



73RD STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 11

Primary Sponsor: Ahmad Daraldik

Co-Sponsor(s): [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Date: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Whereas: The 72nd Student Senate, SGA Executive Branch, and the FSU Administration made a rush to judgement by adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, and

Whereas: This weaponized definition of Antisemitism only creates more harm to communities on our campus that are allied or in support of the Palestinian People's movement for the right to Self-Determination, Freedom, and Human Rights, and

Whereas: One of the main authors of this definition, Kenneth Stern, released an Opinion Piece through the Guardian in December of 2019, where he states that "{the IHRA Definition} was never intended to be a campus hate speech code [1]", and

Whereas: Stern further states that with this Definition adopted on campuses across the United States that, "{He is} worried administrators will now have a strong motivation to suppress, or at least condemn, political speech for fear of litigation [1]", and

Whereas: The author further suggests the impact it has on the Jewish community stating, "there's a debate inside the Jewish community whether being Jewish requires one to be a Zionist. I don't know if this question can be resolved, but it should frighten all Jews that the government is essentially defining the answer for us [1]", and

Whereas: There was also a group of 122 Palestinian and Arab academics, journalists and intellectuals whom expressed their concerns about the IHRA definition in a letter released in November of 2020 through The Guardian, stating "1. The fight against antisemitism must be deployed within the frame of international law and human rights. It should be part and parcel of the fight against all forms of racism and xenophobia, including Islamophobia, and anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian racism. The aim of this struggle is to guarantee freedom and emancipation for all oppressed groups. It is deeply distorted when geared towards the defense of an oppressive and predatory state [2]", and

Whereas: "2. There is a huge difference between a condition where Jews are singled out, oppressed and suppressed as a minority by antisemitic regimes or groups, and a condition where the self-determination of a Jewish population in Palestine/Israel has been implemented in the form of an ethnic exclusivist and territorially expansionist state. As it currently exists, the state of Israel is based on uprooting the vast majority of the natives – what Palestinians and Arabs refer to as the Nakba – and on subjugating those natives who still live on the territory of historical Palestine as either second-class citizens or people under occupation, denying them their right to self-determination [2]", and

Whereas: "3. The IHRA definition of antisemitism and the related legal measures adopted in several countries have been deployed mostly against leftwing and human rights groups

supporting Palestinian rights and the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign, sidelining the very real threat to Jews coming from rightwing white nationalist movements in Europe and the US. The portrayal of the BDS campaign as antisemitic is a gross distortion of what is fundamentally a legitimate non-violent means of struggle for Palestinian rights [2]”, and

Whereas: “4. The IHRA definition’s statement that an example of antisemitism is ‘Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, eg, by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour’ is quite odd. It does not bother to recognise that under international law, the current state of Israel has been an occupying power for over half a century, as recognised by the governments of countries where the IHRA definition is being upheld. It does not bother to consider whether this right includes the right to create a Jewish majority by way of ethnic cleansing and whether it should be balanced against the rights of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, the IHRA definition potentially discards as antisemitic all non-Zionist visions of the future of the Israeli state, such as the advocacy of a binational state or a secular democratic one that represents all its citizens equally. Genuine support for the principle of a people’s right to self-determination cannot exclude the Palestinian nation, nor any other. [2]”, and

Whereas: “5. We believe that no right to self-determination should include the right to uproot another people and prevent them from returning to their land, or any other means of securing a demographic majority within the state. The demand by Palestinians for their right of return to the land from which they themselves, their parents and grandparents were expelled cannot be construed as antisemitic. The fact that such a demand creates anxieties among Israelis does not prove that it is unjust, nor that it is antisemitic. It is a right recognised by international law as represented in United Nations general assembly resolution 194 of 1948. [2]”, and

Whereas: “6. To level the charge of antisemitism against anyone who regards the existing state of Israel as racist, notwithstanding the actual institutional and constitutional discrimination upon which it is based, amounts to granting Israel absolute impunity. Israel can thus deport its Palestinian citizens, or revoke their citizenship or deny them the right to vote, and still be immune from the accusation of racism. The IHRA definition and the way it has been deployed prohibit any discussion of the Israeli state as based on ethno-religious discrimination. It thus contravenes elementary justice and basic norms of human rights and international law [2]”, and

