

To
Facebook, Inc. Board of Directors
1 Hacker Way
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Date
August 7th, 2020

Open Letter to Facebook: Adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Dear Facebook Board of Directors,

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 128 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, 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.

Signed,



Academic Engagement Network
United States

ACOM

Acción y Comunicación sobre Oriente Medio (ACOM)
Spain

ACT.IL
ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR ISRAEL

ACT.IL
Worldwide



ACT Zionist Council
Australia

ALLEANZA PER ISRAELE

Alleanza Per Israele
Italy



Alpha Epsilon Pi (AEPi)
United States

ALUMS
FOR CAMPUS FAIRNESS

Alums for Campus Fairness
United States



Am Yisrael Foundation
United States



American-Israeli Collaboration Enterprise (AICE)
United States



Americans for Peace & Tolerance (APT)
United States

AIJAC
AUSTRALIA ISRAEL & JEWISH AFFAIRS COUNCIL

Australia/Israel & Jewish Affairs Council (AIJAC)
Australia



Belgian Federation of Jewish Organizations
Belgium



Belgian Friends of Israel (BFOI)
Belgium



B'nai B'rith Canada
Canada

bicom

Britain Israel Communications and Research Centre (BICOM)
United Kingdom



Campaign Against Antisemitism (CAA)
United Kingdom

CIDI
centrum informatie en documentatie ISRAEL

Center for Information & Documentation Israel (CIDI)
The Netherlands

CIJA

Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA)
Canada



Christians and Jews United for Israel (CJUI)
United States



Club Z
United States

Coalition for Jewish Values

Coalition for Jewish Values
United States

CAMERA

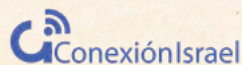
Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting and Analysis (CAMERA)
Worldwide



Comunidad Chilena De Israel
Israel



Con Israel Y Por La Paz
Argentina



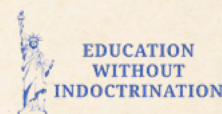
Conexión Israel
Latin America

Creative Community For Peace

Creative Community for Peace (CCFP)
United States



Eagles Wings
United States



Education Without Indoctrination
United States

EMET
Endowment for Middle East Truth

Endowment for Middle East Truth (EMET)
United States

EIIPA
EUROPE ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Europe Israel Public Affairs (EIPA)
Europe

eja | European Jewish Association
The Jewish Voice of Europe

European Jewish Association (EJA)
Europe

ELNET

European Leadership Network (ELNET)
Europe



European Maccabi Confederation (EMC)
Europe



Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Executive Council of Australian Jewry
Australia

Feldman Foundation California
United States

Feldman Foundation Texas
United States



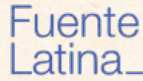
Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)
United States



Freedom Center
United States



Fuel for Truth
United States



Fuente Latina
Worldwide



God's Heaven Universal Church
Brazil



Hasbara Fellowships
United States



Hatzad Hasheni
Latin America



Haym Salomon Center
United States



Hebraica
Brazil

Hochberg Family Foundation
United States



Honest Reporting
Worldwide



Honestly Concerned
Germany



I Like Israel (ILI)
Germany



InfoEquitable
France



Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-SE)



Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP)



International Movement for Peace and Coexistence
Belgium



Ireland Israel Alliance
Ireland



Israel Advocacy Movement
United Kingdom

Israel Always



Israeli American Council (IAC)
United States



Israel Britain Alliance
United Kingdom



Israel Christian Nexus
United States



Israel on Campus Coalition (ICC)
United States



Israel Sin Fronteras
Ecuador



Istituto Milton Friedman
Italy



Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs

Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs (JCPA)
Israel



Jewish Community Council of South Australia
Australia



Jewish Community Council of Victoria
Australia



Jewish Policy Center
United States



Jewish Student Union Germany (JSUD)
Germany



Jewish War Veterans of the USA
United States



Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa (JIMENA)
United States



Licra Paris
France



Maccabee Task Force (MTF)
United States



Maccabi World Union
Worldwide



Makkabi Deutschland
Germany



Med Israel for Fred (MIFF)
Norway, Denmark & Iceland



Middle East Forum (MEF)
United States



Mideast Freedom Forum Berlin (MFFB)
Germany



Michael and Andrea Leven Family Foundation
United States

My Truth Israel



Nahost Friedens Forum (NAFFO)
Germany



National Council of Young Israel
United States



National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC)
United States



NC Coalition for Israel
United States



New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies
Australia



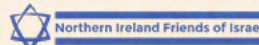
Newton and Rochelle Becker Charitable Trust
United States



NGO Monitor
Israel



North West Friends of Israel
United Kingdom



Northern Ireland Friends of Israel
United Kingdom



Online Antisemitism Taskforce



Online Hate Prevention Institute
United States



Organisation Juive Europeenne
France



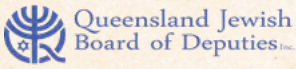
Orthodox Jewish Chamber of Commerce
United States



Osservatorio Antisemitismo of the CDEC Foundation
Italy



Palestinian Media Watch (PMW)
Israel



Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies
Australia



Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights
Canada



Reservists on Duty (ROD)
Israel



RI Coalition for Israel
United States



Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME)
United States



Simon Wiesenthal Center
Worldwide



Solomon - osservatorio sulle discriminazioni
Italy



StandWithUs
Worldwide



State Zionist Council of Queensland
Australia



State Zionist Council of Western Australia
Australia



StopAntisemitism.org
United States



Students Supporting Israel (SSI)
United States & Canada



Sussex Friends of Israel
United Kingdom



Sweden Israel Alliance (SIA)
Sweden



Swedish Zionist Federation
Sweden



The Gemunder Family Foundation
United States



The International Legal Forum (ILF)
Worldwide



The Israeli-Jewish Congress (IJC)
Israel



Thej.ca
United States

The Lisa and Michael Leffell Foundation
United States



The Lawfare Project
United States



The Milstein Family Foundation (MFF)
United States



The Philos Project
United States



The Pinsker Centre
United Kingdom



The Reut Group
Israel



Thirty (30) years after
United States



UK Lawyers for Israel (UKLFI)
United Kingdom



United Nations Watch



United with Israel



WerteInitiative-jüdisch-deutsche Positionen
Germany



World Values Network (WVN)
United States



Zachor Legal Institute
United States



Zionism Victoria
Australia



Zionist Federation of Australia
Australia



Zionist Organization of America (ZOA)
United States