



# Musée Holocauste Montréal Montreal Holocaust Museum

## Statement from the Montreal Holocaust Museum

**Montreal, January 29, 2020** - The Montreal Holocaust Museum regrettably notes the Montreal Mayor's refusal to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) definition of antisemitism.

IHRA is an intergovernmental body whose purpose is to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust. It also upholds the commitments of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration. The Montreal Holocaust Museum is proud to have taken part in the Canadian delegation.

The definition reads as follows:

“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.”

This working definition was adopted by the 31 member states of IHRA on May 26, 2016. Since then, other states and political institutions have adopted it, notably the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, the French National Assembly and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States. This is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism.

Statistics Canada's annual hate crime reports show that the Jewish community is the primary target of such acts in Canada. The Jewish community of Montreal is the second largest in Canada and represents 23.2% of the country's Jewish population.

Given this context, it is important that the City of Montreal demonstrate its commitment to fulfilling its duty to protect its citizens from all forms of racism. Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism would be in line with the history and values of the City of Montreal, which became home to a significant number of Holocaust survivors.

The Montreal Holocaust Museum educates people of all ages and backgrounds about the Holocaust, while sensitising the public to the universal perils of antisemitism, racism, hate and indifference. Through its Museum, its commemorative programs and educational initiatives, the Montreal Holocaust Museum promotes respect for diversity and the sanctity of human life.

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