

Resolution Endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism

WHEREAS, the working definition of anti-Semitism reads as follows: "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."

WHEREAS, healthy democratic life depends upon inclusive and respectful communities.

WHEREAS, actions and ideas that advance hatred and intolerance threaten the health of our democracy.

WHEREAS, acts of hatred and intolerance against people of color, Jews, Muslims, Mexican Americans, and many others persist and too often lead to tragic acts of violence and the spread of toxic conspiracy theories.

WHEREAS, over the last decade, antisemitic ideas – emanating from the extreme political right, left, and elsewhere - have steadily been moving from the margins to the mainstream of American life.

WHEREAS, defeating viral antisemitism is essential to securing our democracy and part of the broader struggle to realize the promise of America for all its inhabitants.

WHEREAS, fighting antisemitism requires a common understanding of the many ways that antisemitism appears in our communities.

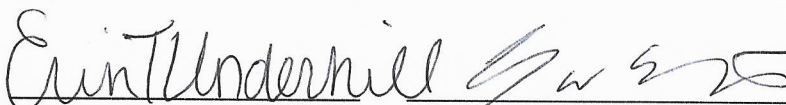
WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism is an important tool in the fight against antisemitism and provides GUIDEPOSTS that help recognize and facilitate constructive discussion about whether any statement or action may be antisemitic.

WHEREAS, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is intended as a teaching tool and resource for communities intent on understanding and constructively addressing antisemitism.

Whereas respected influential people in our Commonwealth from the world of politics, business, finance, healthcare, non-profits and beyond have signed a letter of support for use of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

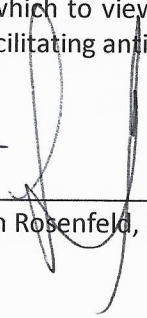
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we, the Select Board of the Town of Millis believe that the [IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism](#) is a vital resource in the struggle against antisemitism, and that it will facilitate constructive discourse, further understanding, and enable effective responses to harmful behavior that diminishes our democracy and harms its citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all departments, boards, and commissions of the Town of Millis are encouraged to use the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism as a lens through which to view policies and actions in order to address antisemitism or to avoid inadvertently engaging in or facilitating antisemitism.



Erin T. Underhill, Chair

Craig W. Schultze, Vice Chair



Ellen Rosenfeld, Clerk

Adopted June 6, 2022