

APPENDIX TO MUNICIPAL ANTISEMITISM ACTION INDEX

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LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL ACTION





IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

LEGISLATION AND POLICY: Adoption of IHRA Definition

A key tool in curbing antisemitism is the **International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)** Working Definition of Antisemitism, the world's gold standard definition and a key pillar in government strategies to combat all forms of antisemitism.

The IHRA definition is being used around the world by municipal officials to develop training and educational programs for city staff and law enforcement personnel, and devise zero-tolerance policies against hatred and discrimination. Its impact has been bolstered by broad-based backing across the religious, political, ideological, and cultural spectrums.

Following adoption, municipalities must take proactive measures to incorporate the definition into anti-discrimination policies, educational curricula, and legal frameworks.

If you would like assistance from the Combat Antisemitism Movement on this important issue, please reach out to Lisa Katz at: lisa@combatantisemitism.org

FORM RESOLUTIONS:

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, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data, Jewish Americans are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate in the U.S., and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

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

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





IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

WHEREAS, in May 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA"), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted the Working Definition of Antisemitism, including eleven (11) contemporary examples, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations; and

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

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism has been adopted by many international and national organizations, including the United States State Department and the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education; and

WHEREAS all people of all faiths have a stake in fighting antisemitism, just as they have a stake in fighting every form of bigotry and hatred against people based on religion, race, national origin, age, ability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or socio-economic status;

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the values religious diversity and interfaith tolerance, and hereby rejects the perpetuation of antisemitic stereotypes; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] condemns antisemitic acts and statements as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME]; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] recognizes the growing problem of antisemitism in the U.S. and hereby adopts the non-binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven (11) contemporary examples stated therein, as an important tool to address it; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] directs municipal agencies to ensure that the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is available as an educational resource for the Department of Police and other departments and agencies responsible for addressing antisemitism and other forms of discrimination; and it is further





IHRA WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

RESOLVED, that [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] condemns antisemitism in all its forms, without exception, and encourages our elected officials, educators, community organizations, houses of worship and all citizens to work to understand and oppose antisemitism to ensure that the [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] will live up to the principles of diversity, tolerance, religious freedom, and equal protection.





LEGISLATION AND POLICY: Anti-Masking Legislation

Anti-masking legislation refers to laws that prohibit individuals from concealing their identities in public spaces—typically by wearing masks, **hoods**, or other face coverings—during protests, rallies, or while committing crimes. Historically enacted to counteract intimidation tactics used by hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan, these laws are designed to promote accountability and deter acts of hate, harassment, and violence carried out under the cover of anonymity.

In the fight against antisemitism and hate, anti-masking legislation is important because it helps prevent bad actors from hiding their identities while engaging in threatening or hateful behavior—whether it's posting antisemitic flyers, vandalizing synagogues, or disrupting peaceful gatherings. By ensuring people cannot act anonymously in public spaces with harmful intent, these laws help create safer, more transparent, and more respectful communities.

On August 14, 2024, Nassau County, New York's "Mask Transparency Law" was signed into law. Ballston Spa, a village near Albany, NY, also recently passed a mask ban.

If you would like assistance from the Combat Antisemitism Movement on this important issue, please reach out to Lisa Katz at: lisa@combatantisemitism.org

FORM RESOLUTIONS:

WHEREAS, it is against public policy for a mask or facial covering to be utilized for the purposes of concealing an individual's identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that a new law shall be enacted known as the "Mask Transparency Act" as follows:

SECTION 1. <u>Short Title</u>. This law shall be known as the "Mask Transparency Act" and shall appear in the [INSERT LAW SECTION AND TITLE].





SECTION 2. Definitions.

- A. "Mask or facial covering" shall mean any article, including but not limited to a mask, hood, or other device, worn by a person that covers a substantial portion of the face and conceals the identity of the wearer.
- B. "Public Place" shall mean any street, road, highway, sidewalk, walkway, alley, park, government building, or other area open to the general public.

SECTION 3. Legislative Intent.

- A. [INSERT MUNICIPALITY/STATE NAME] recognizes that antisemitic, racist, and other bias-motivated acts are increasingly carried out by individuals concealing their identities to avoid detection and accountability. This law seeks to deter such acts by reinforcing that intimidation and harassment under the cloak of anonymity will not be tolerated.
- B. This law is not intended to restrict or infringe upon any individual's rights under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or applicable state or local laws, including the rights to free speech, peaceful assembly, and religious expression. Rather, its intent is to protect public safety and promote accountability where anonymity is used to intimidate, threaten, or harass others.

