

Correspondence received by the
Concord Select Board
Week Ending – January 26, 2026

1. Keith Hannon Nimrod Dr.
2. Jodi Sperber
3. Richard Schoenfeld 4 Sweet Birch Lane
4. Eliza (Pippa) Shulman 643 Old Bedford Road
5. Cynthia Katz 20 Conant St.
6. Marc Girolimetti Wright Rd.
7. Mattan Kamon Hawthorne Lane
8. Andrea Foncerrada 41 Commonwealth Ave.
9. Ece Turnator, Cambridge Turnpike
10. Mattan Kamon Hawthorne Lane
11. Andrea Foncerrada 41 Commonwealth Ave.
12. Ann Feldwig 343 Commonwealth Ave.
13. Steering Committee Concord Carlisle Against Antisemitism
14. Ece Turnator, Cambridge Turnpike
15. Ece Turnator, Cambridge Turnpike

Please Note: The Select Board Correspondence policy has been updated as of January 27, 2025. The letters posted here reflect the views and opinions of the author as recorded in the body of their email. Neither the Select Board nor Town staff have verified or reviewed the contents. The Select Board and the Town do not necessarily agree, condone, support or advocate the ideas expressed in these letters and have not verified any factual statements made in the letters.

I am writing to bring a serious matter to the attention of the Select Board regarding violations of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and local bylaws at 1175 Elm Street.

A contractor, operating under an access agreement on town-owned land, has stockpiled fill within a wetland resource area and its buffer zone without the required permits from the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Despite initial claims from the NRC that no laws were broken, any work in a buffer zone legally requires a Notice of Intent (NOI) and an Order of Conditions. While an enforcement order has finally been issued to stop the work, the existing fill remains unpermitted and requires an "after the fact" NOI from both the contractor and the town.

The lack of enforcement regarding fill placed directly into the wetlands suggests a troubling double standard. It is expected that all residents comply with these regulations, and the town must be held to the same legal standards.

I have attached the two most recent letters between my lawyer and town counsel, which further detail these violations. I respectfully request that this issue be placed on the Select Board agenda and that these letters be included in the meeting packet.

It is my hope that the Select Board will intervene to ensure the law is properly enforced. If the current situation is not rectified, I will be forced to pursue further legal action against the town.

Respectfully,

Keith Hannon

Nimrod Drive

DANIEL J. GOODRICH
Direct Dial: (617) 226-3497
Email: dgoodrich@murphyking.com

January 6, 2026

VIA EMAIL

Mina S. Makarious
Anderson & Kreiger LLP
50 Milk Street, 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Town of Concord – CMLP Parcel at 1175 Elm Street / NOI Requirement

Dear Attorney Makarious:

I write in response to your January 2, 2026 letter concerning the requirement for a Notice of Intent (“NOI”) at the Concord Municipal Light Plant parcel at 1175 Elm Street (the “Site”). You advance three principal reasons why, in your view, neither the Town nor MIG must file an NOI in connection with the large stockpiles of fill placed on Town land in wetland resource areas and buffer zone at this location. Respectfully, I disagree.

For clarity, I address each of your points in turn.

1. 310 CMR 10.02(2)(d) – the provision you cite governs activities outside jurisdiction and is inapplicable here.

Your reliance on 310 CMR 10.02(2)(d) is misplaced. That provision applies only to activities outside both the resource areas listed in 10.02(1) and the 100-foot buffer zone—work that begins as non-jurisdictional but later causes downstream impacts. It does not apply where, as here, the activity occurred squarely within jurisdictional areas: inside the buffer zone and directly in bordering vegetated wetland (BVW).

The governing provisions are 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a) and (b), which require an NOI for any non-minor activity that removes, fills, dredges, or alters a resource area or buffer zone. Massachusetts appellate decisions confirm this: “Other than minor activities, any activity in the buffer zone ... is subject to regulation and requires the filing of a notice of intent.” *See Craig v. Conservation Comm’n of Mattapoisett*, 93 Mass. App. Ct. 1108 (Rule 1:28) (quoting 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)); *Dubee v. Conversation Comm’n of Bridgewater*, 91 Mass. App. Ct. 1116 (Rule 1:28) (quoting 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b) and (d)).

Here, the dirt piles and stockpiled materials were placed directly within jurisdictional areas: not only within the 100-foot buffer zone, but also directly into BVW. The Concord Wetlands Bylaw and its regulations explicitly treat the buffer zone as a jurisdictional area, with distinct 0–25, 25–50, and 50–100 foot sub-zones, all of which are regulated. Impacts to these areas — including the placement of fill — require an NOI.

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Thus, 310 CMR 10.02(2)(d) deals with activities outside the buffer zone that may later be found to have altered a resource area. The stockpiling at 1175 Elm is not such an activity. It has always been squarely within jurisdictional areas, and the positive Determination of Applicability issued by the NRC on December 8, 2025 confirms as much. That determination, by its express terms, states that an NOI is required for the dirt piles that were placed in the buffer zone and directly into a delineated wetland, as well as for any future work in those areas. In other words, 310 CMR 10.02(2)(d) has no application here.

Because the NRC has determined the stockpiling occurred within delineated BVW and within the 100-foot Buffer Zone, 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a) and (b)—not 10.02(2)(d)—govern. Section 10.02(2)(a) provides that any activity within an Area Subject to Protection that will remove, fill, dredge or alter that area “requires the filing of a Notice of Intent.” Section 10.02(2)(b) likewise provides that non-minor activities within the Buffer Zone that, in the issuing authority’s judgment, will alter a protected area “requires the filing of a Notice of Intent.” 310 CMR 10.02(2)(a)-(b). Accordingly, the law and the NRC’s own findings leave no discretion here: an NOI is mandatory.

2. The MassDEP Wetlands Enforcement Manual is guidance, not law – and read in full, it supports requiring an NOI here.

You next rely on the MassDEP Wetlands Enforcement Manual (November 2004) as support for the proposition that the NRC may choose a restoration plan in lieu of an NOI. I agree that the Manual is a useful interpretive resource for local issuing authorities. But it is not binding law; the governing requirements remain the Wetlands Protection Act, its regulations, and Concord’s local bylaw and regulations.

Even accepting the Manual’s guidance, the portions you cite must be read alongside Section 8-5, “Enforcement Order requiring a Notice of Intent,” which makes clear that a Notice of Intent “should be required whenever [the] commission decides that some or all of the unauthorized work can meet performance standards in the regulations and can ultimately be approved,” including where a violator has been working in the buffer zone but not a resource area. The Manual explains that requiring an NOI allows the commission to:

1. obtain and approve an accurate wetland boundary;
2. obtain abutter comments through the required public notification;
3. properly condition the project through an Order of Conditions;
4. maintain a permanent public record by recording the Order of Conditions; and

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5. ensure that a violator does not reap any benefit in time or money by avoiding the permit process.

