

Comparison of IHRA and Labour Party Definitions of Antisemitism

IHRA in Black. Labour in Red

Definition of anti-Semitism

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Shared examples of Antisemitism

- 1 Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
It is wrong to accuse Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- 2 Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- 3 Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- 4 Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
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- 5 Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of Nazi Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

- 6 Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

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- 7 Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.

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- 8 Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.

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Some difference

- 9 Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination

The Party is clear that the Jewish people have the same right to self-determination as any other people. That does not, of course, preclude considered debate and discourse about the nature or content of the right of peoples to self-determination.

Additional examples of antisemitism from Labour

Classic antisemitism also includes the use of derogatory terms for Jewish people (such as “kike” or “yid”); stereotypical and negative physical depictions/descriptions or character traits, such as references to wealth or avarice and — in the political arena — equating Jews with capitalists or the ruling class.

The making of unjustified reference to the protected characteristic of being Jewish. [For example] media reports of alleged crime that refer to the race of a “black” suspect when no equivalent reference would be made to the race of a white suspect. [in this case, for example ‘Jewish banker’]

Apply double standards by requiring more vociferous condemnation of such actions [by Israel] from Jewish people or organisations than from others

Areas of difference

Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

Discourse about international politics often employs metaphors drawn from examples of historic misconduct. It is not antisemitism to criticise the conduct or policies of the Israeli state by reference to such examples unless there is evidence of antisemitic intent. Chakrabarti recommended that Labour members should resist the use of Hitler, Nazi and Holocaust metaphors, distortions and comparisons in debates about Israel-Palestine in particular. In this sensitive area, such language carries a strong risk of being regarded as prejudicial or grossly detrimental to the Party within Clause 2.1.8.

Applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic

... claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.

...discussion of the circumstances of the foundation of the Israeli state (for example, in the context of its impact on the Palestinian people) forms a legitimate part of modern political discourse. So does discussion of – including critical comment on -- differential impact of Israeli laws or policies on different people within its population or that of neighbouring territories. It is not racist to assess the conduct of Israel – or indeed of any other particular state or government – against the requirements of international law or the standards of behaviour expected of democratic states (bearing in mind that these requirements and standards may themselves be contentious).

However, care must be taken when dealing with these topics. The fact of Israel's description as a Jewish state does not make it permissible to hold Jewish people or institutions in general responsible for alleged misconduct on the part of that state (see paragraph 9.g.). In addition, it is wrong to apply double standards by requiring more vociferous condemnation of such actions from Jewish people or organisations than from others – a form of racist treatment also all too common in other contexts, eg. holding Muslims or Muslim organisations to a higher standard than others as regards condemnation of illegal or violent acts by self-defining "Islamic" organisations or states (such as Saudi Arabia or Pakistan).

The term "Zionism" is intimately bound up in the history of Israel's foundation as a state and in its role in international relations more generally. It is inevitable that the expressions "Zionism" and "Zionist" will feature in political discourse about these topics. The meaning of these expressions is itself debated. It is not antisemitism to refer to "Zionism" and "Zionists" as part of a considered discussion about the Israeli state. However, as the Chakrabarti Report advised, it is not permissible to use "Zionist" (and still less any pejorative abbreviation such as 'zio' which the Chakrabarti report said should have no place in Labour Party discourse) as a code word for "Jew". Chakrabarti recommended that Labour Party members should only use "the term 'Zionist' advisedly, carefully and never

euphemistically or as part of personal abuse”. Such language may otherwise provide evidence of antisemitic intent.