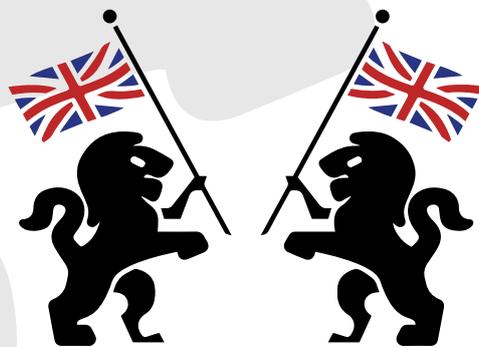


# Progress Report:

Football clubs and the  
IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

*May 2020*



THE OFFICE OF HM GOVERNMENT'S  
INDEPENDENT ADVISER ON ANTISEMITISM



# Executive Summary

- In order to understand and address antisemitism, one must effectively define it. The universally agreed international definition of antisemitism was developed and adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)<sup>1</sup>.
- On 12 December 2016, The United Kingdom Government was one of the first<sup>2</sup> to adopt this definition, followed by other political parties<sup>3 4 5</sup> and in 2020 it was adopted by 641 Members of Parliament in the UK House of Commons<sup>6</sup>.
- The declaration has already been signed by many local authorities and Universities, and it has been used by the UK police and Crown Prosecution Service to define what is and what is not antisemitism.
- Over recent months, there has been a rapid increase in adoption of the IHRA declaration, with over 35 Countries now having signed up. Italy, Sweden, Greece and Uruguay are the most recent signatories.
- In January 2020, as part of Lord Mann's work plan, he wrote to several Premier League Football Clubs asking them to adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism.
- Lord Mann recommends adoption of this definition, as he believes it can be of practical assistance when dealing with antisemitic incidents.
- Clubs should adopt this definition of antisemitism as a statement of their club's values. In order to set clear guidelines, give clarity and to act as a reference point for employees, stewards and fans on what constitutes antisemitism.

## Introduction

Footballing authorities have guidelines in place to deal with racism inside stadiums. The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) has a three-step procedure<sup>7</sup> in place for referees to pause, suspend or abandon matches. UEFA also has the authority to issue suspensions, fines and order matches to be played behind closed doors<sup>8</sup>. In the UK<sup>9</sup> there is legislation<sup>10 11</sup> in place to deal with offenses including racist chanting and abuse, however the English Football Association (FA) also has its own guidelines in place to deal with racism within stadiums. In 2019, representatives from the FA, Premier League and Football League wrote<sup>12</sup> to the Minister for Sport outlining enhanced sanctions, guidelines, plans and a renewed commitment to tackle

racism in football. In 2019, the FA increased its minimum sanction from a five to a six-match ban for individuals guilty of racism<sup>13</sup>, whilst FIFA increased its minimum ban to from five to ten matches<sup>14</sup>.

Footballing authorities should have a consistent approach to discipline. This report outlines the importance of using one universally agreed definition of antisemitism in football. Doing so will help deepen clubs' and others' understanding of offensive language and tropes. It will help bring consistency in the application of internal procedures for addressing antisemitic behaviour.



# What is the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism?

The IHRA definition<sup>15</sup> is, together, a small piece of definitional text, and 11 accompanying examples. The short text 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.”*

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

**Antisemitic acts are criminal** when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

**Criminal acts are antisemitic** when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

**Antisemitic discrimination** is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.



# An update on the Football Clubs and the adoption of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

The following clubs have publicly signed and adopted the IHRA declaration.

This document will be updated as clubs sign the declaration.

A number of other clubs were due to sign the declaration before the Covid 19 pandemic and plan to rearrange public events to do so in due course.

## Chelsea Football Club

In January 2018, Chelsea Football Club announced the ‘Say No to Antisemitism’ campaign to raise awareness and educate their players, staff, fans and the wider community about antisemitism in football.

On Friday 17th January 2020, Chelsea FC became the first Premier League Club to adopt the IHRA definition at a press conference, which took place at their training ground. The event included the Club’s Chairman Bruce Buck, Lord John Mann, Kathryn Meyer (IHRA) and Chelsea’s manager Frank Lampard.