Those objectives apply with full force at 1175 Elm, where the Town and MIG seek to proceed with “restoration” and further work on a Town-owned parcel, in and adjacent to BVW and buffer zone, for which no NOI has ever been filed and no Order of Conditions exists.

The Concord NRC’s own Enforcement Order (Form 9), issued December 17, 2025, further undercuts the notion that no NOI is required. Under Section C, the Commission checked the box stating that “no further work shall be performed until a public hearing has been held and an Order of Conditions has been issued to regulate said work.” As you know, an Order of Conditions is obtained only through the NOI process. When, at the public meeting, the Commission subsequently suggested that an NOI would not, in fact, be required, that position could not be reconciled with the very language of the Enforcement Order it had just issued.

Section 8-4 of the Manual, which you quote, addresses scenarios where the unauthorized work (often substantial, such as unauthorized filling of more than 5,000 square feet of BVW) is unlikely to be permitted and the commission wishes to avoid an appeal of a denial that would delay restoration. It is a case-specific, pragmatic suggestion to favor an enforcement-driven restoration plan over a new, after-the-fact NOI in situations where a prior permitting history exists and the risk is that a violator will seek to keep fill in place.

That is not our situation. At 1175 Elm:

- The Town is the landowner;
- MIG’s fill was always intended as temporary staging, not permanent alteration;
- There is no risk that MIG or the Town will legitimately seek long-term approval to leave illegal fill in jurisdictional areas; and
- No prior NOI or Order of Conditions exists for the stockpiling activity.

Those facts align much more closely with the Manual’s rationale for requiring an NOI (Section 8-5), not for bypassing it.

3. The Craig OADR decision is materially distinguishable and does not support skipping an NOI here.

You also cite the Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution decision in *In the Matter of Daniel and Lisa Craig*, OADR Docket Nos. WET-2017-012 and WET-2017-013, and particularly

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footnote 6, for the notion that “filing a Notice of Intent is not necessarily the favored approach for addressing after-the-fact review of activities conducted without a permit.”

Respectfully, the *Craig* matter is not analogous. There, the property had a long-standing permitting history. An NOI had been filed in 2000; an Order of Conditions issued; and a Certificate of Compliance was later recorded. The violations arose when the landowner undertook lawn and landscaping work inconsistent with that original Order. A new, after-the-fact NOI was filed and then withdrawn when agreement on restoration could not be reached.

In that procedural posture, the local commission issued an Enforcement Order requiring restoration to the conditions in the original, valid Order of Conditions. The question, in essence, was whether an additional NOI was the best vehicle to address the violation, given the existing OOC and the risk that a new NOI and appeal could delay implementation of restoration. The OADR discussion you reference is grounded in that specific history — it presupposes a valid NOI and OOC already in place.

At 1175 Elm, there is no prior NOI or Order of Conditions for the dirt piles and stockpiling activity. MIG and the Town have never been through the permitting process for this work. The *Craig* decision — which dealt with how best to enforce and restore under an existing OOC — does not provide a basis to circumvent the NOI requirement in our very different circumstances.

4. NRC’s own December 8 determination and the nature of the work confirm that an NOI is required.

Finally, and importantly, the NRC’s own recent actions confirm that an NOI is required for the stockpiling work and any related restoration. On December 8, 2025, by public vote and in the signed WPA Form 2 (RDA determination), the NRC issued positive determinations #3 and #4. Both determinations expressly state that an NOI is required for:

- the dirt piles placed in the buffer zone;
- the dirt and rocks placed directly into the delineated BVW; and
- any future work located in that same wetland and buffer zone.

The NRC determination explicitly notes that this includes “the necessary restoration work to remove the stockpiles from Town property.” Under the WPA and Concord’s Wetlands Bylaw, an Order of Conditions—obtained through filing an NOI—is the mechanism that would give MIG any legal approval to disturb, remove, or otherwise work in those jurisdictional areas going forward.

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When the same Commission later suggests that an NOI is not required because an Enforcement Order has been issued, it is effectively disavowing its own December 8 positive determinations and the standard structure of the WPA and local bylaw, under which enforcement tools supplement, rather than replace, the permitting process.

5. Next steps

For all of these reasons, we maintain that the Town and MIG are required to file an after-the-fact NOI for the stockpiling and related work at 1175 Elm Street, consistent with the NRC's own positive RDA determinations and the governing state and local law.

If the Town and MIG elect to proceed with "restoration" or further work on the Site without filing an NOI and obtaining an Order of Conditions, my clients will have little choice but to seek relief in Superior Court, including under G.L. c. 214, § 7A, to ensure that the statutory and bylaw requirements are properly applied and enforced.

That outcome remains avoidable. If the Town directs MIG to file an after-the-fact NOI with the NRC, we are prepared to participate in that process and focus our efforts on ensuring that the resulting Order of Conditions provides for appropriate testing, restoration, and long-term protection of the resource areas at and around 1175 Elm Street.

Very truly yours,



Daniel J. Goodrich

ANDERSON KREIGER

MINA S. MAKARIOUS

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January 2, 2026

BY EMAIL

Daniel J. Goodrich

Murphy & King

dgoodrich@murphyking.com

(617) 226-3420

Re: Town of Concord- CMLP Parcel at 1175 Elm Street

Dear Dan:

I write in response to your December 23, 2025 letter regarding 1175 Elm Street, Concord, Massachusetts (the “Site”), which follows a prior exchange of letters between us dated December 8 and 11.

In our December 11 letter we stated our position regarding the history of soil stockpiling on the Site, the Natural Resources Commission (“NRC’s”) and Town of Concord’s (the “Town’s”) actions with respect to the Site, and MIG’s responsibility for restoration of the Site. The NRC further addressed this matter at its December 17 meeting and issued an enforcement order requiring MIG to restore the Site. MIG has stated that it would comply with the enforcement order rather than appeal it and has agreed to enter into a new access agreement with the Town in order to achieve compliance with the enforcement order. Our position that the Town has taken an appropriate and careful approach to address MIG’s actions on the Site has not changed.

Your December 23 letter makes three new demands of the Town:

1. Production of any and all remediation, restoration, or abatement plans or proposals prepared by or for MIG, DNR, the Town, or MassDOT relating to 1175 Elm Street (including any drafts submitted or to be submitted to the NRC);
2. A written response before the next NRC meeting, confirming whether any such plan or proposal exists and, if so, producing it; and
3. An order requiring MIG to file an NOI before proceeding with remediation work.

