

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-159

Resolution recognizing the growing problem of antisemitism in America and calling for the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) 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;

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;

WHEREAS we acknowledge that following the attacks on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the Chabad of Poway in San Diego, a Kosher supermarket in Jersey City and a Chanukah gathering in Monsey, our synagogues felt compelled to re-evaluate their own security measures to keep their congregations safe;

WHEREAS the recent AJC (American Jewish Committee) *State of Antisemitism in America Report* found that more than one in three American Jews (37%) say they have been victims of antisemitism over the past five years;

(Optional, where applicable) WHEREAS (insert local incidents, if applicable) have disturbed our community and must be taken as an opportunity to teach about this issue and seek paths for healing and eliminating such hate;

WHEREAS <<town name>> 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;

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

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 of antisemitism for use by governments and international organizations. That definition reads in full:

“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).
- 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.”

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY that

Section I: The Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains adopts the non-legally binding International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in full.

Section II: The Township Council of the Township of Scotch Plains will ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for the Department of Police and other city agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

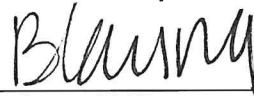
Dated: September 21, 2021

RECORD OF VOTE

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB	COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB
ADAMS	X				ZIMMERMAN	X			
STAMLER	X				MAYOR LOSARDO	X			
WHITE	X				COMMENT				
MOTION	STAMLER				SECOND	ZIMMERMAN			
X- INDICATES VOTE AB- ABSENT NV- NOT VOTING									

Certified copy of a resolution adopted
 at a regular meeting of the Township
 Council of the Township of Scotch Plains,
 Union County, New Jersey on

September 21, 2021



Bozena Lacina, RMC
 Municipal Clerk