For further information, see here: <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/news-archive/chelsea-football-club-adopts-working-definition-antisemitism>





## West Ham United Football Club

West Ham United Football club adopted the IHRA definition on Friday 17th January 2020, in advance of of Holocaust Memorial Day.

For more information, see here: <https://www.whufc.com/news/articles/2020/january/17-january/west-ham-united-proud-follow-ihra-definition-antisemitism>, <https://www.whufc.com/news/articles/2020/january/24-january/hammers-support-holocaust-memorial-day>

## AFC Bournemouth

AFC Bournemouth adopted the IHRA definition of Antisemitism on Monday 27th January 2020. The move was announced both in a pre-match email and in the programme (as seen below) for Bournemouth's FA Cup fixture with Arsenal, which took place on Holocaust Memorial Day. The full definition was also included in the steward briefing before the match.

The club organised for Holocaust Survivor, Henry Schachter BEM, to speak to AFC Bournemouth staff and youth team players at Vitality Stadium on Holocaust Memorial Day.

**U21S BLAST INTO HANTS CUP SEMIS**  
Two goals in each half secured AFC Bournemouth a 4-0 win away against Sholing last Wednesday and a place in the semi-finals of this season's Hampshire Senior Cup. Zaidon Anthony scored either time of the break with Alex Dobie and Jordan Ibe also on target for the Cherries at the Mackay Stadium. The Cherries - who reached the final but lost on penalties to Basingstoke Town in 2017 - are looking to get their hands on the trophy for the first time since 1999.

**CLUB TO ADOPT ANTI-SEMITISM DEFINITION**  
AFC Bournemouth can confirm it will adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-Semitism.  
This step was taken in advance of today's Holocaust Memorial Day and the club follow in the footsteps of fellow Premier League sides, Chelsea and West Ham, in adopting the IHRA definition.  
The club hold a zero tolerance policy on discrimination and are committed to providing a club wide environment in which stakeholders are protected from harm and discrimination irrespective of their age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.  
To learn more about the working definition of anti-Semitism, please visit: [www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism](http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism).

**Cherries Community Draw**  
**DRAW RESULTS**  
BRIGHTON  
21/1/2020

**1st prize**  
£500  
No: 133459

**2nd prize**  
£250  
No: 134754

**3rd prize**  
£150  
No: 131432

**4th prize**  
AFC Bournemouth cufflinks (collect from Superstore)  
No: 133842

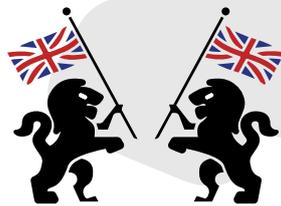
In support of  
Cherries Community Fund

Sponsored by  
duP



## Endnotes

- 1 <https://holocaustremembrance.com/stories/working-definition-antisemitism>
- 2 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-leads-the-way-in-tackling-anti-semitism>
- 3 <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/sep/04/labour-adopts-ihra-antisemitism-definition-in-full>
- 4 <https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/lib-dems-adopt-full-ihra-definition-of-anti-semitism/>
- 5 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-18-01537/>
- 6 <https://www.thejc.com/news/uk-news/637-mps-sign-up-to-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism-1.496118>
- 7 <https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/news/newsid=2628179.html>
- 8 [https://www.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/Regulations/uefaorg/UEFACompDisCases/02/60/83/56/2608356\\_DOWNLOAD.pdf](https://www.uefa.com/MultimediaFiles/Download/Regulations/uefaorg/UEFACompDisCases/02/60/83/56/2608356_DOWNLOAD.pdf) (page 15)
- 9 <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2020-01-14.HL377.h&s=police>
- 10 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/64> (Sections 4, 4A or 5)
- 11 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/19/contents> (Section 3)
- 12 <http://www.thefa.com/news/2019/jul/24/minister-for-sport-anti-discrimination-joint-letter-240719>
- 13 <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-soccer-england-racism/fa-increases-minimum-ban-for-racist-abuse-to-six-matches-idUKKCN1UR3DC>
- 14 <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fa-told-to-increase-ban-for-racism-lzzgcctvj>
- 15 <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/working-definition-antisemitism>



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[mannjl@parliament.uk](mailto:mannjl@parliament.uk)



[amy@antisemitism.org.uk](mailto:amy@antisemitism.org.uk)



[@LordJohnMann](https://twitter.com/LordJohnMann)