Your first two demands constitute a request for public records pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10(a). The Town has searched for records in response to these requests and will produce all responsive documents in its possession, custody and control on or before January 8, 2026. You have a right to appeal this response to the Supervisor of Records pursuant to G.L. c. 66, § 10(a) or to the Superior Court pursuant to § 10A(c).

In connection with your public records request, you allude to a concern that the cleanup plans should be shared given the potential use of the Site as a water treatment facility. The Town is considering the Site as a potential location for a water treatment facility but does not intend to withdraw any groundwater from the Site. Further, any plans for a water treatment facility require a significant amount of further development and analysis, including with respect to the feasibility of using the Site. The Town shares your concern that the Site be properly restored (regardless of its future use), and has requested that MIG continue to provide it with the stocked soil samples in MIG's possession. However, the Site's prior use and the anticipated timeline for Site restoration has not affected the Town's progress with respect to placement of a water treatment facility at the Site or elsewhere.

We respectfully decline your third demand. MassDEP regulations state that the NRC, upon finding that work has occurred in a resource area or buffer zone, “**may** require the filing of a Notice of Intent and/or issuance of an Enforcement Order and shall impose such conditions on the activity or any portion thereof as it deems necessary to contribute to the protection of the interests identified in M.G.L. c. 131, § 40.” 310 CMR 10.02(2)(d) (emphasis added). MassDEP also notes that its “Enforcement Order (Form 9) allows the commission to choose either of these Options.” MassDEP Wetlands Program, Wetlands Enforcement Manual at p. 8-4 (November 2004) (available at: <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/pz/wenfman.pdf>).

Indeed, as MassDEP has stated, in certain circumstances a restoration plan is preferable to a notice of intent (“NOI”):

In many cases, ordering the violator to submit a Restoration Plan for commission approval rather than a Notice of Intent makes more sense. For example, if the unauthorized work can not likely be approved – the violator clearly has filled more than 5,000 square feet of bordering vegetated wetland, and no limited projects apply – **then your commission should opt to require a Restoration Plan instead of a Notice of Intent.** There are a number of advantages to this approach. If you require the violator to file a Notice of Intent, the violator might seize the opportunity and file a proposal to leave the fill in place. You will have no choice but to issue a denial that the violator can appeal to DEP. Restoration efforts most likely will stall as the appeals process takes its course. **Instead, a carefully crafted Enforcement Order that requires a detailed Restoration Plan more likely will lead to success without further delays.**

Id. (emphasis added). See also *In the Matter of Daniel and Lisa Craig*, OADR Docket No. WET-2017-012; WET 2017-013, Recommended Final Decision at n. 6 (Jan. 29, 2019) (“Filing a Notice of Intent is not necessarily the favored approach for addressing after-the-fact review of activities conducted without a permit.”). Where, as is the case here, the Town and the NRC share your clients’ desire to see the Site restored, rather than allowing fill to remain, the NRC properly exercised its discretion in issuing an enforcement order, rather than requiring an NOI.

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Please let us know if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mina S. Makarious

Mina S. Makarious

Anderson & Kreiger LLP

cc: Kerry Lafleur, Town Manager
Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director
David Kerrigan, Kenney and Sams

Dear Members of the Select Board and Ms. LaFleur,

I'm writing to thank you for your leadership in bringing forward the January 27 proclamation addressing antisemitism, including the adoption of the IHRA working definition, as well as for explicitly naming antisemitism in the revised DEI Commission charge. I strongly support these steps and appreciate the care with which they were developed.

I also want to share my appreciation for the way you engaged with public input throughout this process. As someone who took the time to speak and submit feedback, it mattered to feel heard. These conversations have not always been easy, and I'm grateful for the steadiness, openness, and respect you brought to them, even when the discourse was complex or divisive.

This proclamation sends an important signal about the values of our community — that antisemitism is real, that it causes harm, and that Concord is committed to addressing it while remaining a welcoming and inclusive town for all. Thank you for approaching this work with seriousness, balance, and a clear commitment to listening.

With appreciation,
Jodi Sperber

Dear Select Board members:

Thank you for support of the proclamation addressing antisemitism, adopting the IHRA definition, and for including antisemitism in the revised DEI Charge. It is important for town leadership to strongly endorse this position and demonstrate that Concord will not tolerate antisemitism or any intolerance to ethnic and religious minorities.

Richard Schoenfeld

Richard Schoenfeld, Ph.D.

4 Sweet Birch Lane

Concord, MA 01742

Dear Chair Howell and Members of the Select Board,

Thank you for including the proposed proclamation addressing antisemitism in next week's meeting packet. I read it closely and deeply appreciate the time and care that clearly went into the language. It is thoughtful, strong, and meaningful to see in writing.

I'm writing to share my support for adopting the proclamation at your upcoming meeting. In a moment when many residents are feeling anxious and on edge, this kind of clear statement of values matters. It helps set the tone for what we expect in Concord: a community where antisemitism has no place and where all neighbors feel safe and supported.

Thank you again for your leadership and for taking this seriously.

With appreciation,

Eliza (Pippa) Shulman

643 Old Bedford Road

From: Cynthia Katz

Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2026 8:07:52 PM

Subject: Warner's Pond Management Committee

Dear Town Leaders:

I am looking forward to the WPMC getting to work on Pond Management and keeping Warner's Pond healthy. Per the NRC's charge for the committee, I am glad that all members you appoint will be:

-Pro-Pond, not looking for dam removal;

-Will have relevant technical expertise per the charge.

After the WPTF's work and the commitment to the pond well established, anything short of these two critical points could undermine trust in the NRC's support of the Task Force, their work, and the outcome they established.

Thank you for your work and attention to Warner's Pond.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia Katz

20 Conant Street

West Concord

From: Marc G

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 10:17:04 AM

Subject: Support for Adopting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Dear Members of the Concord Select Board,

I am writing to urge the Select Board to formally support and adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as a practical tool to protect the safety and dignity of all Concord residents.

Concord has long prided itself on civic responsibility, education, and moral leadership. Supporting the IHRA definition is not a symbolic gesture. It is a clear, pragmatic step that helps institutions, schools, and local leaders distinguish between protected speech and conduct that crosses into hate, harassment, and incitement. In an era where ambiguity is often exploited, clarity matters.

During your most recent meeting, news broke that a 19 year old was charged with setting fire to Beth Israel Temple in Jackson, Mississippi. That act did not emerge in a vacuum. It reflects a disturbing pattern in which young people, often radicalized through online disinformation and grievance fueled echo chambers, translate abstract hatred into real world violence. While Mississippi and Massachusetts differ culturally and politically, the forces driving this behavior do not respect state lines.

