



Annual Members Meeting
23/02/2017

Motion Name: Combating Antisemitism

Background:

1. There has been a recorded rise in antisemitism across the UK, with a 36% increase in incidents in 2016 as compared to 2015.
2. Antisemitism, as with all other forms of racism, are still a problem in the UK.
3. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place every year on the 27th January. This marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi holocaust camps. It is the day for everyone to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, and the millions of people killed by Nazi persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Purpose:

1. It is important that Sabbatical Officers at Bristol SU have training on the issues that affect Jewish students, particularly at Bristol which is home to the fastest growing Jewish Society in the UK.
2. As time goes on, it becomes all the more important to commemorate the Holocaust and provide Holocaust education.

Action:

1. To coordinate with the Union of Jewish Students to educate Sabbatical Officers on the issues that Jewish students face and tackling antisemitism.
2. Bristol SU to adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, in accordance with the UK Government – see appendix
https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press_release_document_antisemitism.pdf
3. This policy does not overrule “Divesting from Israel’s Illegal Occupation of the West Bank” and “ Reaffirming Commitment to Constructive and Safe Debate on Israel

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Palestine" and still allows students the freedom to participate in pro-Palestinian human rights activists in a sage constructive manner

Proposed by: Rebecca Filer

Seconded by: Natalie Lang

Definition:

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Bucharest, 26 May 2016

In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: “With humanity still scarred by ... antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils” the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to:

Adopt 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.”

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

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).

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- 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.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic 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.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

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