

From: joanmeisel@vbbn.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:32 PM
To: Ethnic Studies <EthnicStudies@cde.ca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Definition of anti-Semitism

I urge you to not adopt the IHBA definition of anti-Semitism or anything like it. It confounds criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

I am Jewish and criticize Israel's treatment of Palestinians and I am definitely not anti-Semitic. I fear that you are bowing to supporters of Israel including those who claim that Israel can do no harm. It is not singling Israel out to criticize it – we do that freely when individual citizens criticize other governments. It is not to delegitimize Israel to criticize it. What happened to free speech?

Anti-Semitism is discrimination against Jews for being Jewish. That is not hard to understand – it has nothing to do with criticizing Israel.

Here is a reasonable definition to include

“Anti-Semitism is discrimination against, violence toward, and stereotypes of Jews for being Jewish.”

Simple and straightforward!
Joan Meisel. PhD, MBA