Antisemitism today is frequently normalized, masked as activism, or dismissed as rhetoric until it becomes action. Jewish communities are not the only ones put at risk when this happens. When hate is tolerated, it spreads. Schools become less safe. Public spaces become targets. Children at every educational level absorb the message that intimidation is acceptable and that silence is the community's response.

The IHRA definition does not silence debate or limit free expression. Rather, it provides a widely accepted framework to identify antisemitism when it appears, so it can be addressed early, before it escalates into threats, vandalism, or violence. Many municipalities and institutions across the country have already adopted it for precisely this reason.

History shows us that communities rarely regret acting too early against hate. They often regret acting too late.

By supporting the IHRA definition, Concord has the opportunity to say, clearly and collectively, that antisemitism and all forms of hate have no home here. That we take

seriously our responsibility to protect our neighbors, our children, and the values we claim to uphold.

I respectfully ask the Select Board to take this step and provide the leadership this moment requires.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marc Girolimetti

Wright Rd.

From: Mattan Kamon

Sent: Friday, January 23, 2026 11:41:11 AM

Subject: Antisemitism Proclamation: IHRA definition text ok, but IHRA “framework” is inappropriate

Dear Select Board,

First, as a Jewish resident of Concord, I appreciate you taking the time to make a proclamation about antisemitism.

I also ask that the Select Board take care in the wording of the proclamation. It is acceptable to use the IHRA definition text as many surrounding towns have done, but please make it clear that the town is not embracing or adopting the IHRA framework. The difference between the framework and the definition has not been highlighted so most do not appreciate the significant difference: The IHRA framework adds 11 examples of potential antisemitism after the definition text. Seven of those relate to statements about Israel, some of which potentially label as antisemitic statements common in today’s political discourse on Israel. Wherever one stands on the matter, hopefully we still agree that political discourse is a right and an important part of a healthy democracy, without fear of town-sanctioned labels.

The town should not be putting its thumb on the scale and suggesting that certain statements on Israel are antisemitic. Please consider that the lead author of the IHRA definition and examples has written extensively about IHRA’s abuse, for instance here. This is just one example of the abuse of the IHRA examples.

Note also that the word “framework” is not common. Often “IHRA definition”, as in Ken Stern’s title in the article above, refers to the whole website which includes the examples, so please make it clear that the town is endorsing just the definition text.

Other towns have been careful to clarify this distinction. For instance Westford took out all references to IHRA and literally just adopted its text:

<https://westfordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/12150/2022-Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion>

This would be the most appropriate option for Concord. I will write more later this weekend. I will not be able to make a public comment at the meeting next week because I will be traveling.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mattan Kamon

Hawthorne Lane, Concord

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I am writing in my personal capacity as a Concord resident to express my strong and enthusiastic support for the Concord DEI Commission Draft Charge dated January 26, 2026, which will be voted on this Tuesday. I am grateful for the time, care, and seriousness with which you have approached this revision; the draft reflects a thoughtful evolution of the Commission's role—grounded in data, aligned with the Town's budgeting and accountability processes, and oriented toward concrete action rather than aspiration alone.

I would like to specifically acknowledge and congratulate Chair Mark Howell for the inclusion of explicit language addressing antisemitism within the programmatic section of the charge (the duties and responsibilities section). Naming antisemitism directly, and situating it within a framework that allows the Commission to develop action plans, recommend investments, and report back to the Select Board, is both meaningful and necessary. This language ensures that when antisemitic incidents occur in Concord, the Town has a clear, accountable mechanism to respond—using data, programs, and resources, not just statements of concern.

The section on designing and recommending systemic responses, particularly the Commission's ability to work within the Town's budgeting cycle, recommend actions, gather data, identify culturally competent support services, and develop specific programs to address antisemitism sets a strong foundation for responsible governance and continuous improvement in our community climate.

I support this draft charge unequivocally and without reservation. I believe it strengthens the Town's capacity to act thoughtfully and responsibly in the face of bias, while remaining grounded in evidence, transparency, and accountability.

With respect and appreciation,

Andrea Foncerrada

41 Commonwealth Avenue

Concord, MA

Dear Select Board Members Howell, Rovelli, Boehm, Hartman and McKennitt:

Regarding the Proclamation that is on the 1/27 agenda, please see below the letter and proposed amendment from Benjamin Eidelson, Professor of Law at Harvard University. Prof. Eidelson is a constitutional law and antidiscrimination law expert. His credentials are summarized here: <https://hls.harvard.edu/faculty/benjamin-eidelson/>

Prof. Eidelson kindly reviewed the draft Proclamation at our request. He notes that the IHRA definition has been abused in the past, and proposes an amendment that retains the original content but adds language similar to that used by the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combatting Antisemitism in their final report.

We remain concerned that the IHRA definition chills speech about Palestinian human rights, and is too readily abused to censor and punish discussion of Israel's policies. We therefore think that it will have a detrimental effect on dialogue, and should not be referenced in the town's proclamation. However, we understand that the Board believes that the IHRA definition is a tool in recognizing and understanding antisemitism.

Prof. Eidelson's proposed amendments balance the town's embrace of the IHRA definition with clarifying language about its use. We respectfully request that the Board discuss and incorporate Prof Eidelson's amendments.

Best regards,

Ece Turnator, Cambridge Turnpike, Concord

Mahreen Hoda, Oak Knoll Rd., Carlisle

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Eidelson, Benjamin <beidelson@law.harvard.edu>

Date: Sat, Jan 24, 2026 at 9:39 AM

Subject: IHRA proclamation

To: mahreenhoda@gmail.com <mahreenhoda@gmail.com>

Dear Mahreen,

You asked for my reactions to the Concord Select Board's draft proclamation adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism, in light of concerns about how such measures have sometimes had the effect of "chilling" (even if not formally censoring) constitutionally protected speech, or enabling bad-faith actors to weaponize accusations of antisemitism against critics of Israel.

With those concerns in mind, I've taken the liberty of drafting an amendment that you might propose or the Select Board might consider (see attached). The amendment preserves all of the original content but adds certain clarifications to provide reassurance to community members who are understandably concerned by how the IHRA definition has been used and abused in other settings. (To take one example: just a couple days ago, unsealed documents confirmed that Rümeyza Öztürk, a Tufts grad student, had her visa revoked based on an op-ed criticizing Israel—which the administration deemed to “creat[e] a hostile environment for Jewish students,” apparently based on President Trump’s executive order adopting the IHRA definition.)

One point about the amendment worth highlighting is that these clarifications track the approach taken by both the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism and the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. The authors of both reports thought it important to pair their adoption or acknowledgment of the IHRA definition with these reassurances, so it’s hard to see why Concord wouldn’t do the same, and I think it would send a somewhat troubling message if Concord chose to omit them.

