

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
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Dear Committee Secretary

I am concerned that the inquiry, which I do support, would adopt the IHRA definition of antisemitism, as the appropriate definition to judge whether antisemitism is a major problem on university campus or it is an educational problem that is better addressed by looking at the history of the State of Israel. I do not believe that definition is reasonable and a better definition would be *"the hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious, ethnic, or racial group"*.

I am also concerned that the Zionist lobby, as distinct from the broader Jewish population is particularly outspoken against the semitic people that the state of Israel is currently conducting a genocidal war against and has been running an apartheid system against the Palestinians for the past 57 years.

Having worked in 1997 with an Israeli terrorist, employed by the IDF at the time of his activities, I do understand that the war did not start on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, that was the latest skirmish of a besieged nation fighting back against illegal and abominable conditions in the quest for a two state solution, one that the current Israeli leadership has no intention of allowing. In fact they have openly admitted they are intent on genocide.

I do think however that a very clear distinction between the State of Israels actions, taken by a group of European Jewish Nationalists who violently displaced the inhabitants of the area now being the state of Israel, and people identifying as Jews needs to be made.

There are very many Jewish people and Jewish organisations who are calling for justice for Palestinians and a two state solution, who are unfortunately being called antisemitic by those who wish to eliminate anti-Israel commentary, which currently seems to be wholly justified.

The attacks on museums, schools, hospitals and universities, none of which are military targets, fits the definitions of genocide as does the deliberate shooting of civilians by IDF personnel and utterly unjustifiable deaths of large numbers of civilians in Israels attempts to eliminate resistance fighters to Israels abhorrent and illegal occupation of Palestine, the condoning of the theft of Palestinian land by settlers, many of whom are serving military personnel and a deliberate pattern of settlements designed to make a 2 state solution impossible.

I do support a lot more education in the history of the Holocaust and of the establishment of the state of Israel, including the terrorist activity of the Zionists in Palestine over probably about 100 years now.

That education should make a clear distinction of being Jewish and being pro-Israel with its current leadership. We see a lesser example of attempts to destroy another country and culture with Russians war on Ukraine, and quite rightly Russia is regarded very poorly with its current leadership. The Russian people, as a whole, are not regarded the same way. That is the way I view and I know many others view the Israel – Palestine issue. That is the issue where education needs to be focussed.

The long term actions of Israel against Palestinian demonstrations of any sort are designed to cause conflict, and have been for at least 40 years. To suggest Israel is at risk of annihilation is absurd, with the most powerful army and best intelligence services in the region, against a relatively poorly resourced resistance to occupation, similar to that fought by Jewish, French etc people during world war 2.

Education about the issue of antisemitism, which should not exist, will remain as long as education is not addressing the real issue which is the Israelis stated ambition of the state of Israel “From the River to the Sea”, even shown on a map by Netanyahu at a recent international meeting.

Yours Sincerely

Peter Temby