

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Dr. Alexander Gruentzig, 255 Marlboro Rd, Sudbury, MA01776

Sent from my iPhone

5/24/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Amy and David Rose

35 Stone Root Lane
Sudbury

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

It is no secret that Antisemitism is on the rise and is becoming more and more prevalent in the lives of Jewish people across the globe.

While there are organizations who are doing their best to combat prejudice, ignorance and hatred toward the Jewish population, more education is urgently needed.

By adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism in the Town of Sudbury, we have an opportunity to lead by example and demonstrate that we, the Town of Sudbury, support our Jewish neighbors, friends, students and colleagues and are committed to doing what we can through education to help extinguish hateful acts Jews are experiencing daily.

It is with hope that Sudbury will support adopting the IHRA definition and help create a better environment for all.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Andrea and Jeff Brener
9 Blacksmith Drive
Sudbury

5/22/22

I believe that Sudbury should adopt the IHRA definitio because a public adoption of antisemitism makes it clear that Sudbury will not allow antisemetic acts and opens the door to conversations when casual antisemetic remarks and deeds are done.

As a parent of three LS graduates, I have heard a variety of antisemetic remarks made, mostly inadvertently, by people working with my children in Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts. The remarks were disturbing because they were both incorrect and offhand -- as though the speakers were uttering obvious truths. When I pointed out the fact that Jewish people are not like the caricatures presented, the people who shared antisemetic and false ideas ignored me. Had I an official statement from the town, I would have had a solid basis on which to start a conversation about what these kind, well-meaning people had said and why that was inappropriate.

In addition, having an official definition of antisemitism opens a broader discussion of why any form of racism is wrong. The adoption of the IHRA statement allows the town to declare itself against racism and distortion of history.

Please adopt the IHRA definition.

Sincerely,

Helene Simon
158 Newbridge Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

5/24/22

Members of the Select Committee

We have been residents of Sudbury for over 30 years. Sudbury has always been proactive in supporting human rights and combating antisemitism in any form.. .

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice. As you are no doubt aware, it has been rapidly spreading throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who actively fan the flames of hate, many others know little about bigotry against members of the Jewish faith. The most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. I strongly believe one way to do this is to support and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism by the Town of Sudbury. This would create opportunities for learning, discussion and understanding. Please shown your support by adopting this resolution for our community.

Best regards

Scott and Lorraine Herzog
99 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Howard Wolke

1 Pinewood Ave

5/24/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world, and sadly has been seen over the past couple years in our own Sudbury Public School System. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Jillian Selman Gruentzig

255 Marlboro Rd

Sudbury, Ma 01776

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

As a resident of Sudbury and as President of Congregation Or Atid in Wayland, I am writing in support of the Town of Sudbury adopting the non-legally binding IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

The attached Resolution in Support of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism was recently approved by Congregation Or Atid's Board of Directors. Many of our members are residents in Sudbury.

Antisemitic acts have dramatically increased in the United States over the past several years. Hate crimes against Jews, which used to be limited to swastikas being found in Jewish cemeteries or painted on Jewish buildings, have included the stabbing of Rabbi Shlomo Naginski in Brighton, and the murder of Jews in their synagogues.

Our synagogue now requires a security detail in order for our children to safely attend religious school and to ensure the safety of our members, their friends and families, and anyone wishing to attend events at Or Atid.

Even in Massachusetts we have witnessed antisemitic and racist actions in our schools.

It is our responsibility to educate our neighbors and their children about this age-old hatred and to enlist them in confronting it. I believe that by adopting the IHRA Working Definition the Town of Sudbury will provide an important tool to open opportunities for discovery and learning, leading to greater understanding and comity among neighbors.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you for your consideration,

Larry Sternberg
7 Rambling Road
Sudbury

President
Congregation Or Atid
Wayland, Massachusetts

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, we believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Kay and Neill Silverman
12 Farmstead Lane,
Sudbury

5/24/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you and best regards,

Lisa Schwarzwald
27 Surrey Lane

lisa424@brandeis.edu
978.424.3640

5/23/22

Sudbury Select Board,

This is from Mark Krasnow. I have been a resident of Sudbury for about 20 years.

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. I grew up in Oklahoma before moving to Massachusetts; I have personally experienced multiple acts of antisemitism in my life. I pay close attention to statistics about antisemitism in our country; it is alarming.

Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. There is tremendous ignorance and lack of knowledge.

It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding in our community.

I ask you to please review and adopt the IHRA definition in our town. Many other organizations and communities have adopted this definition.

Thank you and best regards,

Mark Krasnow
9 Churchill Street, Sudbury

5/24/22

To the Sudbury Select Board,

I think it is an important step, given the current climate of growing antisemitism in our country, to adopt the IHRA definition for our town. Standing by and doing nothing allows evil to flourish. Education is one effective way the Town of Sudbury can take to combat this trend.

