play in confronting antisemitism where it is most directly felt – on the streets of the communities where Jews live their day-to-day lives.



Broken down by country, the **U.S. led the way in IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism adoptions in 2022, with 41, or 45%** of the overall total, with Argentina (18), the United Kingdom (9), Canada (6), and Australia (4) rounding out the top five, with Germany and Italy following at three apiece.



39

COUNTRIES

HAVE ADOPTED THE DEFINITION

COUNTRY ADOPTIONS

In total, **39 countries**, including most Western democracies, have adopted the definition – **28 IHRA member states**, **five IHRA observer states**, and **six nations unaffiliated with IHRA**.

Following nations such as the United States, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, and France, among other previous adoptees, the newest additions to this group in 2022 were the Philippines, Colombia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



464

NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

HAVE ADOPTED THE DEFINITION

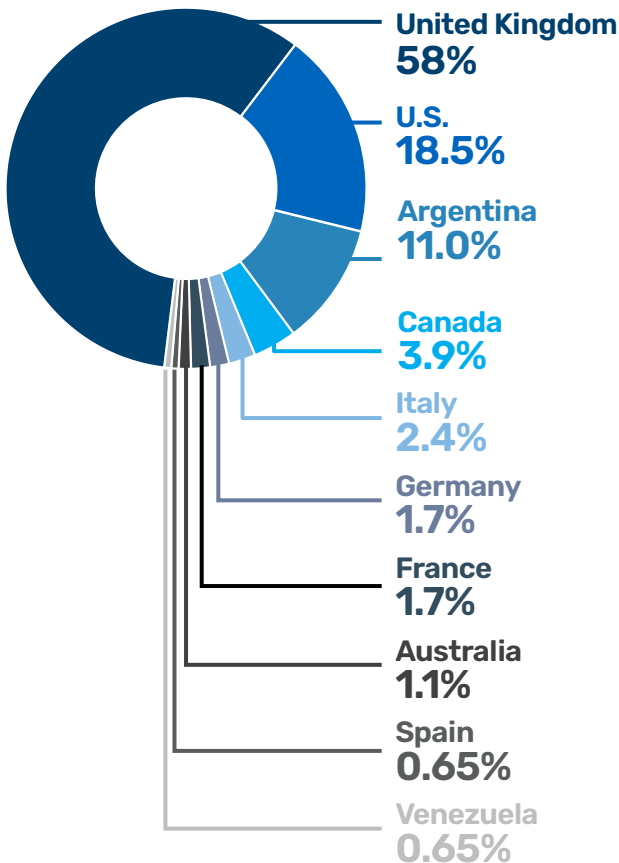
REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADOPTIONS

464 non-federal government entities (including regional, provincial, state, county, and municipal bodies) have adopted the definition, with **58** doing so in 2022, including the cities of **Los Angeles, El Paso, and Wichita** in the U.S. and **Vancouver** in Canada, as well as the Australian states of **Victoria and South Australia** and the Italian region of **Tuscany**, among others.

In the United Kingdom, **271** regional, local, and municipal governments have adopted the definition, as have **86** in the United States, **51** in Argentina, **18** in Canada, **11** in Italy, **eight** in Germany and France, **five** in Australia, and **three** each in Spain and Venezuela.

At the state level in the U.S., there has been a bipartisan approach toward IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism adoptions, with 30 overall, either via executive orders or proclamations by governors or measures passed by state legislatures, including in **Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming** in 2022.

In Canada, the provinces of **Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan** adopted the definition in 2022, following Quebec and New Brunswick in 2021 and Ontario in 2020.





339

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

HAVE ADOPTED THE DEFINITION



(University of Pittsburgh)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ADOPTIONS

A key category of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism adoptions has been institutions of higher education, with **339** overall, and **eight colleges and universities worldwide adopted the definition in 2022** – from the **Nevada Board of Regents, City University of New York, and University of Pittsburgh** in the United States to the **National University of the Arts, National Technological University, and National University of Lujan** in Argentina and **La Trobe University** in Australia.

