

ZACHOR

Legal Institute

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Dear Mr. Edgett:

As an upstanding and influential member of the social media sector, we at [Zachor Legal Institute](http://ZachorLegalInstitute) appreciate Twitter's commitment to create a safe environment for your community by prohibiting promotion of violence against or directly attacking or threatening other people on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, caste, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, religious affiliation, age, disability, or serious disease.

Therefore, I would like to call your attention to tweets on your platform, including:



and



Without highlighting the untruths in these tweets, one thing that is clear to all is that one compares Israel to Nazis and the other uses 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 comparing Israel to Nazis and/or 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 two of the many current postings on Twitter that are clearly antisemitic according to the IHRA working definition.

We ask that Twitter 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,

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