



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Local Authority Leaders

**The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP**  
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Dear Leader,

### **Adoption of the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism**

In December 2016, the Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism; the first European Union country to do so.

The definition, although legally non-binding, is an important tool for public bodies to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself in the 21st century, as it gives examples of the kind of behaviours which depending on the circumstances could constitute anti-Semitism. The full text of the definition can be found at:

[https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press\\_release\\_document\\_anti\\_semitism.pdf](https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press_release_document_anti_semitism.pdf)

We are well aware that anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in this country. It is therefore right that, as a Government, we are able to demonstrate the seriousness with which we take it, as for all forms of hate crime. Anti-Semitism must be understood for what it is – an attack on the identity of people who live, contribute and are valued in our society. In light of this, I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to formally adopt the definition and consider its application in your own authority.

**THE RT HON SAJID JAVID MP**