



The Directors
Facebook, Inc.
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

7 August 2020

Dear Directors,

Importance of Adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

We applaud your recent [announcement](#) regarding the revision of Facebook policy standards on hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation. We are confident that Facebook can successfully protect and support users, meet corporate social responsibility concerns of stakeholders, and continue to lead the social media industry.

As part of your efforts, we call on you to fully adopt the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) working definition of antisemitism](#) as the cornerstone of Facebook's hate speech policy regarding antisemitism.

Facebook's Director of Content Policy Stakeholder Engagement, Peter Stern, [recently attested](#) to the usefulness of the IHRA working definition when Facebook first developed its hate speech policy. However, Mr. Stern admitted that **Facebook does not have a policy aimed at combatting online antisemitism**. He further admitted that Facebook does not embrace the full adoption of the IHRA working definition because the definition recognizes that modern manifestations of antisemitism relate to Israel.

In accordance with the recommendations outlined in the "[The New Antisemites](#)" report, which call on social media platforms to eliminate antisemitic content by adopting the IHRA working definition as the basis for content removal policies, **we the undersigned coalition of 125 organizations, urge Facebook to implement a hate speech policy on antisemitism that includes the full IHRA working definition at its core.**

Nearly 40 countries have already endorsed or adopted the IHRA working definition in some official capacity, either through their membership in the IHRA or independently. In the United States, in addition to the adoption by the State Department, the recent Executive Order on Combatting Anti-Semitism instructs the Department of Education to consider the IHRA definition when evaluating Title VI Civil Rights Act complaints of discrimination.

The overwhelming majority of civil society organizations at the forefront of efforts to combat antisemitism endorse and encourage the use and adoption of the IHRA working definition. Today's antisemitism undoubtedly includes the delegitimization of Israel's right to exist. This bigotry is expressed in various ways, such as the rejection of Jewish self-determination,

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Holocaust revisionism and denial, and the application of double standards toward the Jewish state and people.

Will Facebook join the ranks of the historians, advocates, activists, lawmakers, and leaders who compiled the IHRA working definition? Will Facebook take responsibility and move toward removing the scourge of antisemitism from today's most important online public square?

Jews today, like many other minority communities, are being targeted and attacked in record numbers. They experience physical violence, harassment, and discrimination offline and online.

Jews overwhelmingly report that online antisemitism is the most acute form of Jew-hatred they experience.

The full IHRA working definition of antisemitism provides Facebook an effective, neutral, and nuanced tool to protect Jewish users from hate speech and imagery that incites hate and oftentimes leads to violence. While the impact of online hate speech, misinformation, and disinformation on our society continues to be researched and explored, we cannot afford to lose any more time in fighting this bigotry and preventing violence.

We urge Facebook to put words into action and power behind commitment -- and fully adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Turner

Chief Executive

UK Lawyers for Israel

Co-signed by each of the following organisations:

1. **Academic Engagement Network** - United States
2. **Acción y Comunicación sobre Oriente Medio (ACOM)** - Spain
3. **ACT.IL** – Worldwide
4. **ACT Zionist Council** - Australia
5. **Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)** - United States
6. **Alums for Campus Fairness** - United States
7. **Am Yisrael Foundation** - United States
8. **American-Israeli Collaboration Enterprise (AICE)** - United States
9. **Americans for Peace and Tolerance (APT)** - United States
10. **Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC)** - Australia
11. **Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations** - Belgium
12. **Belgian Friends of Israel (BFOI)** - Belgium
13. **B'nai B'rith Canada** - Canada
14. **Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM)** - United Kingdom
15. **Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA)** - United Kingdom
16. **Center for Information and Documentation Israel (CIDI)** - The Netherland
17. **Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)** - Canada
18. **Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI)** - United States
19. **Club Z** - United States
20. **Coalition for Jewish Values** - United States
21. **Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA)** -
Worldwide
22. **Comunidad Chilena De Israel** - Israel
23. **Con Israel Y Por La Paz** - Argentina
24. **Conexión Israel** - Latin America
25. **Creative Community for Peace (CCFP)** - United States
26. **Eagles Wings** - United States
27. **Education Without Indoctrination** - United States
28. **Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)** - United States
29. **Europe Israel Public Affairs (EIPA)** – Europe
30. **European Jewish Association (EJA)** – Europe
31. **European Leadership Network (ELNET)** - Europe
32. **Feldman Foundation – California** - United States
33. **Feldman Foundation – Texas** - United States