In general, I’m skeptical of campaigns to formally “adopt” definitions of antisemitism, for the same reasons voiced by the Massachusetts Special Commission: however their literal texts are best interpreted, they have “become a lightning rod and litmus test” and end up getting exploited to “raise fears, engender animosity, and create division.” Still, I’d hope that an amendment along these lines might cut against that divisiveness and enable the proclamation to function as the kind of affirmation of broadly shared community values that it is clearly meant to be.

Best wishes,

Ben Eidelson

Benjamin Eidelson

Professor of Law

Harvard Law School

<https://hls.harvard.edu/faculty/benjamin-eidelson/>

Dear Select Board,

As a Jewish resident of Concord, I appreciate you taking the time to make a proclamation about antisemitism and I ask that you not feel pressure to approve this proclamation on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Now that I've read the draft proclamation, I ask that you please spend time getting the language right.

Key points:

As mentioned in my previous email (included below): Please include just the IHRA definition text as Westford did, and do not adopt the entire IHRA definition framework. Please remove references to "IHRA" in the title and the body. This makes it clear that by "adopting the definition", the Town is adopting a paragraph definition of antisemitism and not adopting the controversial examples as described in the larger IHRA definition framework. Could you please amend the proclamation to make that clear?

Why? While the IHRA framework says criticism of Israel is not antisemitic, the controversial examples in the framework contradict that.

Example: "Apartheid" refers to a form of legalized racism based on the South African system years ago. Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have used apartheid to describe Israel's treatment of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, so apartheid is quite a common term to criticize Israel. However, the IHRA framework says "claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor" could be antisemitic.

Potential Impact to Concord: Last year the Academy Award winning film "No Other Land" was aired at the Fowler library. (A movie depicting life in the West Bank). My understanding (2nd hand) is that the police received a call that the movie was antisemitic and shouldn't be shown on town property. This shook up all involved: the organizers and the librarians. The police made the right call under protected speech and let the movie be shown. However, if the police are told to be educated by IHRA, must they now consider that there are grounds for this claim? Will they err on the side of caution and not let the movie be shown? Will they ask the Select Board to decide? But most likely, will the librarians now fear being called antisemitic and not risk showing such a movie? Either way, the impact will be effective suppression of free speech: the stress and delay and angst will be discouraging for anyone to air such a movie or hold similar events

Potential Impact #2: In the December 3 DEI commission hearing, there were similar discussions over No Other Land and antisemitism. An apology was made. But if apartheid

speech could now be antisemitic according to IHRA, then instead of an apology this could be a legitimate debate at the DEI commission

We as a town cannot let common criticisms of Israel become debatable as antisemitic. The effect, even if not by legal enforcement, will be suppression of viewpoint critical of Israel

I feel it is important to have concepts and ideas like described above within the discourse. Only by listening to other viewpoints and open debate can we all come to some understanding of each other and hopefully move this world to a better place.

There are good parts and bad parts to IHRA and other similar definitional tools. The proclamation is not the place to decide these important matters. For that reason, I feel only the simple IHRA definition text, not the framework itself, is appropriate for this proclamation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mattan Kamon

Hawthorne Lane, Concord

P.S. Note that Acton also appears to just be adopting the definition text, and not the examples: Acton. Note they quote what they mean by the definition.

References:

[Apartheid: The Tyranny of Racism Made Law | UN Photo \(Apartheid in South Africa is racism\)](#)

[A Threshold Crossed: Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution | HRW](#)

[Israel's apartheid against Palestinians - Amnesty International](#)

Dear Members of the Select Board,

I am writing in my personal capacity as a Concord resident to express my strong and wholehearted support for the proclamation affirming the Town of Concord's commitment to opposing antisemitism and adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism.

Recent incidents in our community have been painful and unsettling. They have made clear that antisemitism is not an abstract concern or something that happens elsewhere. It exists here, it causes real harm, and it requires a clear, principled response.

I want to specifically acknowledge Cameron McKennit and Kerry Lafleur for the care and integrity reflected in this draft. The proclamation names antisemitism directly, recognizes the harm it inflicts on individuals and on the fabric of our community, and adopts the IHRA definition as a practical and educational tool, while thoughtfully affirming constitutional protections and the importance of free expression. That balance is not easy, and it matters deeply.

I support this proclamation unequivocally and believe it sends the important message that Concord takes antisemitism seriously, that we stand with those who are affected by it, and that we are committed to fostering a community grounded in dignity, safety, and respect for all.

Andrea

41 Commonwealth Ave,

Concord, MA 01742

January 26, 2026

Dear Ms. Grimwood,

I am writing about the choice of Elissa Brown and Carlene Hempel to serve on the new Warner's Pond Management committee (WPMC). The charge of the WPMC, which was written by you and the NRC, states that "Committee members should all be committed to preserving and protecting the pond." That seems obvious and completely reasonable, but the Friends of Warner's Pond asked that this language be included because we suspected the NRC to do exactly this – place people on the committee who want pond management to fail. And now that is precisely what happened - you have proposed two people for the committee who have been long-standing and unwavering proponents of dam removal. It is not believable that these two have somehow changed their minds and suddenly have a genuine interest in rehabilitating the pond. If somehow you were not aware of their strong beliefs in favor of dam removal, then let me share just a few from the past year.

From the Warner's Pond Task force Public comments:

4/10/2025 2:14:26 PM

Back in the 1960s, some of our rivers were so polluted that they caught on fire. It was easy to see that we needed to clean up our environment and in the 55 years since then, we have done a lot. One of the ways devised to protect further damage to our rivers was the enactment of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. This act authorized Congress to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural and recreational values in a free-flowing condition. Note the words free-flowing, because way back in 1968 Congress realized the value of free-flowing rivers to protect the water quality and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes. The free-flowing portion of the SuAsCo watershed, from the dam in Framingham and the Damonmill Dam in Concord, downstream to the Talbot Mill Dam in Billerica and its tributaries, were designated in 1995 as a Wild and Scenic River. A partnership river stewardship council was formed specifically to protect the river resources. Since its designation the River Stewardship Council with its partner organizations, including members from the towns, OARS, SVT, and CLCT, have done a yeomans job in protecting and enhancing the rivers. Among other efforts, we have removed hundreds if not thousands of tons of trash and invasive water chestnuts from the rivers and associated streams and ponds. As a result of such efforts the Assabet River is no longer called "the cesspool of Massachusetts." But, also we no longer have as clear signs that our rivers are in danger. However, the danger to our rivers remain. As long as we have dams on our rivers and their tributaries that no longer serve their intended purpose, we have dams that unnecessarily disrupt and impair the natural ecology. When dams are removed, water

quality improves as do the recreational and ecological values of the restored streams. The Warner's Pond Dam is one such dam. It is time to remove the dam and restore Nashoba Brook.