Please adopt the IHRA definition.

Sincerely,

Mark Durschlag
40 Tall Pine Dr. Unit 13

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world as well as right here at home in Sudbury. Rather than fan the flames of bigotry and hate, it is incumbent upon leaders to take a stand.

The most effective way to combat antisemitism or hate of any kind, is through education. Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism would create new opportunities for learning and understanding. This is really important to maintain our inclusivity and openness as a community.

Please adopt the IHRA definition.

Thank you,

Mark Rosenthal

445 Dutton Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776

5/24/22

To members of the Select Board,

As residents of Sudbury since 1994, having two sons grow up benefiting from our town's fine schools, neighborhoods, and youth sports groups, we urge you to enable Sudbury's adoption of the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

While we have not personally been victimized, it is alarming to us that the Anti-Defamation League has recorded a total of 108 antisemitic incidents in Massachusetts last year, a 48 percent increase from 2020 incidents. They included 58 incidents of vandalism (compared to 35 in 2020) and 48 of harassment increased (compared to 38 in 2021). And there were 2 notorious incidents of assault, whereas there was only 1 in the previous 2 years. We firmly agree with ADL's conclusion that "...antisemitism remains a pervasive ill in our society that must be stemmed, or else we risk normalizing this hatred."

Communities and governments throughout our region, country, and the world are recognizing the value of the IHRA working definition, as a common standard vocabulary and toolset, for educating and communicating the harms inflicted by antisemitism that impact more than just Jewish people.

It has been three months since Charlie Baker announced Massachusetts's endorsement of the IHRA's definition. Several towns in Greater Boston have since stepped up to adopt it. Let's see Sudbury join them.

Sincerely,

Neil and Jane Meltzer
21 Churchill St.
Sudbury

5/20/22

Good morning,

Attached please find my letter of support for the IHRA definition of antisemitism, and its adoption by Sudbury's Select Board, as requested by Rabbi Breindel on May 19.

Joel Guillemette

May 20, 2022

Town of Sudbury
Select Board
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Dear Partners in Public Service,

As you prepare to discuss and decide a request for the Board's support for the IHRA definition of antisemitism, I write to share briefly my reflection on a valuable expression of the global consensus that systemic hatred and injustice levied against any group of people is never justified.

Antisemitism is 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.

Support for the IHRA definition has been widespread, as you know, though not uncontested. A particular concern speculates that the definition might be used to mute legitimate protests against injustices that may be committed by the State of Israel by labeling such protests antisemitic. However, the world's long history of religious and political intolerance toward Jews suggests to me that the benefits of the IHRA's definition far outweigh its potential for misuse.

Therefore, to promote the equity and justice toward which all citizens of Sudbury aspire, I urge the Board to adopt the definition as a clear statement of what our town means when we condemn antisemitism in any of its many guises.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership in our community.

Respectfully,

Joel B. Guillemette

The Rev. Joel B. Guillemette, Pastor
Sudbury United Methodist Church
251 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

5/31/22

Dear Sudbury Select Board Chair, Vice Chair and members,

I am writing on behalf of Congregation B'nai Torah of Sudbury, our Board President, Rob Sherman, and Social Action Committee Chairs, Jane Adolph and Susan Pettit, to enthusiastically endorse the proposed adoption of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism for the Town of Sudbury. It is our understanding that The Sudbury Select Board is considering formal adoption of this important definition of antisemitism and one that is already widely in use nationally and internationally. We believe that putting the IHRA Definition into practice will "support building awareness of the definition and its purpose in identifying and responding to antisemitism."

The members of Congregation B'nai Torah, together with its clergy members and staff, wholeheartedly champion the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism and believe that it will go a long way in raising awareness among the residents of Sudbury. Further, we feel that it will not only be a tool to help fight against antisemitism in our Town and the surrounding areas, but also will be important in combatting racism, prejudice, hatred, and "othering" of all types as well.

We feel fortunate to live and work in Sudbury, and are proud of our Town's Select Board for your active work in mitigating hatred of all kinds and embracing diversity and inclusion as important value-based philosophies and practices in your leadership of our historic Town. We do hope that this proposal will appear on an upcoming Select Board agenda and, together with the other letters of support, that the Board will accept this communication as our endorsement of the proposed adoption of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism. It is our deepest desire that, if endorsed by the Select Board, the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism will be positively used as a guideline for the Town's good and worthy communal endeavors and initiatives moving forward.

Please do not hesitate to be in touch with any questions and concerns.

We send warm regards and many thanks to all,

Rob Sherman, CBT President
Jane Adolph and Susan Pettit, CBT Social Action Chairs
Rabbi Lisa S. Eiduson, EdD

Rabbi Lisa S. Eiduson, EdD
Congregation B'nai Torah
225 Boston Post Road
Sudbury MA 01776

5/20/22

To the Sudbury Select Board,

On behalf of the Chabad Center of Sudbury, I would like to formally request of the Sudbury Select Board, to consider adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism as it's definition of antisemitism. We feel, like so many others, that at a time of rising antisemitism in the world, including in Massachusetts, adopting this definition along with doing an annual event in town to mark World Holocaust Remembrance Day, would be a powerful tool in educating the younger generations about the evils of the Holocaust and of the dangers of antisemitism.

