

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE**

**18 FEBRUARY 2020**

**THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM**

**Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to provide background information on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism. The Leader has asked that Executive consider the following:

*“North Yorkshire remains one of the safest places to live in the United Kingdom. However, we must be ever vigilant to maintain that position. Hate crime is on the rise and we must do whatever we can to counter this, as part of the fundamental protected characteristics within equalities legislation. Under the Equality Act 2010 there are nine protected characteristics.*

- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation

*and observance of all of these goes a long way to make us the society that we are.”*

*“In this year of the 75th anniversary of end of the Second World War, and the liberation of Auschwitz concentration camp this month, it is right to focus on race and religion.”*

*“NYCC opposes discrimination in any form, including that on religious or race grounds. This Council will not tolerate discrimination or hateful activity, including but not exclusively Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. We expect the same of our contractors and partners. To this end we agree to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism, a definition which is already used in guidance for the Police and Crown Prosecution Service. This support will provide clear guidance and a consistent approach across institutions that operate in North Yorkshire.”*

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The IHRA is a body that made up of 31 member countries, including the United Kingdom. Its role is to advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance. On 26 May 2016, the IHRA adopted a new working definition of anti-Semitism, as below:

*“Anti-semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or*

non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

Included with the definition were some examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere. See Appendix 1.

Details of the work of the IHRA are available through the following link - <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

2.2 The UK Government adopted the definition on 12 December 2016.

2.3 It has been reported that 136 of England’s 343 councils have adopted the IHRA working definition to date. It is understood that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, is keen that ensure that there is a more widespread adoption of the definition by local authorities.

### **3.0 CONCLUSION**

3.1 There has been a widely reported increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidences and hate crimes against Jews in the United Kingdom, the European Union and the United States. In part, the UK government response has been to raise awareness of what anti-Semitism is across all public bodies. Whilst legally non-binding, the IHRA working definition and examples are seen as being a useful tool for local authorities.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications.

### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The IHRA definition and working examples are legally non-binding. If the IHRA definition and working examples are supported, then there are no legal implications.

### **6.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The recommendation directly addresses equalities issues through seeking to address anti-Semitism in all aspects of the Council’s work.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Executive is asked to consider supporting the IHRA working definition and working examples and recommend it to the 13 May 2020 meeting of the County Council.

Barry Khan  
Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services)  
County Hall, Northallerton  
7 February 2020

Report Author: Daniel Harry

Background documents: None

Appendices: IHRA contemporary examples of anti-Semitism

## APPENDIX 1

**International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance contemporary examples of anti-Semitism**

The IHRA provided contemporary examples of anti-Semitism to guide organisations on the implementation of the definition. The 11 examples given are as listed below:

- 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 endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour 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.
- Anti-Semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries).
- Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

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