

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 254

Unequivocally condemning antisemitism and lauding the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Unequivocally condemning antisemitism and lauding the working definition of antisemitism of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Whereas the United States Senate recognizes that antisemitism is a pernicious and destructive form of prejudice that has persisted throughout history, resulting in widespread discrimination, violence, and persecution against Jewish individuals and communities;

Whereas the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (referred to in this preamble as the “IHRA”) has developed a widely accepted and comprehensive working definition of antisemitism that serves as a valuable tool for identifying and combating acts of antisemitism in all its manifestations;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism states that “antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism includes examples that illustrate the various ways in which antisemitism manifests, including making derogatory statements about Jews, denying the Holocaust, promoting conspiracy theories about Jewish control, and holding the Jewish Community collectively responsible for the actions of the State of Israel;

Whereas the IHRA working definition of antisemitism serves as a valuable tool for governments, institutions, and organizations in identifying, monitoring, and addressing antisemitism, thereby helping to ensure the safety, security, and dignity of Jewish communities around the world;

Whereas, for nearly 2 decades, the IHRA working definition and its predecessor, the European Union Military Committee working definition, which was developed with the cooperation and support of Jewish communities, have provided essential guidance in efforts to combat antisemitism to governments and organizations in Europe, the Americas, and across the globe;

Whereas the IHRA definition has been adopted by more than 40 nations and multilateral organizations, including the European Union and the Organization of American States, which has earned the near-unanimous endorsement of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas no other definition of antisemitism has been as broadly adopted and utilized by practitioners, governments, and civil society as the IHRA working definition of antisemitism; and

Whereas the United States Senate is committed to upholding the principles of equality, human rights, and religious freedom, and recognizes the importance of combating all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, in order to foster a more just and inclusive society: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) strongly condemns all forms of anti-
3 semitism, including acts of violence, discrimination,
4 and hate speech directed at individuals or commu-
5 nities based on their Jewish identity;

6 (2) recognizes the significant impact of anti-
7 semitism on individuals, communities, and society as
8 a whole, and reaffirms its commitment to combating
9 this age-old prejudice in all its forms;

10 (3) commends the International Holocaust Re-
11 membrance Alliance (referred to in this resolution as
12 the “IHRA”) for its efforts in developing the IHRA
13 working definition of antisemitism, which serves as
14 a valuable tool for identifying and addressing acts of
15 antisemitism;

16 (4) encourages Federal, State, and local govern-
17 ment entities, as well as academic institutions, civil

1 society organizations, and other relevant stake-
2 holders, to adopt and exclusively utilize the IHRA
3 working definition of antisemitism as an essential re-
4 source in combating antisemitism and promoting tol-
5 erance and understanding;

6 (5) calls on all countries to endorse and make
7 exclusive use of the IHRA working definition of
8 antisemitism, and to take effective measures to com-
9 bat antisemitism, protect Jewish individuals and
10 communities, and promote religious freedom and
11 human rights for all; and

12 (6) urges the Federal Government to continue
13 its efforts to combat antisemitism domestically and
14 internationally, including through diplomatic chan-
15 nels, law enforcement cooperation, educational pro-
16 grams, and public awareness campaigns.

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