

MOTION ON NOTICE

2. Combatting Antisemitism in Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver is committed to combating all forms of hatred, including antisemitism;
2. The City is actively working on the development of an Equity Framework;
3. Statistics Canada reports that members of the Jewish community are the most frequently targeted ethno-cultural group when it comes to police-reported hate crimes;
4. Research demonstrates that we are witnessing a global rise in antisemitism, as evidenced by horrific attacks targeting synagogues in recent months. As a result, Jewish community-facing organizations in Vancouver have been forced to invest in visible security presence at their facilities;
5. Every person in the City of Vancouver has the right to realize their potential without fear of discrimination, and to live in conditions of dignity, respect and peace;
6. On May 26, 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Plenary, of which the Government of Canada is a member, adopted a working definition of antisemitism and list of illustrative examples;
7. On June 25, 2019, the Minister of Canadian heritage and Multiculturalism announced that the Government of Canada would officially adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism and list of illustrative examples as part of Canada's new anti-racism strategy;
8. In 2017, police-reported hate crimes targeting members of the Canadian Jewish community reached 360 and rose by 60% in a single year, according to Statistics Canada. An anti-Semitic hate crime takes place once every 24 hours in Canada;
9. On June 12, 2019, VPD hate crimes unit reported that members of the Jewish community are the most targeted group when it comes to hate crimes in the city, followed by Muslims, LGBTQ community members, and Asian and black communities. In the City of Vancouver, hate crimes and hate crime incidents increased from 61 in 2016 to 141 in 2018;
10. The rise in hate crimes and anti-Semitism is alarming and contradicts fundamental values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the BC Human Rights Code. Antisemitism can only be overcome by education, increased awareness-raising efforts, strong political condemnation, and enforcement of relevant laws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism and list of illustrative examples, as adopted by the IHRA plenary on May 26, 2016, and the Government of Canada in June 2019, which reads:

- i. "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."

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to share this motion and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism with the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board for their review and consideration as an additional practical tool, in addition to any existing working definitions, in identifying antisemitism.

Source: <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>

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