Elissa Brown 5 Concord Greene, #1, Concord, MA 01742

Here are Carlene Hempel's comments to the Task Force:

4/13/2025 7:27:21 PM April 13, 2025

Warner's Pond Task Force Town of Concord Concord, MA 01742

Dear Members of the Task Force, The Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council (River Stewardship Council) welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the potential dam removal project at Warner's Pond in the Town of Concord. Dam removal is the preferred alternative identified in the Warner's Pond Alternatives Analysis Report to address the currently degraded ecological and recreational conditions and Warner's Pond. This alternative would help to protect and enhance the water quality and ecological resources of the Assabet Wild and Scenic River downstream of the project site. As part of our effort to support removal of Warner's Pond Dam and thereby restore Nashoba Brook, our Council produced this video in the hopes that others will see the clear benefits of this decision. (Link copied here: <https://youtu.be/hBe9U55NtLI>) Removal of the dam at Warner's Pond will restore Nashoba Brook to its natural, freeflowing condition. The return to a natural flow regime will improve flow velocities and water quality. Sediments and nutrients will be able to flow downstream into the Assabet River where they will benefit the outstanding ecological resources for which the River was designated as Wild and Scenic, including the diverse array of plant and animal species that live in and along the river and adjacent wetlands. Elimination of the impoundment upstream of the dam will help to minimize the occurrence and spread of aquatic invasive species that may move downstream into the Assabet River. Dam removal will re-establish habitat connectivity for aquatic organisms in Nashoba Brook. This, coupled with other dam removal projects in the SuAsCo watershed, will open up many miles of critical spawning habitat for diadromous fish. In 1999, Congress designated twenty-nine miles of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Rivers as a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System. This federal designation recognizes the rivers' free-flow and nationally significant outstanding scenic, ecological, recreational, historical and literary values. Comprised of representatives from local, state and federal governments, and local non-profits, the SuAsCo River Stewardship Council coordinates the protection

and enhancement of the Wild and Scenic River segments and their associated outstandingly remarkable values.

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Conservation Plan (2019 Update), which is approved by the eight municipalities with representatives on the River Stewardship Council, identifies priority strategies for water quality protection and ecological enhancement including:

- Preserve habitat connectivity, water quality, ecosystem services, tributary and headwater water quality.
- Support diadromous fish restoration in the Concord River and its tributaries. Raise awareness regarding the need for aquatic connectivity.
- Monitor aquatic and riparian biomass in order to track progress in reducing eutrophication and maintaining habitat quality.
- Monitor and manage water chestnut, with a focus on upstream and headwater populations beyond the wild and scenic segments of the rivers.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. The River Stewardship Council looks forward to engaging with the project as it moves forward.

Sincerely, Carlene Hempel, Concord Representative Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council

Carlene Hempel 50 Highland St. Concord, MA 01742

Ms. Hempel led the effort to create the video promoting dam removal that she references in her comments. She spoke about it in the minutes of the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council (attached, with her comments highlighted).

I do not understand how this is permissible. These two people should not be on the committee. They are welcome to attend the public meetings and voice their opinions, as they did throughout the Task Force meetings. However, the committee has limited time, much to get done, and their involvement sabotages the process from the start. The issue of dam removal was already debated by the Task Force. Now it's time to let this next chapter play out, but it certainly seems like the NRC is determined to have its finger on the scale.

With mounting frustration,

Anna Feldweg, MD

343 Commonwealth Ave.

Concord, MA 01742

SuAsCo RSC Minutes for February 25, 2025

RSC Representatives present: Marlies Henderson, Chair (Billerica), Emma Lord (NPS), Elissa Brown (Lead River Ambassador), Matt Brown (OARS), Ron Chick (Framingham), Dan Cook (Carlisle), Christine Dugan (Lincoln), Bill Fadden (Framingham), Carlene Hempel (Concord), Stephanie Koch (USFWS), Tom Sciacca (Wayland)

RSC Representatives absent: John Drobinski (Sudbury), Ralph Hammond (Bedford), Laura Mattei (SVT), Frank Richichi (Bedford-Alt), Eric Simms (Wayland-Alt)

Guests: Jon Metivier, Acting Deputy Conservation Agent for Carlisle

Welcome, Carlisle Water Chestnut Pull and February Minutes

7:00 pm Ms. Henderson opened the meeting. Council representatives introduced themselves. Mr. Metivier introduced himself as the Acting Conservation Administrator for Carlisle. He said that Carlisle would like to do a water chestnut pull this summer in the Page's Brook watershed. That water flows into the Concord River. He shared a slide of the proposed work area. Mr. Metivier is expecting the Conservation Commission to require a Notice of Intent. A letter of support from the RSC in time for the April 3rd Conservation Commission meeting would be helpful. He would like to write the Order of Conditions with ongoing conditions so that the work can continue in future years.

7:13 pm Ms. Henderson moved to approve the letter of support, Mr. Chick seconded and the motion was approved 10-0.

7:14 pm Ms. Henderson asked if there were any edits for the February Minutes. Mr. Sciacca had one. He motioned to accept the Minutes as edited, Ms. Hempel seconded. The motion passed 9-0 with one abstention.

River Ambassador Report

7:17 pm Ms. Brown said that there will be a **Community Forum in Lincoln** on March 10th concerning rescuing wildlife from **rodenticides**. Rodenticides are currently banned for residential use but allowed for commercial pest control companies. There is a movement in towns and cities in the state to ban their commercial use because of the harm done to raptors and other wildlife that ingest poisoned mice. She shared a Zoom link for that meeting.

7:20 pm Ms. Brown updated the Council with news from member towns. **Hop Brook Watershed Association** submitted a Community Preservation Committee grant application in Framingham which mainly concerns **phosphorous in Hop Brook**. They have requested about \$90,000. A substantial amount of that is for OARS' support for water quality sampling in Wayland. The moratorium on turf fields in Wayland, which has been in place since 2021, is being revisited. Oxbow Associates, a local environmental wetland consulting firm has supported a report on the damage to the wetlands. Mr. Sciacca said that the firm probably did not find a lot of overflow from the rubber because it had already been washed into the river. There is some money available to try to prevent more crumb rubber overflow. Mr. Sciacca thinks the decision will be for the minimal, low-cost approach which probably won't be the most effective option.

