

# Antisemitism

## Introduction

On 17 November 2020 at a meeting of the Full Council, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Working Definition of Antisemitism (IHRA) was adopted by Blaby District Council.

## Definition

“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.”

## About the IHRA

The IHRA, an intergovernmental organisation, was established in 1998 with 34 member countries, including the UK. Its aims are linked to promoting a remembrance of the Holocaust and to provide research and education internationally. The definition of antisemitism is part of this strategy.

In May 2016 the IHRA adopted the non-binding legal definition set out above.

In December 2016 the UK Government formally adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism. The police, Crown Prosecution Service and judiciary, devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales, and over 200 local councils have also formally adopted the definition.

Nationally there is evidence that anti-Semitic incidents and hate crimes are on the rise. Across the country in 2019, there were 1,805 reported incidents, a rise of 7% from the previous year. It is considered that the IHRA definition can be a valuable tool in helping the Council and its partners to understand how antisemitism is manifested.

Hate crime is defined as that which is committed against someone due to their race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability. Tackling hate crime is important, not just because of its effect on its victims but because it divides communities.

There are robust arrangements in place in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to tackle all forms of hate crime, including those perpetrated on religious grounds, ensuring a consistent approach across the City, County and Rutland. The Council is committed to combatting hate crime in all its forms.