

Miles Kelley, *Siegfried Hall Senator*
Daniel Schermerhorn, *Baumer Hall Senator*
Margaret Allen, *Flaherty Hall Senator*
Sara Kirsch, *Breen-Phillips Hall Senator*
Grace Franco, *Walsh Hall Senator*
Eliza Smith, *Johnson Family Hall Senator*
Dan Law, *Dillon Hall Senator*
Renee Pierson, *Sophomore Class President*
Michael J. Murakami, *Dunne Hall Senator*
Alec Breiler, *O'Neill Family Hall Senator*

A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING, DEFINING, AND CONDEMNING ANTISEMITISM IN SOLIDARITY WITH JEWISH STUDENTS

Whereas, the University of Notre Dame has a [commitment to diversity and inclusion](#) that is “at the heart of our mission” and “arises from our aspirations about the community we want to be, the educational environment we hope to provide our students, and the moral character they will develop during their time with us,” where the principles of diversity and inclusion include: “Respect the dignity of every person; Build a Notre Dame community in which all can flourish; Live in solidarity with all, particularly the most vulnerable”;

Whereas, [Notre Dame Student Government](#) “strives to amplify student voices” and “People from all corners of campus are welcomed members of Student Government as we strive to represent every person”;

Whereas, Jewish students, like any other group, constitute an important part of the Notre Dame community, yet remain distinguishable by common ethnic, religious, or cultural characteristics;

Whereas, the Jewish community is thus a distinct and significant cultural community within the university, which Notre Dame is [charter-bound](#) to support, protect, and defend;

Whereas, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance [defines](#) antisemitism as “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”;

Whereas, the above IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism [specifies](#) that manifestations of antisemitism “might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot

be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for ‘why things go wrong.’ It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits”;

Whereas, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism [provides](#) examples of antisemitism, that, considering the overall context of the situation, 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”;

Whereas, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism [states](#) that “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”;

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Whereas, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism is a [“non-legally binding”](#) definition to be used as an education tool for guiding discussions about antisemitism and responding to antisemitism. The definition “is not a means to squelch debate or free speech”;

Whereas, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism does not prohibit criticism of the State of Israel; rather, it explains how some, not all, forms of criticism can become a form of antisemitism”;

Whereas, the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism has been adopted by the [United States](#), as well as by Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and many other [countries](#) and universities;

Whereas, there has been a [record increase](#) in antisemitic attacks across the nation in recent years, with a 12% increase in 2019 and 56% increase in assaults. Recent attacks include events such as:

- Boise, ID Anne Frank Memorial Vandalism (2020)
- Kenosha, WI Beth Hillel Temple Vandalism (2020)
- Los Angeles, CA where rioters spray-painted synagogues with “F*ck Israel” and “Free Palestine”, applying political hatred against Israel to Jewish religious institutions (2020)
- Monsey, NY Hanukkah Stabbing (2019)
- Los Angeles, CA Nessah Synagogue Vandalism (2019)
- Jersey City, NJ Shooting at a Kosher Supermarket (2019)
- Poway, CA Chabad Synagogue Shooting (2019)
- Pittsburgh, PA Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting (2018)
- Charlottesville, NC white supremacist demonstration where demonstrators were chanting “Jews will not replace us” (2017)
- Overland Park, KA Jewish Community Center Shooting (2014);

Whereas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) noted that in 2018, 57.8% of religious-based hate crimes in the United States were [targeted](#) against Jews, despite Jews [comprising](#) 1.8% of the United States population;

Whereas, in the 2020-2021 academic year alone, antisemitic incidents on college campuses have risen significantly, including, but not limited to:

- John Hopkins University, where four swastikas were etched into a dormitory elevator
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, where offices were broken into and marked with antisemitic and racist vandalism
- University of Texas - Austin, where antisemitic graffiti was found in the Sigma Theta Chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu
- Dartmouth College, where a Chabad menorah was vandalized

- University of Kentucky, where a menorah outside the Chabad Jewish Student Center was vandalized
- Arizona State University, where antisemitic posters from the Neo-Nazi group Folks Front were posted around campus
- University of Delaware Chabad set on fire
- Brandeis University bomb threat
- University of Southern California (USC) Student Government Vice President resigned after antisemitic bullying;

Whereas, at the University of Notre Dame, the Ansari Institute, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, the Program in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, and the Classics Department held the event “Peace in Abstentia – Jewish, Christian and Muslim Voices on Arab-Israeli Normalization” that featured speakers who [engaged](#) in the demonization of Israel, Zionists and Jews and the promotion of Boycott, Divest, and Sanction (BDS). These remarks included:

- Accusations that Israel is a settler colonial state
- Portraying BDS in a positive light and that Jews have a “religious imperative” to support it, despite the movement’s antisemitic [character](#);

Whereas, due to these events, inclusivity and safety for Jewish students has not been secured, along with other minority and underrepresented groups;

Whereas, despite its troubling history of antisemitism, the Catholic Church has been proactive in its efforts to fight hatred against Jews and establish strong ties between Catholic and Jewish communities, including:

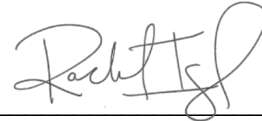
- Pope Francis’s [denouncement](#) of increasing violence against Jews across the world
- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) establishing [guidelines](#) for positive relations between Catholics and Jews
- The Vatican [directing](#) Catholics to not attempt to convert Jews;

Whereas, as a Catholic institution, the University of Notre Dame and its community have a unique position in the fight against antisemitism, demonstrating solidarity with the Jews on campus and across the world;

***Resolved*, the Student Senate of the University of Notre Dame du Lac unreservedly condemns all acts of discrimination, violence, and bigotry against the Jewish community, both on and off the University of Notre Dame campus; and be it**

Further resolved, the Student Senate stands by the Jewish community and condemns all acts of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination against all members of the Notre Dame student body and community; and be it

Further resolved, the Student Senate calls upon the University of Notre Dame to adopt the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism listed above as Notre Dame's official definition of antisemitism.



Rachel Ingal
Student Body President