



**The United Church
of Canada
General Council**

GC45 SW06 The IHRA Antisemitism Definition - A Threat to Charter Rights for Summer 2025

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Origin: Palestine Network – Shining Waters Region

Many United Church people are concerned about what is happening under Israel's military occupation of Palestine. Yet they take no action over fear that they will be or be accused of being antisemitic.

The widespread promotion of the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance](#) (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism likely contributes to this fear. It lists 11 of what it identifies as illustrative examples of antisemitism, 7 of which refer to criticism of the State of Israel. Many scholars have criticized this focus on Israel, and a more recent definition has been developed without this focus. This [Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism](#) (JDA) is endorsed by a growing list of scholars in the fields of Holocaust history, Jewish studies, and Middle East studies.

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