SECTION 4. <u>Prohibition on wearing of masks or facial coverings for the purposes of concealing an individual's identity in public places.</u>

- A. No person or persons while wearing any mask or facial covering whereby the face or voice is disguised with the intent to conceal the identity of the wearer, shall enter, or appear upon or within any Public Place or on or within private property without the consent of the owner or tenant.
- B. This law shall not apply to individuals wearing masks or facial coverings to protect the health or safety of the wearer, for bona fide religious observance, for the peaceful celebration of a recognized holiday or similar cultural event or





theatrical performance, for which the wearing of masks or facial coverings are customarily worn, or any lawful or peaceful expressive conduct protected under the United States Constitution.

- C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a law enforcement officer may require a person or persons to remove a mask during traffic stops or when the officer has reasonable suspicion of criminal activity and/or intention to partake in criminal activity.
- D. The provisions of this section shall apply only if the person wearing the mask or facial covering:
 - remains or congregates in a public place with other persons so masked or disguised, or knowingly permits or aids persons so masked or disguised to congregate in a public place; or
 - acts with the intent, by force or threat of force, to injure, intimidate, or
 interfere with any person because of the person's exercise of any right
 secured by federal, state, or local law or to intimidate such person or
 any other person or any class of persons from exercising any right
 secured by federal, state, or local law; or
 - 3. acts with the intent to intimidate, threaten, abuse, or harass any other person; or
 - 4. is engaged in conduct that could reasonably lead to the institution of a civil or criminal proceeding against her or him, with the intent of avoiding identification in such a proceeding.

SECTION 5. <u>Penalties</u>. Any person that violates any provision of this law shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both. Law enforcement shall document violations of this law involving suspected hate-motivated activity and report such incidents to the appropriate civil rights or hate crimes task force or database.





SECTION 6. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm. partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect. impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which order or judgment shall be rendered.

SECTION 7. Effective Date. This law shall take effect immediately after becoming a law.





JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: Jewish American Heritage Month

In 2006, Congress passed a bipartisan resolution "calling on State and local governments and the people of the United States to observe" a full month to celebrate the long history of Jewish contributions to the founding and success of our country. Every year since, the President of the United States has proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM), and cities and states are beginning to follow suit. Now, at this time of soaring antisemitism at home and abroad, mayors can have a transformative impact in strengthening their communities and fighting this hatred by proclaiming and implementing JAHM at the municipal level.

The opposite of antisemitism is not tolerance, but an affirmative understanding and appreciation of Jewish history and values, and the deep contributions of that history and those values to the United States. Education around this heritage, which is JAHM's purpose, is a strategic and proactive measure in the fight against antisemitism.

In 2024, more than 170 municipalities, and 35 states proclaimed Jewish American Heritage Month, many for the first time. The first-ever U.S. National Strategy for Countering Antisemitism, released in 2023, calls on local government bodies and institutions to celebrate JAHM as a positive tool to combat rising hate.

If you would like assistance from the Combat Antisemitism Movement on this important issue, please reach out to Lisa Katz at: lisa@combatantisemitism.org

PROCLAMATION DECLARING MAY 2025 AS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, since their arrival on American shores as early as the 16th century, Jewish immigrants and their descendants have played a vital role in shaping the United States, contributing to the nation's creation, growth, freedom, prosperity, and enduring strength;

WHEREAS, the biblical and historical journey of the Jewish people—and the enduring values of the Jewish faith—have served as powerful sources of inspiration for the founding principles of the United States, the Civil Rights Movement, America's leadership in advancing global freedom, and the nation's ongoing pursuit of justice and equality;





INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHEREAS, Jewish Americans have made profound and lasting contributions to every aspect of American life, including the arts, sciences, business, law, education, public service, entertainment, and culinary traditions—enriching the cultural fabric of our nation and helping define what it means to be American;

WHEREAS, for over four decades, Presidents of the United States have formally recognized the invaluable contributions of Jewish Americans to our country, and since 2006, the month of May has been officially designated as **Jewish American Heritage Month** through Presidential proclamation and bipartisan Congressional support;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, [NAME], Mayor of the City of [NAME OF CITY], do hereby proclaim May 2025 as Jewish American Heritage Month in the City of [NAME OF CITY].

