

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-31453

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, RECOGNIZING THE GROWING PROBLEM OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADOPTING THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM AS AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL TOOL TO ADDRESS IT.

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, Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest attack against the American Jewish community took place on October 27, 2018 at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers and injuring several more; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Working Definition of Antisemitism describes antisemitism as "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"; and

WHEREAS, according to the IHRA, manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity but criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic; and

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

- 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; and

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

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT DULY RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby recognize the growing problem of antisemitism in the United States and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance’s Working Definition of Antisemitism as an important educational tool to address it.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of **October**, 2020.

ATTEST:


 Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(sponsored by Mayor Dan Gelber)




 Dan Gelber, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO
 FORM & LANGUAGE
 & FOR EXECUTION


 City Attorney

10-6-20
 Date