

Resolution Defining and Addressing Antisemitism

Adopted by the Arlington County Board on June 21, 2022

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation or faith, remains a persistent problem globally and in American society; and

WHEREAS, Jews are a targeted minority for violence and hate in the United States, have experienced an increase in incidents of hate and are the most likely religious group to be victimized by such incidents, specifically comprising the targets of 55% of religion-based crimes according to the 2020 FBI Hate Crime Report, while representing only 2% of the country's population; and

WHEREAS, recent acts of white supremacist violence and terrorism, such as the murder of ten Black Americans in Buffalo, New York motivated by antisemitic "replacement theory" demonstrate how antisemitism is linked to and buttresses other forms of racist hatred; and

WHEREAS, religion, race and ethnicity are all protected classes in Arlington's Human Rights Ordinance, representing an existing cause of action for antisemitic discrimination; and

WHEREAS, establishing and creating a definition of antisemitism can increase awareness of antisemitism in the community, leading to better monitoring, reporting, informed analysis and investigation of incidents, thus improving public safety and policymaking; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted a Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized and authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education, in monitoring, training and education; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF VIRGINIA:

That Arlington County adopts the non-legally-binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism:

"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."

And further encourages the Working Definition's use as an educational resource for all County agencies responsible for addressing discrimination in our community.