7:22 pm Ms. Brown attended a MACC meeting which discussed that **6PPD-quinine** is a highly carcinogenic contaminant of new concern which is associated with crumb rubber. Concord is still working with a property

owner who did a massive amount of vista clearing and is proposing high bush blueberries as mitigation. An information session is scheduled for March 10th on The Assabet River Bridge and Trail project that will span from 300 Baker Avenue to the West Concord MBTA station.

7:24 pm Ms. Brown said that MCI-Concord has been closed, the prisoners are gone, and the state, through the Dept. of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance, has been tasked with the disposition of the property. The state has allowed Concord to give some input. Concord is interested in developing a plan for an agricultural field and a triangular parcel given to the Concord Housing Development Corp for affordable housing in lieu of building at Brewster's Woods. Their Advisory Board developed a Request for Proposals. The housing plan should begin permitting in 2027 and construction in 2028. Concord is interested in taking over the wastewater treatment plant which does need some rehabilitation. The property includes about 1,500 feet of frontage on the Assabet River and another 1,000 feet around the confluence with Nashoba Brook.

7:30 pm The **Warner's Pond Task Force** is still working to finalize the three different proposals that they will present to the public: dam removal, dredging, and a plan with options for volume which is a sort of maintenance proposal. There is still some discussion of a fish ladder though there is concern that the fish may not use it. The ladder also doesn't address water quality, sediment build-up, and invasive aquatic species.

7:34 pm Ms. Hempel showed a rough cut of the 4-minute long **Warner's Pond dam removal video**. She noted that there were corrections to be made to the script, such as adding mention of the Wild and Scenic River. She said that the Warner's Pond Subcommittee would like to pay the second half of the videography bill, which is \$3,925. Mr. Sciacca moved to approve that payment, Mr. Cook seconded and the motion passed 10-0. Ms. Hempel said the final version of the promotional video should be ready by the RSC's March meeting.

Environmental Topics

7:49 pm Ms. Henderson said that a recent Mass Association of Conservation Commissioners webinar discussed turf fields. She learned that organizations for the Mystic River watershed and the Charles River watershed have issued **Turf Field Statements**. She thought that the SuAsCo, being larger than both of those, should also issue a statement. She suggested that the RSC work on wording for that at the March meeting.

7:51 pm Mr. Sciacca said that in 2019 Verizon proposed installing a cell tower near the Stone Bridge in Wayland. There was a lot of community pushback and Verizon did not pursue the project. He recently saw a new Verizon notice announcing that a comment period is open regarding the potential construction of a 127-foot cell tower in Wayland. He would like the RSC to comment that no tower should be visible above the trees near the Sudbury River. Ms. Lord said that she had looked at the notice and it was not clear to her where the RSC should send its comments. Mr. Sciacca said that he would investigate that issue.

Community and Partner Updates

7:58 pm Mr. Chick said that he, the Director of Planning and Community Development and Framingham's Conservation Agent recently gave a presentation to Framingham's Community Preservation Committee on the design of the middle section of the Carol Getchell Trail boardwalk. The presentation was well received. He thinks they are in a good position for funding, design and permitting. There will be a public presentation in March and then one to the City Council for their approval. The Mass Trails grant for \$100,000 that Framingham submitted last month acquired support from the Soloman Foundation and is moving ahead. Construction has begun on the North and South ends of the boardwalk.

8:00 pm Mr. Sciacca said that he will try to locate drainage ditches in the marsh between Wayland's turf field and the river. He remembers seeing one years ago that ran from the end of the field almost straight to the river. Linda Hansen and Stephanie Koch did not see that ditch during their visit. He will wait until the snow is gone and the vegetation is still low.

8:02 pm Ms. Hempel wondered if there could be an opportunity to do some SuAsCo branding at the April 19th Concord parade which is expected to draw about 100,000 people. Ms. Brown said that the RSC had nothing

planned for that day but is working on a lantern-lit evening paddle on the summer solstice. She said that she would look into whether the RSC could have a booth for the April 19th celebration.

8:06 pm Ms. Henderson said the project to improve a Billerica parking lot near the Concord River has seen an increase in volunteers who are signing USFWS Volunteer Service Agreements. The Yankee Doodle multi-use path has been slightly delayed since the section that is closest to the river must be rerouted because indigenous artifacts have been found there. It is now a Phase One and Phase Two project. The Talbot Mill Dam removal project is before the Billerica Conservation Commission. There will be a Section 106 visit at the Canal Museum.

8:09 pm Mr. Brown said that many questions about the dam removal have come up throughout Billerica's first two Conservation Commission meetings. There is a Historical Commission vote in the future. The permitting process will continue into the summer.

Draft FY2026 Budget and Workplan

8:11 pm Ms. Lord said that the federal government is running on a Continuing Resolution until March 14th. She said the assumption is that the RSC will receive flat funding with the possibility of some cuts. She thought the Council should think about where we will make cuts if they are needed.

Ms. Lord said that once the RSC approves its **FY2026 Budget and Work Plan** it will be shared with the NPS financial assistance team. That team is not familiar with our program so we need to provide it with background information. She displayed our proposed FY2026 Budget and Workplan document. SVT takes a lower-than-standard 5% of our total budget for their services as our fiscal agent. Our total budget is \$210,000. Our line items include \$540 for annual website maintenance and administration and \$250 for a Mass Rivers Alliance yearly membership. RSC Internal Projects plus Education and Outreach & Recreation is \$30,000; General Science and Stewardship is \$8,000 and includes our Dragonfly Mercury Project and some funds that are set aside in case another study comes up. Outreach and Education Projects is \$6,000; Community Grants total \$36,226 and Major Partner Grants total \$117,920. Ms. Lord said that historically the Wild and Scenic programs have had bipartisan support and she hoped that continues.

8:20 pm Ms. Lord referred to five **2025-2026 Partner Grant Proposals** which had been shared through email. The total for the proposals received was \$117,920. They included OARS (\$40,000 for Science and Stakeholder Engagement for Ecological Restoration), SuAsCo Cisma (\$8,940 for Website Maintenance and Cisma Small Grants), Sudbury Valley Trustees (\$19,950 for Land Protection & Stewardship in the SuAsCo Watershed), Mass Audubon (\$35,000 for Waterways; Metro West RiverSchools Program), and Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust (\$14,030 for Ecological Restoration for All). She shared a chart on FY2025 funding and compared that with the Partners' FY2026 funding requests. She noted that SVT and Mass Audubon were asking for roughly the same amount as last year while the other three organizations are asking for more.

8:22 pm. A discussion followed as Council members commented on the content and value of each proposal.