34. **Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)** - United States
35. **Freedom Center** - United States
36. **Fuel for Truth** - United States
37. **Fuente Latina** - Worldwide
38. **God's Heaven Universal Church** - Brazil
39. **Hasbara Fellowships** - United States
40. **Hatzad Hasheni** - Latin America
41. **Haym Salomon Center** - United States
42. **Hebraica** - Brazil
43. **Hochberg Family Foundation** - United States
44. **Honest Reporting** - Worldwide
45. **Honestly Concerned** - Germany
46. **I Like Israel (ILI)** - Germany
47. **InfoEquitable** - France
48. **Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-SE)**
49. **Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP)**
50. **International Movement for Peace and Coexistence** - Belgium
51. **Ireland Israel Alliance** - Ireland
52. **Israel Advocacy Movement** - United Kingdom
53. **Israel Always** - United States
54. **Israel Britain Alliance** - United Kingdom
55. **Israel Christian Nexus** - United States
56. **Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC)** - United States
57. **Israel Sin Fronteras** – Ecuador
58. **Israeli American Council (IAC)** – United States
59. **Istituto Milton Friedman** – Italy
60. **Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)** - Israel
61. **Jewish Community Council of Victoria** - Australia
62. **Jewish Policy Center** - United States
63. **Jewish Student Union Germany (JSUD)** - Germany
64. **Jewish War Veterans of the USA** - United States
65. **Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)** - United States
66. **Licra Paris** - France
67. **Maccabee Task Force (MTF)** - United States

68. **Maccabi World Union** - Worldwide
69. **Makkabi Deutschland** - Germany
70. **Med Israel for Fred (MIFF)** - Norway, Denmark & Iceland
71. **Middle East Forum (MEF)** - United States
72. **Mideast Freedom Forum Berlin (MFFB)** - Germany
73. **Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation** - United States
74. **My Truth** - Israel
75. **Nahost FriendsForum e.V. (NAFFO)** - Germany
76. **National Council of Young Israel** - United States
77. **National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC)** - United States
78. **NC Coalition for Israel** - United States
79. **New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies** - Australia
80. **Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust** - United States
81. **NGO Monitor** - Israel
82. **North West Friends of Israel** - United Kingdom
83. **Northern Ireland Friends of Israel** - United Kingdom
84. **Online Antisemitism Taskforce**
85. **Online Hate Prevention Institute** - Australia
86. **Organisation Juive Européenn** - France
87. **Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce** - United States
88. **Osservatorio Antisemitismo of the CDEC Foundation** - Italy
89. **Palestinian Media Watch (PMW)** - Israel
90. **Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies** - Australia
91. **Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights** - Canada
92. **Reservists on Duty (ROD)** - Israel
93. **RI Coalition for Israel** - United States
94. **Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)** - United States
95. **Simon Wiesenthal Center** - Worldwide
96. **Solomon - osservatorio sulle discriminazioni** - Italy
97. **StandWithUs** - Worldwide
98. **State Zionist Council of Queensland** – Australia
99. **State Zionist Council of Western Australia** - Australia
100. **StopAntisemitism.org** - United States
101. **Students Supporting Israel (SSI)** - Worldwide
102. **Sussex Friends of Israel** – United Kingdom

103. **Sweden Israel Alliance (SIA)** - Sweden
104. **Swedish Zionist Federation** - Sweden
105. **The Executive Council of Australian Jewry** - Australia
106. **The Gemunder Family Foundation** - United States
107. **The International Legal Forum (ILF)** - Worldwide
108. **The Israeli-Jewish Congress (IJC)** - Israel
109. **TheJ.ca** - United States
110. **The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation** - United States
111. **The Lawfare Project** - United States
112. **The Milstein Family Foundation (MFF)** - United States
113. **The Philos Project** - United States
114. **The Pinsker Centre** - United Kingdom
115. **The Reut Group** - Israel
116. **Thirty (30) Years After** - United States
117. **UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI)** - United Kingdom
118. **United Nations Watch**
119. **United with Israel**
120. **WertInitiative - jüdisch-deutsche Positionen (Values Initiative, promoting Jewish-German interests)** - Germany
121. **World Values Network (WVN)** - United States
122. **Zachor Legal Institute** - United States
123. **Zionism Victoria** - Australia
124. **Zionist Federation of Australia** - Australia
125. **Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)** - United States