

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 12 November 2018

Wards: All

Subject: International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance- Anti-Semitism definition

Lead officer: Neil Thurlow - Community Safety Manager

Lead member: Cllr Edith Macauley, Cabinet member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities

Contact officer: Neil Thurlow, x 3240

Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet formalise the adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and its examples
 - B. That Cabinet approve the above to also be included within the Merton Hate Crime strategy
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 This report is being brought to Cabinet to ensure that the group are aware of the boroughs adoption of the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism and to request that the Cabinet approve its use within the hate crime strategy
- 1.1.2 Safer Merton has been leading on hate crime since 2016 and adopted this new definition in June 2017. This adoption was undertaken by the service and with the LBM Safer Merton hate crime pages being updated accordingly. However, there is no record of taking this through Cabinet for oversight and approval.
- 1.1.3 Hate crime is a strategic priority for the Merton Community Safety Partnership, is a Mayoral priority for London and is a cross party governmental priority. It is defined as “any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity.
- 1.1.4 Anti-Semitism- a form of Hate Crime, has been a crucial part of national politics recently and continues to be a problem in this country and it is right that as a Local Authority, we are able to demonstrate the seriousness with which we take it as we do for other forms of Hate Crime.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism 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”*
- 2.2. Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled

against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits

- 2.3. Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:
- a) Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
 - b) Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
 - c) Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
 - d) Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
 - e) Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
 - f) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
 - g) Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
 - h) Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
 - i) Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
 - j) Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

- k) Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel
- 2.4 All of the above categories have been adopted and will be formally recognised in the revised Safer Merton hate crime strategy following the approval of CABINET
- 3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**
- 3.1. N/A as LBM adopted this definition in June 2017
- 4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**
- 4.1. N/A as LBM adopted this definition in June 2017
- 5 TIMETABLE**
- 5.1. N/A as LBM adopted this definition in June 2017
- 6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1. N/A
- 7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1. N/A
- 8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1. N/A as LBM adopted this definition in June 2017 and this recognition may aid community cohesion
- 9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1. As Safer Merton oversee the work, as lead service, the team ensure that all crime and disorder concerns are considered within this work
- 10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 10.1. N/A
- 11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**
- Merton Hate Crime Strategy
- https://www2.merton.gov.uk/strategic_work_plan_2017-2021_-_website_edition.pdf
- 12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1. Hate Crime Safer Merton Strategic Work Plan 2017 – 2021

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