Whereas: “7. We believe that justice requires the full support of Palestinians’ right to self-determination, including the demand to end the internationally acknowledged occupation of their territories and the statelessness and deprivation of Palestinian refugees. The suppression of Palestinian rights in the IHRA definition betrays an attitude upholding Jewish privilege in Palestine instead of Jewish rights, and Jewish supremacy over Palestinians instead of Jewish safety. We believe that human values and rights are indivisible and that the fight against antisemitism should go hand in hand with the struggle on behalf of all oppressed peoples and groups for dignity, equality and emancipation [2]”, and

Whereas: The group of 122 Palestinian and Arab academics, journalists and intellectuals whom expressed their concerns about the IHRA definition are, “Samir Abdallah - Filmmaker, Paris, France/Nadia Abu El-Haj - Ann Olin Whitney Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University, USA/Lila Abu-Lughod - Joseph L Battenwieser Professor of Social Science, Columbia University, USA/Bashir Abu-Manneh - Reader in Postcolonial Literature, University of Kent, UK/Gilbert Achcar - Professor of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, UK/Nadia Leila Aissaoui - Sociologist and Writer on feminist issues, Paris, France/ Mamdouh Aker - Board of Trustees, Birzeit University, Palestine/ Mohamed Alyahyai - Writer and novelist, Oman/Suad

Amiry - Writer and Architect, Ramallah, Palestine/Sinan Antoon - Associate Professor, New York University, Iraq-US/ Talal Asad - Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Graduate Center, CUNY, USA/Hanan Ashrawi - Former Professor of Comparative Literature, Birzeit University, Palestine/Aziz Al-Azmeh - University Professor Emeritus, Central European University, Vienna, Austria/ Abdullah Baabood - Academic and Researcher in Gulf studies, Oman/Nadia Al-Bagdadi - Professor of History, Central European University, Vienna/Sam Bahour - Writer, Al-Bireh/Ramallah, Palestine/ Zainab Bahrani - Edith Porada Professor of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University, USA/ Rana Barakat - Assistant Professor of History, Birzeit University, Palestine/Bashir Bashir - Associate Professor of Political Theory, Open University of Israel, Raanana, State of Israel/Taysir Batniji - Artist-Painter, Gaza, Palestine and Paris, France/Tahar Ben Jelloun - Writer, Paris, France/ Mohammed Bennis - Poet, Mohammedia, Morocco/Mohammed Berrada - Writer and Literary Critic, Rabat, Morocco/Omar Berrada - Writer and Curator, New York, USA/Amahl Bishara - Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology, Tufts University, USA/Anouar Brahem - Musician and Composer, Tunisia/Salem Brahimi - Filmmaker, Algeria-France/ Aboubakr Chraïbi - Professor, Arabic Studies Department, INALCO, Paris, France/Selma Dabbagh - Writer, London, UK/ Izzat Darwazeh - Professor of Communications Engineering, University College London, UK/ Noura Erakat - Assistant Professor, Africana Studies and Criminal Justice, Rutgers University, USA/Said Zeedani - Emeritus Associate Professor of Philosophy, Al-Quds University, Palestine/ Raef Zreik - Minerva Humanities Centre, Tel-Aviv University, State of Israel...[2]" and so many more, and

Whereas: Out of the 195 sovereign states in the World that are officially recognized by the United Nations there are 25 countries based off the American Jewish Committee (AJC) website that have adopted the IHRA Definition and 7 endorsements by different global entities as of September of 2020 [3], and

Whereas: The fact that merely 12% of sovereign states in the World have recognized this working definition; it is clearly not as universally accepted as stated by many when the 72nd Student Senate, SGA Executive Branch, and the FSU Administration made a rush to judgement by adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism; therefore

Be it resolved by the Seventy-Third Student Senate at Florida State University that: The 73rd Student Senate implores the SGA Executive Branch, FSU Administration, and any entity incorporated as a part of the Florida State University to rescind their support of the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism. Due to the harm it causes to Jewish, Palestinian, and Allied students who wish to legitimately support the Palestinians People's movement for the right to Self-Determination, Freedom, and Human Rights as well as it's conflation of the Jewish Identity with the Political Ideology of Zionism.