I call upon all residents to join in celebrating the remarkable history, heritage, and contributions of the Jewish community to our city and our nation. I further encourage:

- All city departments and agencies to commemorate this occasion through public announcements and the display of educational materials;
- Our local schools, colleges, and universities to offer programming that highlights Jewish American heritage and its impact on our shared civic values;
- Museums, libraries, and cultural institutions throughout [NAME OF CITY] to host exhibitions and events that honor Jewish American history and achievements.

Let this month serve as a time to reflect, learn, and celebrate the resilience, creativity, and enduring contributions of Jewish Americans throughout our history.

| IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have | hereunto | set my hand and caused | the Seal of the City of | of [NAME OF |
|-----------------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| CITY, STATE] to be affixed this _ | _ day of | , 2025. | | |
| | | | | |

[NAME OF CITY, STATE]

Mayor [NAME]





INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

EDUCATION AND AWARENESS: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is commemorated on January 27 each year, and it serves as a vital reminder of the consequences of hate and the importance of fostering tolerance and understanding.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day honors the memory of the six million Jews and millions of others who were murdered during the Holocaust. 2025 marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex. It is also a moment to reaffirm our collective commitment to combating antisemitism, hatred, and prejudice in all its forms.

Here are some meaningful ways your city can observe this important day:

- **Organize a Public Event:** Host a remembrance ceremony or invite a Holocaust survivor, educator, or historian to share their insights and stories with your community.
- Issue a Proclamation: Proclaim January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in your city to reaffirm your commitment to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and promoting tolerance. I have attached a draft Proclamation below.
- **Engage Schools and Youth:** Partner with local schools to include educational programs about the Holocaust, fostering awareness and understanding among younger generations.
- **Light a Candle of Remembrance:** Encourage your community to join in a symbolic act of remembrance by lighting candles to honor the victims of the Holocaust.
- **Partner with Local Organizations:** Collaborate with museums, cultural institutions, and faith-based organizations to create meaningful programming and outreach efforts.

If you would like assistance from the Combat Antisemitism Movement on this important issue, please reach out to Lisa Katz at: lisa@combatantisemitism.org

FORM PROCLAMATION:

WHEREAS, January 27 marks International Holocaust Remembrance Day, designated by the United Nations General Assembly to commemorate the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration and extermination camp; and





INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

WHEREAS, January 27, 2025, marks 80 years since the liberation; and

WHEREAS, today and every day, we remember and honor the memory of the six million Jews who were systematically murdered by Adolph Hiter and the Nazis, along with millions of other innocent victims, including people with disabilities, political dissidents, and others targeted for persecution; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism has been defined by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance 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, International Holocaust Remembrance Day serves as a solemn reminder of the dangers of hatred, bigotry, and antisemitism, and underscores the importance of education, vigilance, and action to prevent such atrocities from occurring again; and

WHEREAS, the City of [**NAME OF CITY**] reaffirms its commitment to promoting tolerance, understanding, and human dignity, while standing against all forms of hatred and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust remain a cornerstone of our collective memory and to honor the resilience and courage of those who survived and rebuilt their lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, [NAME], Mayor of the City of [NAME OF CITY], do hereby proclaim January 27, 2025, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day in the City of [City NAME OF CITY] and call upon all residents to join in solemn remembrance of the victims, educate themselves about the Holocaust, and commit to building a more tolerant and compassionate society; and it is further

RESOLVED, that I all citizens are urged to honor the lives that were lost and do their part to end antisemitism.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of [NAME OF CITY] to be affixed this [XX] day of January 2025.





INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Formation of Interfaith Committee

Interfaith committees are locally organized advisory groups that bring together leaders and representatives from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds to foster dialogue, build mutual understanding, and promote collaboration. These committees work to break down barriers, reduce prejudice, and create space for shared values to be celebrated through community events, educational programming, and civic engagement.

In the fight against antisemitism, racism, and all forms of hate, interfaith engagement is essential. When communities of different backgrounds come together to listen, learn, and act in solidarity, they create stronger, more resilient cities. Interfaith committees play a vital role in this effort—whether by hosting cultural exchanges and workshops, organizing public statements of unity, or responding to incidents of hate with coordinated moral clarity.

Cities across the country are recognizing the importance of this work. For example, Beverly Hills, California—host of the 2024 Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism—has led by example in elevating interfaith dialogue as a tool for civic healing and community-building..

