

Opposition to IHRA working definition of antisemitism

At Windsor & District Labour Council's (WDLC) June 8th General Membership Meeting, the delegates adopted a resolution opposing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism.

Part of the resolution called for WDLC to make you/your organization and others aware of the position we have taken.

See the entire resolution below.

Thank you for your consideration.

Do not hesitate to contact us with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Hogan, President

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The resolution we adopted reads as follows:

Whereas

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism relating to “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews” is accompanied by what are called “contemporary examples” of antisemitism that are intended to form an integral part of the definition; and

Whereas

Of the 11 “contemporary examples” 7 refer to the state of Israel, politicizing the definition;

Whereas

The adoption of laws, policies, statements or definitions that equate criticism or opinions expressed about the state of Israel with an expression of hatred, bigotry or racism toward Jews or people of the Jewish faith undermines freedom of expression, free speech, freedom of conscience and academic freedom, and can (and has) been used to attack or suppress advocacy for Palestinian rights and opposition to the Israeli state or any of its policies or actions, including but not limited to its occupation

of Palestinian territory;

and Considering that

Organizations and groups such as Jewish Faculty in Canada Against the Adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Anti-Semitism, Independent Jewish Voices Canada, around 20 Canadian faculty associations and academic unions and over 600 Canadian academics have opposed adoption of the IHRA working definition

Be It Resolved That

Windsor and District Labour Council opposes the codification in any form, or endorsement or incorporation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism into policies or initiatives, such as those directed against racism, hatred or hate speech, by:

- the governments of Canada or Ontario or municipal governments;
- educational or other public institutions or bodies;
- bodies representing labour, including the CLC, the OFL or any of their regional affiliates, including this labour council; and

Where the IHRA working definition of antisemitism may have been adopted, on either a formal or informal basis, and any policies or actions flowing from this, be renounced and discontinued.