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**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 12 FEBRUARY 2019**

**SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE'S  
DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 Committee is asked to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of antisemitism.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (B) (37) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to the consideration of any new policy matter which does not fall within the terms of reference of any other Committee.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Committee is asked to approve the adoption of the IHRA's definition of antisemitism.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) is an international partnership of government representatives of 31 countries. The UK has been a member since 1998. Its aim is to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance and to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.
- 3.2 On 26 May 2016, the IHRA decided to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism:  
*Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.*
- 3.3 The IHRA clarifies that manifestations of antisemitism might include the targeting of the state of Israel conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, it emphasises that criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Examples of antisemitism include,

but are not limited to denying that the Holocaust took place, drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews.

- 3.4 The IHRA's definition of antisemitism is not legally binding but has a legal foundation in legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998. Where criminal acts are committed that are motivated by a prejudice against Jews, the courts will have to take such aggravations into account when determining sentence.
- 3.5 All incidents involving antisemitism must, like any incident involving one of the characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010, be reported to the Equal Opportunities Officer using the Equality Incident Monitoring Form.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))**

The proposal will assist in ensuring that Moray offers caring and healthy communities for all of our citizens.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

Antisemitism is unlawful under the Equality Act 2010.

**(c) Financial implications**

There are no financial implications to this proposal.

**(d) Risk Implications**

There are no risks associated with adopting the IHRA's definition of antisemitism.

**(e) Staffing Implications**

There are no staffing implications.

**(f) Property**

There are no implications for council property.

**(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact**

Adopting the IHRA's definition of antisemitism will assist in meeting the public sector equality duties of giving due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to the need to foster good relations between various groups protected on the grounds of race.

**(h) Consultations**

There has been no consultation on adopting the definition.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 **Committee is asked to agree that antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and**

**physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities**

Author of Report: Equal Opportunities Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: