

- IHRA definition **wrongfully and harmfully** conflates criticism of Israel with antisemitism
- Demands: Reject the IHRA definition and if the Council does move forward with such a resolution, to hold a public hearing for community input
- Coalition of over 35 local and national organizations, and hundreds of community members oppose the adoption of the IHRA definition by the Montgomery County Council
- This moment demands that we all come together because our struggles for justice are connected; **divisive and controversial definitions undermine true safety and security**, and will stifle free speech.
- IHRA definition, by conflating criticism of Israel with antisemitism, effectively constructs a wall of silence, that is anti-intellectual and flies in the face of freedom of expression and humanistic values of anti-racism
- The IHRA definition and similar attempts to de-legitimize and smear Palestinians and human rights advocates plays into **a politics of distraction, when we should be focusing on issues like rent stabilization and equity in education and childcare**
- Students and impact on college campuses: the IHRA definition has largely been weaponized on college campuses to silence and smear Palestinian students. Students have been blacklisted on websites like Canary Mission and are threatened with losing job opportunities.
- The IHRA definition will have a chilling effect on free speech in public schools and in the community. The American Association of University Professors
 - Teachers, students, county employees, and community members.
- Teacher Impacts and threats to academic freedoms
- **We categorically oppose antisemitism, and it is exactly because of our deep commitment to collective liberation that we oppose the IHRA definition**
 - Over 10 faith groups including several Jewish organizations are part of the growing coalition in Montgomery County to reject the IHRA definition
- **Council precedent:** In [2016](#) and [2021](#), the County adopted resolutions that reaffirmed its ongoing commitment to combat white supremacy, racism, antisemitism, Islamophobia, and other forms of bigotry. Importantly, the 2021 resolution includes an explicit commitment to civil liberties and free speech protections, while the IHRA definition violates constitutionally protected free speech.
 - Both of these resolutions utilize **an inclusive approach which does not single-out any particular group**, and we are calling on the Council to follow this precedent of **fighting against antisemitism as part of a larger struggle against all group hatred and discrimination.**
- **We reject the false choice between standing up against anti-Palestinian racism and antisemitism. Fighting against anti-Palestinian racism and antisemitism go hand in hand, and to mislead policymakers into this false choice threatens our collective safety.**

