

January 26, 2023

Attention Palisades Charter High School administration:

Attention Palisades Charter High School Board of Trustees:

It is our duty to protect Jewish students on this campus!

Antisemitism is on the rise in the United States and around the world today and unfortunately, our own Pali High community is not immune from the world's oldest hatred. Throughout the generations, antisemitism has morphed and changed, which is why it is so important to have a consistent definition to define, identify, condemn, and educate about Jew hatred, no matter how antisemitism manifests.

To protect Jewish students, we urge Palisades Charter High School to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism. The IHRA Definition recognizes the obvious forms of Jew hatred, like the swastikas drawn on campus this year and last, and it also recognizes more modern forms of antisemitism. It is important to note that the IHRA Definition explicitly states that criticism of the State of Israel, like criticism leveled at any other country, cannot be regarded as antisemitic. However, it also recognizes the reality that certain rhetoric and actions related to Israel, the world's only Jewish country, sometimes crosses the line into bigotry against Jews.

This critical nuance of the IHRA Definition is designed to ensure that negative rhetoric regarding Israel does not become rhetoric against Jews, a protection that Jewish students at Pali High deserve.

Last year at Pali High, a student told a Jewish student on campus that she was "dripping from Israel." In asking what that meant, the first student responded that it means she is a "dirty Jew."

Without the IHRA Definition, Jew haters can hide behind their own narrow definitions of what antisemitism is, leaving Jewish students exposed and targeted by these antisemites.

Although less than 2% of the U.S. population is Jewish, the FBI recently reported that nearly 60% of religiously motivated hate crimes in the United States have been directed against Jews.

The IHRA Definition was drafted by experts to help institutions recognize, monitor, and fight antisemitism. It has become the global consensus for defining antisemitism worldwide, having been endorsed or adopted by over 850 international, federal, state, and local governments and institutions, including the United States government (in both Democratic and Republican presidential administrations), the European Union, over 37 U.N. member countries, the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of State, and more. It is adopted by more than half of U.S. States and is in use at many leading institutions of higher education around the country, including Stanford University, UCLA, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, California State University Northridge, Northeastern University, New York University, Santa Monica College, and many, many more. After public hearings, the cities of Los Angeles and West Hollywood both recently adopted the IHRA Definition to protect their Jewish citizens from the injustice of antisemitism.

The IHRA Definition covers antisemitism across the political spectrum and includes eleven examples that describe how this bigotry occurs today. These examples reflect the real-life experiences of Jewish students and faculty at Pali High and of Jewish people around the world.

At Pali High, we are appalled by the numerous incidents of antisemitic remarks and attacks on our campus, and we are heartbroken that some of the antisemitic incidents at Pali High have been committed by our teachers and faculty.

These incidents of Jew hatred leave Jewish students feeling helpless. When antisemitic incidents occur, Jewish students often ignore the hate they experienced or witnessed and choose not to come forward to make a report due to fear of their grades suffering or other potential retaliation.

This is where the IHRA Definition must come in.

The IHRA Definition will empower Jewish students to stand up for themselves and not be afraid to call out antisemitic acts when they occur. No longer will Jewish students force themselves to think “it wasn’t that bad” and move on after experiencing or witnessing an act of Jew hatred. The IHRA definition can and will serve as the necessary tool that it is, to identify, call out, and condemn antisemitism, no matter who on campus is responsible. With the IHRA Definition adopted at Pali High, students will know that their school supports justice when it comes to antisemitic comments or actions, whether from students or teachers.

As a shining light in the Los Angeles Unified School District, we urge Palisades Charter High School to stand with its Jewish students and the Jewish community against antisemitism by adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism.

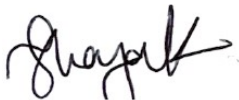
Signed:



Joseph Karlan  
Class of 2023  
co-President, Jewish Student Union



Jasmin Nazarian  
Class of 2023  
co-President, Jewish Student Union



Shaya Keyvanfar  
Class of 2023  
co-President, Students for Peace in the Middle East

Co-signed:



Victoria Hernandez  
Class of 2023  
President, LSU



Betania Monterrubio  
Class of 2023  
Vice President, LSU



Isabel Viramontes  
Class of 2023  
Senior Representative, LSU



Lucelia Vasquez  
Class of 2023  
Event Coordinator, LSU

Ely Rahimi  
Class of 2023  
Justice League Representative, Middle Eastern Student Union  
Justice League Representative, Persian Student Union

Naya Ramaswami  
Class of 2023  
President, South Asian Student Union

Student co-signers:

Name or initials	Class
KD	12
CD	12
JP	12
JS	11
Justin JL	10
KP	12
SS	9
OD	9
OS	9
BC	2023
NZ	2023
JJ	2023
NK	2023
SN	2025
AH	2023
JE	2023
Rebecca Nehoray	2026
ES	2026

Ella Kerendian	2026
Alexei Karahmanb	2026
Jaden Vhali Fian	2026
Matthew Hanabab	2026
RL	2025
KR	2026
ET	2026
KC	2026
LM	2025
Emma Shuyestehfor	2025
Jennica Essapour	2025
NM	2026
DN	2026
Benjamin Dorood	2025
Ilay Andouk	2025
Abigail Reyhanian	2024
SM	2024
OS	2026
Noah Hourani	2026
Liam Salemany	2026
Jason Marady	2026

SV	10	2025
IT	10	2025
KS	10	2025
EM	10	2025
MS	10	2025
IG	11	2024
LF	9	2026
NS	10	2025
JN	9	2026
GS	9	2026
EH	9	2026
DNF	10	2025
LE	10	2025
NL	10	2025
LH	9	2026
MK	9	2026

TB	12
LIF	9
NG	9
NK	9
ER	9
KY	9
TS	11
NM Nicole Madarsatout	9 <sup>th</sup>
Rebecca Nehoraj	9 <sup>th</sup> grade
Ayla Davidi	12 <sup>th</sup> grade
Shirazat	10
Cemille Shenass	10
Joshua Mass:-	9
Liam Sol	9
Noah Maghadam	9
Sonny Gethin	9
Emma Shajestehfar	10 <sup>th</sup>
Jada Michael	10
Abby Reyhanian	11
Maya Otero	11
Talia Davoud	12

CN	9
IT	9
EH	9
EK	9
AF	9
CE	11
AE	9
ES	9
MB	4
SS	9
KE	11
JF	11
AT	12
RJ	11
NK	9
RG	9
MN	4
JB	9
MN	9
JE	10
EB	10
LN	10