On American campuses experiencing a rising frequency of antisemitic incidents, there was a nascent shift in 2022 toward adoptions at the administrative level, rather than by student governments – similar to a trend that transpired in the United Kingdom in recent years.



274

NGOs INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

HAVE ADOPTED THE DEFINITION



NGOS, INSTITUTIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Twenty-two NGOs, corporations, religious organizations, student clubs, political parties, and other groups adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2022, including 16 public and six private entities, bringing the all-time total to **274** (217 public and 57 private).

Two political parties – the **Florida Democratic Party** and the **Bloc Québécois** – were among the adoptees, as were **six professional sports teams**, all based in Germany or Argentina, including **River Plate FC, VfL Wolfsburg, FC Nürnberg, Boca Juniors FC, Estudiantes de La Plata, and Club Atlético Independiente**.

ADOPTION AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during an interview at the UN Headquarters, on January 20, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Robert Bumsted)

UNITED NATIONS

On January 27th, 2022, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres commended the “efforts of countries that have agreed on the common definition of antisemitism.

“It is important to be clear about what antisemitism is,” he added, after reciting the text of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. “A shared understanding can serve not only the work of the United Nations, but all global efforts to uphold human rights and human dignity.”



The White House

UNITED STATES

In the United States, President Joe Biden’s administration – which has said it “enthusiastically embraces” the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism – announced in December the creation of an inter-agency task force to develop a “national strategy to counter antisemitism.”

“This strategy will raise understanding about antisemitism and the threat it poses to the Jewish community and all Americans, address antisemitic harassment and abuse both online and offline, seek to prevent antisemitic attacks and incidents, and encourage whole-of-society efforts to counter antisemitism and build a more inclusive nation,” a White House statement said.

EUROPE AND GERMANY

The German government, which adopted the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism in 2017, unveiled in November 2022 its first-ever “National Strategy Against Antisemitism and for Jewish Life.”

The strategy, abiding by the definition’s parameters, highlights best practices and proposes new initiatives against antisemitism in the realms of politics and civil society, at the federal, state, and local levels.

“Recognizing antisemitism in both its old and new forms is an important step in tackling it, and our strategy provides help and guidance in doing this,” Dr. Felix Klein – the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism – said, adding that fighting antisemitism was a duty for the “whole of society.”

The multi-tiered German approach has proven especially effective in Bavaria, where the state’s antisemitism commissioner has encouraged widespread adoption of the definition, with at least 64 local entities answering the call so far.

At the same time, the European Commission celebrated the first anniversary of the launch of the “European Union Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life (2021-2030),” which cited the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism numerous times.



Dr. Felix Klein – the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life in Germany and the Fight against Antisemitism. (Podimatas)



Margaritis Schinas, Vice-President of the European Commission at the opening dinner of the Second-Annual Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Athens, Greece. (Podimatas)

GROWING USE BY BUSINESSES

The business sector is an important area with room for growth in utilizing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. In September, the German flag carrier Lufthansa became the first airline globally to adopt the definition as part of its anti-racism policies, after it apologized for a May incident in which a group of Jewish passengers were collectively denied boarding to a flight.

Also in 2022, the German public broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW) used the definition as a benchmark when revising its Employee Code of Conduct.



Furthermore, the fallout from scandals involving celebrities such as Kanye West/ Kyrie Irving underscored why companies must have the means to properly identify and react to expressions of antisemitism. Both West and Irving lost lucrative endorsement deals with the likes of Adidas and Nike over their antisemitic rhetoric and behavior.

Meanwhile, the ongoing explosion of online antisemitism, particularly on social media, highlighted the need for major platforms to enact stricter policies for the detection, monitoring, and removal of hateful content, as well as the banning of purveyors of bigotry, like West.

ALL ENTITIES THAT ADOPT THE IHRA WORKING
DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM ARE INVITED
TO REPORT THE ADOPTIONS TO THE COMBAT
ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT (CAM) VIA EMAIL:
info@combatantisemitism.org



THE FULL SET OF GLOBAL ADOPTION
DATA IS AVAILABLE HERE.

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