

ZACHOR

Legal Institute

www.ZachorLegal.org

Info@ZachorLegal.org

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Dear Mr. Kling:

As an upstanding and influential member of the social media sector, we at [Zachor Legal Institute](http://ZachorLegalInstitute) appreciate Facebook's commitment to prohibiting hate speech because it creates an environment of intimidation and exclusion and in some cases may promote real-world violence.

Therefore, I would like to call your attention to a posting on your platform, on the page: [Palestine Writes](#):

Palestine Writes
May 15 at 7:22 PM · 🌐

"As we commemorate the continuing Nakba, the theft of Palestinian land and the dispossession of Palestinian people, we also commemorate over 72 years of Palestinian resistance for liberation and return."

<https://www.facebook.com/SamidounPrisonerSolidarity/videos/249946979550540/>
#Nakba72 #FreePalestine

2,787 Views

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network
May 15 at 2:46 PM · 🌐 Like Page

On 15-22 May 2020 we urge you to join us in Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network in the Week of Palestinian Struggle.

This posting links to the [Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network](#). This is a call to action for Palestinian terror, complete with pictures of terrorists, and the slogan: "river to sea", which is a well-known expression meaning that Palestine should run from the (Jordan) river to the (Mediterranean) sea, thus eliminating the state of Israel from existence.

[Antisemitism is rising at very rapid rates](#) throughout the US and the rest of the world, and social media plays a large role in propagating this hate.

I am aware of the difficulty of identifying hate speech, including antisemitism. However, there is an international organization that can help in this regard, making it clear for example that calling for the elimination of Israel is antisemitic.

[Countries throughout the world](#) are adopting the [IHRA definition of antisemitism](#), which includes both the age-old hatred targeting Jews as well as the more modern venom aimed at Israel as a proxy for Jews. The IHRA definition is the de-facto standard in the US and internationally for defining this hateful menace.

The inclusion of the newer form of antisemitism targeting Israel is critical for the following reasons:

- On university campuses where antisemitism is so prevalent, the primary form this takes is discrimination aimed at Israel and Jews who support Israel.
- Antisemitism targeting Israel rather than Jews directly is more nefarious, as it is regularly claimed that the attacks are legitimate criticisms of Israel, and often even disguised as Palestinian human rights expressions, when in reality the organized movements targeting Israel openly admit that their goal is to eliminate Israel as a Jewish nation.

What the IHRA definition does is distinguish between legitimate criticisms of Israel that are protected free speech, and expressions that cross the line into unprotected antisemitic hate speech. Adoption and implementation of the IHRA definition of antisemitism is as legitimate an anti-discrimination measure as the use of similar laws and regulations that prohibit other forms of discrimination, including LGBTQ and gender discrimination.

In the United States, the State Department has adopted the IHRA definition, and the recent [Executive Order Combating Anti-Semitism](#) instructs the Department of Education to consider IHRA when evaluating Title VI Civil Rights Act complaints of discrimination against federally funded academic institutions and programs.

What is critically missing is acceptance and enforcement in the online and technology sectors, where anti-Semitism is today most prevalent and spreads quickest. For instance, we at [Zachor Legal Institute](#) referenced in our report [The New Anti-Semites](#) an ADL study that “reported 4.2 million antisemitic tweets on Twitter in 2017 alone. This means that over the course of the study, throughout 2017, an average of 81,400 antisemitic tweets were generated per week.”.

I have highlighted above one of the many current postings on Facebook that is clearly antisemitic according to the IHRA working definition.

We ask that Facebook stand up and take a leading role in combating online antisemitism by joining countries throughout the world in adopting the IHRA working definition as their standard for identifying antisemitism as expressions that violate their existing hate content restrictions, and then actively enforcing throughout their online platforms.

Let's work together to stop the viral spreading of antisemitism on social media and make the world a safer place.

Regards,

Ron Machol

Zachor Legal Institute

(334) 246-1105

ron@zachorlegal.org

