



City of Mercer Island, Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The City of Mercer Island stands committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful community for all its residents, free from discrimination and prejudice.

Mercer Island is the proud home of one of Washington State's largest Jewish populations and several Jewish institutions and organizations, including the Jewish Community Center, Synagogues, and Jewish schools, which serve the broader Jewish community in the region.

Antisemitism is a pernicious form of prejudice that has caused immense suffering throughout history and continues to pose a threat to Jewish individuals and communities worldwide. The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has formulated a non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, which the IHRA Plenary adopted in Bucharest on May 26, 2016.

This definition provides a clear and comprehensive description of antisemitism in its various forms, including but not limited to its rhetorical and physical manifestations directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and their property, community institutions, and religious facilities.

The IHRA definition includes examples of contemporary antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and the religious sphere and offers guidance on identifying instances of antisemitism effectively.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Salim Nice, Mayor of the City of Mercer Island, do hereby proclaim adoption of the IHRA's non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples stated in Exhibit A that help protect Jewish people on Mercer Island from hate and discrimination, 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."

I encourage all city officials, residents, and partners in our community to join in this critical effort to combat antisemitism in all its forms, ensuring Mercer Island remains a place of safety, respect, and dignity for all.

APPROVED, this 16th day of July 2023

Mayor Salim Nice

Proclamation No. 339



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- 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.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.