COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

FROM NATIONAL STRATEGIES TO LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

ACTION PLAN

While forms and manifestations of antisemitism vary widely, and the perpetrators are also very different, policy recommendations to combat one of humanity's oldest enemies are often quite similar across sectors and their communities. Therefore, an improved, unified, and strategic approach is needed to effectively combat antisemitism in universities, the arts and culture sector, in sports and on digital platforms. The focus must be on data collection, education, adoption of the IHRA definition, accountability, and community empowerment.

1. Strengthening Data Collection and Monitoring Efforts

Strengthening data collection and monitoring efforts is critical for identifying, understanding, and responding to antisemitic incidents. **Periodic, scientifically validated reports** will ensure transparency and guide interventions. Ensuring the **accessibility of this data for academic research** is essential. A centralized oversight body should monitor the discovered trends and allocate resources efficiently, allowing for timely responses. Such body could be established within the team of a National Antisemitism Commissioner and should also implement and supervise reporting opportunities in all realms of life (e.g. sports, universities) to support the scientific research but also create safe spaces if necessary. Existing opportunities for data collection should be utilized, such as the Maccabi (Youth) Games within the sports realm.

In addition to collecting data on antisemitism, a second aspect must be considered: **Tracking and exposing financial flows** that support antisemitic organizations, networks and activities is crucial to effectively disrupt these activities. By identifying the sources of funding, the beneficiaries and the financial supporters, accountability can be established and the resources that support antisemitic campaigns can be cut off.

To **combat the spread of antisemitic content online, a dual approach combining Artificial Intelligence (AI) and human moderation of content** must be pursued. AI systems should be developed and trained to identify, flag, and remove harmful content in real-time, including antisemitic language, images, videos, and coded symbols.

2. Raising Awareness and Education for Key Stakeholders

Raising awareness and education among stakeholders across key sectors must be a priority. Comprehensive training programs should target university faculty staff, and students, artists as well as institutions within the arts and culture sector, and in sports, athletes, coaches, fans, as well as social media moderators, users, not to mention technology leaders.

Curricula should focus on recognizing antisemitism, decoding manifestations — such as Israel-related antisemitism — and providing practical tools for prevention and intervention. **Integrating the history and current realities of antisemitism into training and certification programs** will promote understanding, inclusivity, and resilience across all levels of society. The implementation of educational programs must be **firmly embedded in institutional structures** to ensure long-term sustainability, awareness, and effectiveness.

3. Institutionalizing the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

A crucial step in ensuring unified standards is the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism by all sectors of society. This internationally recognized standard provides clarity on identifying and addressing antisemitism, including its modern manifestations, and ensures that policies and initiatives are rooted in a shared understanding. By **anchoring the IHRA definition in institutional structures**, it becomes a standard reference point for preventing antisemitism in all its forms.

Government-funded projects must adopt this definition to ensure they uphold the values of inclusion, diversity, and human dignity with respect to Jewish life. By embedding the **IHRA definition in criteria for public funding** but also in the policies of institutions (e.g. universities and major soccer clubs), clear guidelines can be established to identify antisemitism in all its forms and prevent its perpetuation.

Wherever institutionalized antisemitism commissioners are not an option, **IHRA ambassadors from the respective sectors can help to promote the adoption of the IHRA definition**, raise awareness, and implement best practices tailored to the respective industry.

4. Ensuring Accountability and Enforceable Measures

Ensuring clear accountability and enforceable measures is crucial. Institutions must adopt and **implement codes of conduct with specific anti-discrimination provisions**, ensuring clear consequences for antisemitic behavior. Universities, sports organizations, cultural institutions, and digital platforms must be held accountable through consistent enforcement of policies and existing legal frameworks. For tech companies, **failure to address antisemitic content should result in financial penalties**, with fines redirected to NGOs actively working against antisemitism.

To promote a safer and more inclusive **digital environment, reward systems should be introduced to encourage positive user behavior**. Platforms can implement mechanisms that recognize and reward users who actively contribute to fostering respectful, inclusive, and antisemitism-free online spaces. This could include incentives such as badges, reputation scores, or access to educational opportunities for users who consistently demonstrate constructive engagement and adherence to community standards.

5. Empowering Civil Society Initiatives and Jewish Communities

Finally, **empowering civil society and Jewish community initiatives** is crucial. Existing civil society organizations fighting antisemitism must receive targeted support and resources to expand their initiatives. Jewish student organizations and fan-led support groups in sports clubs should be officially recognized and enabled to create safe spaces, engage in educational activities and lobby effectively. Promoting positive representations of Jewish culture and pride, both online and offline, will promote visibility and strengthen Jewish communities.