



ANDRÁSSY  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BUDAPEST

INVITATION  
**EINLADUNG**  
MEGHÍVÓ

University  
of National  
Excellence



The Center for Diplomacy at Andrassy University Budapest and the Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest cordially invites you to the presentation of

**PROF. DINA PORAT**

---

## Defining Antisemitism, why, by whom and what for?

---

**Venue:** Andrassy University Budapest, Spiegelsaal  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 26. 2020, 6 pm  
**Registration:** Please register online  
**Language:** English

18 countries, and a growing number of organizations have already adopted the Working **Definition of Antisemitism** elaborated by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). Among these countries are Hungary, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Romania, United Kingdom, France.

The working definition is already used in these countries e.g. in the training of police forces and justice authorities and in educational activities. Today, many studies show that despite unprecedented efforts to eradicate Antisemitism, it is on the rise again, together with other discriminatory and hostile attitudes against foreigners, immigrants and minorities.

So, is this definition just another action failing to effectively reach the hearts and minds not only of experts but of the broad public? May it serve as a guideline also to politicians? What is the actual and potential role of the social media in making use of this widely adopted working definition? Can this definition also serve each one of us as a means to control our own emotions, feelings, actions and reactions? What is the role of the Arts, of academic environments, of schools, of civil society action and what can a widely accepted definition of Antisemitism contribute in these fields? Does action against Antisemitism also have a positive effect in preventing other discriminatory attitudes and activities?

There is hardly any person to speak with more authority on these questions than **Prof. Dina Porat**. She is also open to a candid and sincere discussion.

Andrassy Universität Budapest • Pollack Mihály tér 3. • H-1088 Budapest

• +36 1 266 3101 •

[www.andrassyuni.eu](http://www.andrassyuni.eu)



## CV

### Professor Dina Porat

Dina Porat is an Israeli historian. She is professor emeritus of modern Jewish history at the Department of Jewish History at Tel Aviv University and the chief historian of Yad Vashem.

Dina Porat served as head of the Jewish History Department at Tel Aviv University's Stephen Roth Institute. She is head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry and holds the Alfred P. Slaner Chair for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University.

She served as the academic adviser to the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. She is also an Advisory Board member of the Israel Council on Foreign Relations.

Since 2011 she has served as chief historian of Yad Vashem.

Porat participated in formulating an extended definition of anti-Semitism.

In 1988, Porat's book *An Entangled Leadership, the Yishuv and the Holocaust 1942-1945*, won the Yad Ben Zvi Award. In 2000, Dina Porat was one of the winners of the annual Buchman Memorial Prize for outstanding achievements in the field of Holocaust commemoration. The award was presented at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Porat received the prize for her book *Beyond the Reaches of Our Soul: The Life and Times of Abba Kovner*. In 2010, the book also won a National Jewish Book Award.

#### Published works

- *An Entangled Leadership, the Yishuv and the Holocaust 1942-1945* (Am Oved, 1986, Hebrew).
- (in English) *The Blue and the Yellow Stars of David, The Zionist Leadership and the Holocaust, 1939-1945* (Harvard University Press, 1990) (in English). The book was nominated for the National Jewish Book Award, in the U.S.A., 1991.
- (in English) *Avraham Tory, Surviving the Holocaust*, edited and with an introduction by Martin Gilbert, textual and historical notes by Dina Porat (Harvard University Press, May 1990) (in English).
- Edited, *When Holocaust comes from Afar, Leading Personalities in the Land of Israel Confront Nazism and the Holocaust, 1933-1948* (Yad Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem, 2009, Hebrew).
- *Israeli Society, the Holocaust and its Survivors, Research Essays* (Vallentine Mitchell, 2008), and Hebrew version, *The Smoke-Smelling Morning Coffee* (Am Oved and Yad Vashem, 2011).
- Porat, Dina (2019). *Vengeance and Retribution are Mine: Community, the Holocaust, and Abba Kovner's Avengers* (in Hebrew). Haifa: Pardes Publishing and Haifa University Press. ISBN 9781618385116.



## Working Definition of Antisemitism

As adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)

On 26 May 2016, the Plenary in Bucharest decided to adopt the following non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism:

**“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 leveled 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 endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior 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.

### **About the IHRA**

*The IHRA is the only intergovernmental organization mandated to focus solely on Holocaust-related issues, so with evidence that the scourge of antisemitism is once again on the rise, we resolved to take a leading role in combatting it. IHRA experts determined that in order to begin to address the problem of antisemitism, there must be clarity about what antisemitism is.*

*The IHRA's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial worked to build international consensus around a working definition of antisemitism, which was subsequently adopted by the plenary. By doing so, the IHRA set an example of responsible conduct for other international fora and provided an important tool with practical applicability for its Member Countries. This is just one illustration of how the IHRA has equipped policymakers to address this rise in hate and discrimination at their national level.*

#### *The Working Definition of Antisemitism*

*In the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration that states: "With humanity still scarred by ...antisemitism and xenophobia the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils" the committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial called the IHRA Plenary in Budapest 2015 to adopt the following working definition of antisemitism.*