If you would like assistance from the Combat Antisemitism Movement on this important issue, please reach out to Lisa Katz at: lisa@combatantisemitism.org

FORM RESOLUTIONS:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF [NAME] ESTABLISHING AN INTERFAITH COUNCIL TO FOSTER DIALOGUE, UNDERSTANDING, AND COOPERATION AMONG DIVERSE RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the City of [**NAME**] is home to a vibrant and diverse population, reflecting a wide range of religious, spiritual, and cultural traditions;

WHEREAS, promoting understanding, mutual respect, and cooperation among the city's diverse religious and ethnic communities is essential to promoting social harmony, civic unity, and a hate-free community;

WHEREAS, interfaith and intercultural dialogue can strengthen community resilience, promote shared values, and contribute to a safer and more compassionate city for all;





INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City Council to create a formal structure that brings together faith and community leaders to engage in dialogue, coordinate joint efforts, and plan public events that reflect the city's commitment to belonging and shared celebration;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that there is hereby established the City of [**NAME**] Interfaith Council (the "Interfaith Council") as an advisory body to the City Council; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the purpose of the Interfaith Council shall be to:

- 1. Foster mutual understanding, respect, and collaboration among different faith-based and ethnic communities in the City of [NAME];
- 2. Create a platform for constructive dialogue on shared values and social challenges;
- 3. Advise the City Council on matters related to interfaith engagement, tolerance and belonging;
- 4. Organize and promote events such as interfaith festivals, cultural celebrations, service projects, educational workshops, and public dialogues that highlight the city's diversity and unity;
- 5. Serve as a resource to city departments and the community during times of crisis or conflict to help promote healing, solidarity, and community well-being; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Interfaith Council shall be composed of [**INSERT NUMBER**] members appointed by the City Council, with efforts made to ensure that membership reflects the religious and cultural diversity of the City of [**NAME**], including but not limited to:

- Representatives from a broad range of religious and spiritual traditions practiced in the city;
- Leaders from cultural, civic, and community organizations; and
- Youth and intergenerational representatives to ensure diverse perspectives; and it is further





INTERFAITH COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that the Interfaith Council shall meet at least quarterly, and more frequently as needed. Meetings shall be open to the public, and minutes shall be recorded and made available through the City's official channels; and it is further

RESOLVED, that City staff shall provide administrative and logistical support to the Interfaith Council, including assistance in organizing public events and promoting outreach efforts; and it is further

RESOLVED, that these Resolutions shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Training and Empowering LAW ENFORCEMENT to Combat Antisemitism

The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM), a global coalition at the forefront of the battle against antisemitism, has launched a **Law Enforcement Training Program** to addresses the urgent rise of extremism in the U.S. and to equip officers with the tools to recognize and respond to antisemitism.

The training features subject matter experts on terrorism and antisemitism. It draws on cutting-edge research, including the GW Program on Extremism's recently released <u>study</u> outlining Hamas's influence on U.S. campuses, which is just one of many reports it has issued on extremism and antisemitism in America. Thus far, approximately 600 public safety officers in Virginia, Indiana, Florida, and New York have undergone this vital training.

The training is tailored to educate law enforcement personnel from federal and state agencies, detectives, police officers, sheriffs, university police, District Attorneys General, and other public safety officers. Participants gain critical insights into the roots of extremism and extremist groups, the evolving manifestations of antisemitism, and actionable items to mitigate related threats.

You can find an article about a recent training program with the New York City Police Department <u>here</u>.

Due to the critical information disseminated at these trainings, federal, state, and local law enforcement officers in Virginia searched the home of two <u>George Mason University</u> students, both leaders of the school's SJP Chapter, and found firearms, ammunition, and pro-terrorist materials.

CAM encourages Mayors, Chiefs of Police, Governors and Attorneys General to support and implement this training throughout their cities and states to help ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities and society at large. Since October 7, 2023, our country has seen an explosion of antisemitic and anti-Israel activity, endangering the lives of Jewish students and the entire Jewish community. According to a recent survey commissioned by CAM, 3.5 million American Jews have personally encountered antisemitism since October 7th. Additionally, after October 7th, the Antisemitism Research Center by CAM (ARC) recorded a 585% rise in weekly antisemitic incidents on U.S. college campuses through May 2024.

For more information about CAM or to sign up for our newsletter, please visit https://combatantisemitism.org/

Please email training@combatantisemitism.org to book a training session and for additional information.