Thankfully Sudbury is a great and welcoming town which has had minimal incidents of antisemitism, and even when there were, they were roundly and loudly condemned by the community and leadership on every level. However adopting this resolution and considering observing World Holocaust Remembrance Day would serve as a powerful message about what our community stands for and to actually help overcome this kind of prejudice, along with others like it.

Thank you for the leadership you provide and for your consideration of this request.

In my capacity as Rabbi of the Chabad Center of Sudbury, I would be happy to collaborate and be of assistance with you on this effort as we move forward.

Yours truly,

Yisroel

Rabbi Yisroel Freeman | Chabad Center of Sudbury

100 Horse Pond Road, Sudbury, MA 01776

5/22/22

To whom it may concern;

I am writing in support of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Antisemitism is hatred, and there is no room for it in any community.

Thank you,
Andrew

The Rev. Andrew Switter-Bentley, Rector
he | him | his

St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church
1 Morse Road | Sudbury, MA 01776

www.st-elizabeths.org
andrew@st-elizabeths.org
978-443-6035 x122

Please note, I do not check or reply to messages on Fridays as it is my Sabbath.

5/23/22

As an ordained clergy of the United Church of Christ, a member of the Sudbury Interfaith Clergy Association, and a long time resident of the town of Sudbury; I want to say that I support the adoption of the IHRA definition of antisemitism. I have many friends who are Jewish and I have participated in many Interfaith activities in Sudbury and surrounding communities. These experiences have given me an insight into the experience of antisemitism and the harm that it can do. When I worked for a church in Bedford, MA in 2013, I saw the damage that could be done to the fabric of a town through antisemitic acts. I was proud that Sudbury has a long history of being proactive about this issue. I ask you to continue that history now.

Thank you,
Rev. Gail Wright
110 Pokonoket Ave.
Sudbury, MA

5/21/22

Dear public servants of Sudbury,

Anti-semitism is a scourge of hate that plagues our society. I support the IHRA definition that has been adopted by Temple Beth-El and urge the town to adopt it as well.

Thank you for discussing this.

Peace,

Rev. Sarah Hubbell

Sent from my iPhone

5/21/22

Greetings,

I wanted to write to you to lend my support to the idea of adapting the IHRA definition of antisemitism. I'm glad to hear that all three Jewish organizations in town support the change and my congregation and I are also happy to do so.

Thank you.

peace,

Tom

Rev. Tom O'Brien, Pastor and Teacher

he | him | his (What's this? mypronouns.org)

5/23/22

To the Sudbury Select Board:

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice which has unfortunately been growing throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who are actively fanning the flames of this evil, many either know very little or are indifferent to bigotry against Jews. It is generally accepted that the most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. For this reason, I believe that adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is important for the Town of Sudbury. It would create opportunities for learning and understanding.

Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

I know this is a form letter, but do not let this fact diminish the strength of our desire to address antisemitism.

Thank you and best regards,

Allison and Jeff Sacher

12 Chanticleer Rd

5/24/22

Members of the Select Committee

We have been residents of Sudbury for over 30 years. Sudbury has always been proactive in supporting human rights and combating antisemitism in any form.. .

Antisemitism is a terrible prejudice. As you are no doubt aware, it has been rapidly spreading throughout our country and the world. Although there are some people who actively fan the flames of hate, many others know little about bigotry against members of the Jewish faith. The most effective way to combat antisemitism is through education. I strongly believe one way to do this is to support and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism by the Town of Sudbury. This would create opportunities for learning, discussion and understanding. Please shown your support by adopting this resolution for our community.

Best regards

Scott and Lorraine Herzog
99 Blueberry Hill Lane
Sudbury, MA

5/24/22

Dear Sudbury Select Board:

I am writing you to support the adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism for the Town of Sudbury.

I have been very disturbed by the antisemitism that I have witnessed even in our own community in particular the rise in antisemitic posts that have appeared on my daughters' social media feeds often propagated by fellow Sudbury students; the incidences of swastika's appearing in vandalism at the schools over the years; and micro-aggressions I have experienced or witnessed in my local interactions. Once, I noticed that the saleswoman at TJMaxx who I had become acquainted with over the years was wearing a large Star of David necklace and she told me it was in response and protest to some shockingly antisemitic statements made by customers.

Taking the step of adopting the IHRA definition in town would create awareness and hopefully encourage citizen's to examine the impacts of their own biases and behaviors. Please adopt the IHRA definition in our town.

Thank you,
Yael Kupiec-Dar

77 Hemlock Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776