



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

Consent

F.21.

12/19/2023

Subject:

Resolution Recognizing the Growing Problem of Antisemitism in the United States and Adopting the Non-Binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Dept/Office:

District 5 Commission Office

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the Resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States and adopt the non-binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Summary Explanation and Background:

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research, and remembrance and to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

The IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998. Today the IHRA's membership consists of 35 member countries, each of whom recognizes that international political coordination is imperative to strengthen the moral commitment of societies and to combat growing Holocaust denial and antisemitism.

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration, in 2015, the IHRA adopted the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

"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."

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

December 20, 2023

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Jason Steele, District 5


RE: Item F.21., Resolution Recognizing the Growing Problem of Antisemitism in the United States, and Adopting the Non-Binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on December 19, 2023, adopted Resolution No. 23-155, recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States, and adopt the non-binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. Enclosed is a fully-executed Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/tr

Encl. (1)

RESOLUTION 2023-155

A RESOLUTION OF THE BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM AND ADOPTING THE NON-BINDING INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM.

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identify, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data, Jewish Americans are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate in the U.S., and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, local government officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must adopt the tools to do so; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policymaking all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, in May 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA"), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism, including eleven (11) contemporary examples, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism has proven to be an essential tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is used by agencies of the United States Government and has been adopted or endorsed by more than 1,216 entities across the world including by 45 countries, over 481 municipalities and regional governments, over 345 educational institutions, and 311 other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education and has been adopted by 34 U.S. States and more than 90 U.S. counties and cities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida values religious diversity and interfaith tolerance, and the Jewish community is an inseparable part of our social fabric, culture, and heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, as follows:

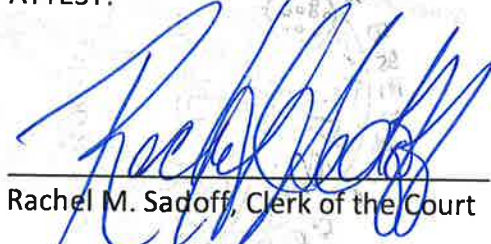
SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and by this reference are hereby incorporated into and made an integral part of this resolution.

SECTION 2. The Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida hereby recognizes the growing problem of antisemitism in the U.S. and adopts the non-binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven (11) contemporary examples, incorporated herein as Exhibit "A", as an important tool to address it.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon the enactment date.

DONE, ORDERED, AND ADOPTED in Regular Session the 19th day of December 2023.

ATTEST:



Rachel M. Sadoff, Clerk of the Court

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Jason Steele, Chair

As approved by the Board on December 19, 2023

Exhibit "A"

The non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism is:

"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."

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Excerpt from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Website as located at: <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism> on December 12, 2023.