



SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 23-005

ADOPTING WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in contemporary American society; and

WHEREAS, Jewish people continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and Snohomish County; for instance, data shows that Jews are consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and that such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County officials have a responsibility to protect Snohomish County residents from acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus, including antisemitism, and must be given the tools to do so; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation, and effective policymaking all require uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, while there can be no exhaustive definition of antisemitism because it can take many forms, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (the "IHRA") Working Definition of Antisemitism has been an essential definitional tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of antisemitism, and includes useful examples of discriminatory anti-Israel acts that can cross the line into antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA working definition is used by various agencies of the federal government and the 33 governments that are members of IHRA, and it is recommended for use by the European Council and the European Parliament, endorsed by the UN Secretary General and the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, included in policy guides prepared by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and formally adopted by a growing number of European nations; and

WHEREAS, use of this definition of antisemitism, although it is not to be taken as an exhaustive definition, will increase awareness and understanding of the parameters of contemporary anti-Jewish discrimination in certain circumscribed areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Snohomish County Council recognizes the adoption and support of the working definition of antisemitism as written by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and remains committed to the principles of nondiscrimination and human rights expressed in the Snohomish County Charter.

APPROVED this 18th day of January, 2023.

Jared Mead
Council Chair

Nate Nehring
Council Vice-Chair

Sam Low
Councilmember

Megan Dunn
Councilmember

Strom Peterson
Councilmember

ATTEST:
Elena Lao, CMC
Deputy Clerk of the Council