



Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights
Regarding Antisemitism and Additional Measures to Address the Fears of Canada's Jewish Community

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Secure Canada is a non-profit organization originally founded by Canadian victims of terror. Our mission is to combat terrorism, extremism, and related threats to Canada's national security and democracy by creating innovative and transformative laws, policies, and alliances.

Secure Canada is not a Jewish organization, and antisemitism is not referenced in our mandate. But it has become increasingly clear that antisemitism is evolving into a national – and global - security threat – thereby placing this issue squarely within our mandate.¹

Antisemitism will never be eliminated in its entirety, but all levels of Canadian government – starting at the top – must commit every available resource to pushing antisemitism back to the fringes. This is not just for the protection of Canada's Jewish communities but for all Canadians.

There will not be one silver bullet but there are meaningful changes that can be made.

In addition to my verbal presentation before the committee today, please find below select recommendations from Secure Canada that can help combat antisemitism and thereby strengthen Canada's national security and democracy:

- 1) Recommit to the IHRA definition as the best definition on antisemitism available as it captures the shifting nature of this unique and pervasive form of hatred. It is important to recognize that anti-Zionism is an essential component of today's manifestation of antisemitism. Consider the late brilliant Jonathan Sacks on this matter:

¹ We are also pleased to be a member of the informal coalition called the Alliance Against Campus Antisemitism in Canada.

It is easy to hate, but difficult publicly to justify hate. Throughout history, when people have sought to justify anti-Semitism, they have done so by recourse to the highest source of authority available within the culture. In the Middle Ages, it was religion. So we had religious anti-Judaism. In post-Enlightenment Europe it was science. So we had the twin foundations of Nazi ideology, Social Darwinism and the so-called Scientific Study of Race. Today the highest source of authority worldwide is human rights. That is why Israel—the only fully functioning democracy in the Middle East with a free press and independent judiciary—is regularly accused of the five cardinal sins against human rights: racism, apartheid, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and attempted genocide.

This is despite the fact that Israel is far better than any of its neighbours at managing an ethnically and religiously diverse population.

Another indication that Zionism is a modern manifestation of antisemitism is the fact that no other ethnic or religious group is expected to disavow ancestral ties to an indigenous homeland except for the Jewish community in the diaspora. The vast majority of Jews in Canada identify as Zionists insofar as they believe that Jewish people have the right to self-determination within a part of their ancient homeland. A refusal to disavow Zionism and 'actively labour' to defeat it opens them up to ostracization, harassment, and abuse in work settings, school campuses, and broader society.

- 2) Ensure that government funding does not go to individuals and organizations that are in breach of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. An egregious example was Laif Marouf receiving government funding to conduct anti-racism training while espousing shockingly antisemitic and hateful rhetoric.
- 3) Government agencies must investigate and decertify non-profit and charitable organizations with documented ties to groups that promote hatred, extremism, and terrorism.
- 4) The government of Canada must do a better job of proscribing groups that fund, promote, and commit terrorist activities. Examples include Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and Samidoun, which is a front for the PFLP, a listed terror group in Canada.
- 5) Review the guidelines for federal grants to universities and how universities in turn provide grants to other organizations, in order to protect against antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.
- 6) Review the relevant guidelines to ensure that diversity, equity and inclusion programs under federal jurisdiction do not exclude Jews. Instead, DEI programs should offer Jews the same understanding, respect, and consideration afforded to other minorities.
- 7) Develop strategies to break down the destructive academic and DEI paradigms, in which Jews and Israelis are portrayed as today's ultimate embodiment of evil - white, rich, privileged, racist, colonizing oppressors. Our academic institutions seem to find fault only with democracies, while

elevating dictatorial regimes like Iran, and reframing all political, historical, cultural, and even scientific matters to fit within a false oppressed/oppressor framework.

- 8) Enforce current immigration laws. For instance, a new group called Lawyers for Secure Immigration has noted the absence of enforcement activity against international students (non-citizens) who are on Canadian university campuses espousing blatant support for the goals and aspirations of Hamas, in violation of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. Immigration lawyer David Matas explains, "Canada should not be a haven for members of terrorist organizations. Yet, the absence of enforcement activity against non-citizen members of terrorist organizations who manifest only in Canada their involvement in or commitment to terrorist organizations overseas is troubling."
- 9) Tighten the rules on foreign funding of Canadian universities and crack down on foreign interference. ISGAP has documented billions of dollars donated to American elite institutions by foreign states, including Qatar, finding a strong correlation between those foreign donations and a deterioration of academic freedom, free speech, and viewpoint diversity.
- 10) Strengthen education in schools to instill understanding of and pride in a Canadian liberal democratic national identity, and invest in Canadian identity-building for new immigrants. There is genuine fear among Canada's Jewish community that new immigrants, students, and refugees are importing well-learned hatred of Jews from their countries of origin and not being taught to leave their old hatreds at the border.
- 11) Empower organizations that are in line with Canadian values and shared identity. Support initiatives that promote counter-narratives to extremist propaganda to better protect vulnerable individuals and communities.
- 12) Unequivocally condemn the antisemitic hate speech and law-breaking on Canadian streets and university campuses, with the same intensity that would be used if the targeted group was not Jewish but Black, Indigenous, or LGBTQ, for example.
- 13) Criminalize the glorification and promotion of terrorism.
- 14) Take steps to improve Canada's ability to deter, enforce, and detect money laundering, and terror financing through better coordination between intelligence services, law enforcement, the business sector, and civil society.
- 15) Provide more antisemitism training for police, and more funding for police to protect vulnerable groups like the Jewish community.