

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 202

BY SENATOR HENRY

A RESOLUTION

To recognize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples, and endorse the use of the working definition as a framework to identify discrimination rooted in antisemitism and for discussions to address such discrimination.

WHEREAS, there is a growing challenge across the United States of discrimination based on antisemitism; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish American experience is a story of faith, fortitude, and progress and is connected to key tenets of American identity; and

WHEREAS, generations of Jewish people have come to Louisiana fleeing oppression, discrimination, and persecution in search of a better life for themselves and their children; and

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

WHEREAS, antisemitism is an insidious form of prejudice stretching back a millennia that attacks the humanity of the Jewish people and has led to violence and destruction of lives and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL's) 2021 Audit of Antisemitic Incidents in the United States recorded 2,717 acts of assault, vandalism, and harassment in 2021 alone, an average of more than seven incidents per day; a thirty-four percent increase from 2020 and the highest year of incidents on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979; and

WHEREAS, the Jewish community continues to be targeted in the United States and,

according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, is consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by hate crime; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism is a challenge to the basic principles of tolerance, pluralism, and democracy, and the shared values that bind Americans and their many allies together; and

WHEREAS, antisemitism threats can be found in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and the religious sphere; and

WHEREAS, state officials and institutions have a responsibility to protect citizens from acts of hate and bigotry, including antisemitism, and must have the tools to do so; and

WHEREAS, valid monitoring, informed analysis, investigation, and effective policy-making benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, while there can be no exhaustive definition of antisemitism, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA's) 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, antisemitism is multifaceted and multiform, manifesting in many ways, making it easy to spread and hard to combat; and

WHEREAS, the IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism has been adopted through legislative or executive action in an increasing number of states and several countries; and

WHEREAS, IHRA's Working Definition of Antisemitism provides in part that 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"; and

WHEREAS, IHRA's working definition can assist in countering antisemitism and hate through engagement with community leaders, governmental transparency, and public information-sharing regarding efforts to fight antisemitism and the investigation and prosecution of those who commit criminal acts, consistent with civil liberties protections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism, including the eleven contemporary examples, and endorses the use of the working definition as a framework to identify discrimination rooted in antisemitism and for discussions to address such discrimination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana affirms its ongoing commitment to cultivate an inclusive, safe, and just society and culture that values the diversity of our community, works to ensure equitable opportunities in all major facets of society, and celebrates both our individuality and commonality.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE