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It is clear that hate and violence on the basis of perceived identity, including against those who identify or are perceived to identify as jewish, is a serious problem that has been on the rise, and which is now being supercharged by the trump administration and public figures close to trump. The fight against hate and violence requires a good conceptual framework for understanding and clearly identifying them. Since the introduction of the ihra definition, scholars and activists, including the author of the definition, have decried its use to silence criticism of israel. There are multiple serious alternatives for defining antisemitism which consciously avoid conflating animus, hatred, and violence against the jewish community with criticism of israeli state-sponsored terrorism, apartheid, and genocide. Embracing and legitimizing this definition, which has a track record of being weaponized against people speaking out against extreme violations of human rights, means simultaneously providing ammunition for bad actors and recklessly squandering an opportunity to adopt a framework that could actually be a tool in the fight against identity-based hate and violence.

Do not adopt the ihra definition. Find a way to have the community, especially members of the community who are in vulnerable minority groups, work together to agree on tools and strategies that will actually strengthen efforts to keep people safe and combat hate.