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The IHRA definition of antisemitism is a non-legally binding *\*working\** definition, developed as a tool for monitoring anti-Semitic incidents worldwide. Its stated purpose is to increase "Holocaust education, remembrance and research." It was *\*never intended\** to serve as a legal framework for institutions or governments. Most dangerously, it conflates criticism of the state of Israel and Zionism with antisemitism.

Adoption of this definition by governments and institutions has been framed as a way to combat antisemitism. In practice, however, the IHRA definition has often been used to wrongly label criticism of Israel -- a state -- as antisemitic. Let us be clear that criticism of a state is vastly different from bigoted language or violence towards Jewish *\*people\**. Contrary to combating genuine antisemitism, using the IHRA definition in fact has the effect of suppressing non-violent protest, activism and speech that's critical of Israel and/or Zionism. The definition has historically been used to target professors, students, grassroots organizations, human rights groups, and even members of the US Congress, who either document or criticize Israeli policies or human rights violations.

Meanwhile, the adoption of this definition would do little to actually protect Jewish people like me from bigoted or violent behavior. If we are more concerned about defending a state from criticism than defending actual people from violent language or acts, our priorities are in the wrong place. This will likely only increase violence against Jews, and especially those of us who oppose Israel's actions.