Be it further resolved that: The 73rd Student Senate, SGA Executive Branch, and FSU Administration work in unison to find a more appropriate definition of Antisemitism to ensure support and protection for Jewish Students. However, this definition must not be one that will erode free speech rights for Palestinian, Jewish, and Allied Students on campus who wish to legitimately support the Palestinians People's movement for the right to Self-Determination, Freedom, and Human Rights.

Be it lastly resolved that:

A copy of this resolution be sent to:

Jonathon Levin, Student Body President

Alex Harmon, Student Senate President

Julie Ducey, Supreme Court Chief Justice

Jacey Hanley, Student Alumni Association President

Dr. Amy Hecht, Vice President for Student Affairs

John Thrasher, President of Florida State University

Ed Burr, Chairman of the Florida State University Board of Trustees

Julie Decker, President of the Florida State Alumni Association

Zachary Bethel, Editor-In-Chief of FSView

FOOTNOTES

[1]<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/dec/13/antisemitism-executive-order-trump-chilling-effect>

[2]https://www.theguardian.com/news/2020/nov/29/palestinian-rights-and-the-ihra-definition-of-antisemitism?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

[3]<https://www.ajc.org/adoption-of-the-working-definition>



73^{re} STUDENT SENATE Senate Resolution

Resolution #: 11

Primary Sponsor(s): Gabadage & Russell

Co-Sponsor(s): England, Stults, K. Hitchcock, Fineout, Nasworthy, West

Date: January 21, 2021

Whereas: Those applying to Student Government positions come into frequent contact with Senators, and

Whereas: It is important to remain respectful of students' gender identities and personal pronoun choices, and

Whereas: It is further important to ensure that students of all identities feel comfortable when interacting with Florida State University's Student Senate, and

Whereas: A question on the Florida State University's Student Governance & Advocacy application asking for the applicant's preferred pronouns would help ensure the above.

Be it resolved by the Seventy-third Student Senate at Florida State University that: Given the utmost importance of respecting one's personal pronouns, the Student Governance and Advocacy application be amended to include a question asking the candidate's personal pronoun preference, and

Be it further resolved that:

The addition of this question would prove vital in maintaining the spirit of inclusivity and respect that should be the standard in Student Government, and

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to:

Jonathan Levin, Student Body President

Max Roca, Chief of Staff

Emany Desino, Secretary of Appointments

Alexander Harmon, Student Senate President

Renee Wang, Student Senate President Pro-Tempore

Dr. Brandon Bowden, Interim Director, Student Governance & Advocacy

Natalia Rivera-Hernandez, Office Administrator, Student Governance & Advocacy

Anna Van Gurp, Senate Co-Advisor



73RD STUDENT SENATE Statute Revision, Addition or Proposed Constitutional Amendment Form

Senate Bill #: 9.

Primary Sponsor: England
Date: January 26, 2021

Purpose & Description: To amend an unnecessary restriction on forwarding letters.

Statute Number(s): 307.3

Statute/Amendment Text:

307.3 The Student Government Association Applications

- A. The Student Senate Internal Affairs Committee shall determine the format for the Student Government Association application. Once a format has been originally selected, the Internal Affairs Committee may propose any changes it deems necessary, which must pass the committee as well as the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) vote to be formally adopted.
 - 1. Any changes to the existing Student Government Association application shall be done in the period following the Fall Inauguration until Spring inauguration.
- B. Applications must be consistent with all rules and regulations of the Student Government Association, as well as those of the Florida State University, state, and federal government.
- C. In changing or creating forms, the Internal Affairs committee shall seek the advice of the Attorney General, the Student Body Chief of Staff, the SGA Director of the Student Affairs and the Student Senate Program Assistant.
- D. In order for candidates to be interviewed before the next Student Senate meeting, the forwarding letter must be sent to the Senate President no later than ~~five (5)~~ three (3) business days before the regular Senate meeting ~~so it may be assigned to the appropriate Standing Committee~~. If the forwarding letter is sent after this deadline but before the Senate meeting, all candidates on the letter shall not be considered by the Senate or any Standing Committee until the following week, while still abiding by Statute 202.2.
 - 1. The Forwarding Letter must include the number of applicants to each position being forwarded, copies of each candidates Application, and any minutes or relevant documents from the interviewing party of the forwarded candidate.



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