8:40 pm Ms. Lord said that any decisions about Partner grant funding would have to wait until the March meeting when we have our final budget numbers. She said there is a chance we will not have that final budget number even in March. She added that she would be happy to reach out to the applicants. She will let them know why we cannot give them our decisions now and that we hope to make those decisions at our March meeting when we have more information and final budget numbers. She didn't think this would impact their work plans because their work wouldn't start until August or September.

8:48 pm Ms. Hempel motioned to adjourn, Mr. Chick seconded and Ms. Henderson declared the meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Dugan

To the Concord Select Board and Town Manager Kerry Lafleur:

Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism respectfully submits to you this first tranche of petition signatures in support of adopting the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism. More than 800 people have signed the attached petition so far, with many more to come.

While there are a significant number of concerned Concord, Carlisle, and nearby residents, what stands out is how many of these signatures come from beyond our two towns. Jews and non-Jews from across Massachusetts and across the country are watching what happens in Concord. They're hoping you'll honor the commitment you made to the Jewish community here, and most importantly, our children.

We've heard the opposition's concerns, and we understand that fear can be powerful. But much of what's been said relies on mischaracterizations of what IHRA actually does. The examples opponents cite simply aren't true. Hundreds of communities, universities, and governments around the world have adopted IHRA without any of the dire consequences that have been predicted here. This approach reflects trust in the considered judgment of Governor Maura Healey, former Governor Charlie Baker, State Representative Simon Cataldo, the Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism, and peer communities such as Westford, Acton, and Sudbury that have taken similar steps thoughtfully and in good faith.

We also understand there may be suggestions to adopt alternative definitions like the Nexus Document, perhaps as a compromise. We want to be clear: this would not meet the need. IHRA is the internationally recognized standard, developed by Holocaust scholars and adopted by democratic governments worldwide. It's what the Jewish community has asked for, and it's what communities across Massachusetts are adopting.

Here's what scares us: no other marginalized group in Concord has ever been asked to defend a well researched definition of the hatred they face. No other community has been told to compromise on the basic educational, non-punitive, non-legally binding tools needed to recognize discrimination against them. The Jewish community shouldn't have to either.

You made a promise to us. We're asking you to have the courage and conviction to keep it. Communities nationwide are looking to Concord for leadership. Please vote yes on January 27th.

With respect, hope, and gratitude,

Brian Farber, Jodi Sperber, Marc Girolimetti, Tal Rotman, Rebekah Vieira, Daniel Hart, Ellen Hart

Steering Committee, Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism

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CCAgainstAntisemitism.org

info@concordagainstantisemitism.org

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January 26, 2026

To the Town of Concord Select Board and Ms. Kerry Lafleur,

Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism ([CCAA](http://ccaa.org)) submits this petition urging the Town of Concord Select Board to demonstrate leadership by issuing a standalone statement that acknowledges antisemitism and affirms a clear commitment to condemning and combating its rise. As part of this statement, we encourage the Select Board to embrace the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ([IHRA](http://ihra.org)) non-binding working [definition](#) of antisemitism, a widely used framework referenced by governments and institutions worldwide, including here in Massachusetts.

IHRA exists because confronting antisemitism requires a shared definition. Without one, institutions are left unable to recognize patterns or respond consistently.

The following is the 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.”

Developed over many years by leading scholars and practitioners, IHRA is a non-binding, practical framework now used by the United States (federally, and by many states), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the European Union, hundreds of universities and municipalities, and nearby towns including Sudbury, Westford, and Acton. Importantly, IHRA does not create penalties or enforcement mechanisms.

IHRA functions as a shared reference point for identifying antisemitism, not as a speech rule. While some critics mischaracterize IHRA as a tool to curtail free expression, this view overlooks two realities: first, speech critical of Israel and of Jewish institutions remains widespread in places that have embraced IHRA (e.g. most of the Western democratic world); and second, the absence of a clear standard can itself chill speech, particularly among students who may already feel that acknowledging their Jewish identity requires unusual courage. You've heard direct testimony to that effect.

It is also worth noting that the Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism described IHRA as “the most prominent” educational tool in its report last year. That Commission was co-chaired by State Representative Simon Cataldo, who represents a large share of Concord. Governor Maura Healey publicly commended the

report, calling it “a critical guide for educating our children, building a better understanding of the Jewish experience, and making it clear that antisemitism has no place in Massachusetts.” Demonstrating its bipartisan support, former Governor Baker issued a proclamation in 2022 endorsing IHRA. Key leaders in the Massachusetts Legislature also publicly endorsed and praised the report. Notably, Concord’s own DEI Commission included the IHRA definition in an early draft of its recommended mission changes.

Against this backdrop, it would be striking if Concord, particularly in the wake of the events and revelations of the past year, and already in 2026, concluded that a widely embraced framework, imperfect as any framework is, should not be used here. For these reasons, CCAA and the undersigned respectfully urge the Select Board to embrace the IHRA framework and provide the clarity and leadership this moment calls for.

Thank you for your consideration,

Concord-Carlisle Against Antisemitism (CCAA) Steering Committee

Brian Farber Concord	Jodi Sperber Concord	Rebekah Vieira Carlisle	Tal Rotman Carlisle
Daniel Hart Concord	Ellen Hart Concord	Marc Girolimetti Concord	

We, the undersigned residents and community members, friends, family, current and former teachers, current and former students, town and private employees, and allies, concur with CCAA and support embracing the IHRA non-binding framework for defining antisemitism by the Town of Concord Select Board.

Aaron Desatnik Concord	Adrienne Boardman Concord	Amy Itzkovitz Concord	Andrea Foncerrada Concord
Andrea Solomon Concord	Andrew Boardman Concord	Breht Feigh Concord	Brian Farber Concord
Caroline Dale Concord	Cheryl Flynn Concord	Chris Wysopal Concord	Craig Awmiller Concord
Daniel Hart Concord	Dara Yoken Concord	David Yoken Concord	Deb Kavalier Wysopal Concord
Deborah Wengrovitz Concord	Don Detweiler Concord	Dr. Robert Munro Concord	Eliza (Pippa) Shulman Concord

Elizabeth Akehurst-Moore Concord	Ellen Hart Concord	Emily Small Concord	Frank Matthew Taylor Concord
Gemma van der Swaagh Concord	Georgia Shutzer Concord	Heather Coubrough-Argentieri Concord	Hope Rubin Concord
Iris Marquis Concord	James L Nager Concord	Jason Abelowitz Concord	Jennifer Bridgman Concord
Jennifer Brock Concord	Jeremy Richmon Concord	Jessica L. French Concord	Jodi Sperber Concord
Joseph Laurin Concord	Karen Thomashow Concord	Kate Skelly Concord	Katherine Wilson Concord
Kevin Bitterman Concord	Kristen Tahirak Concord	Krys Streeter-Tarlow Concord	Kurt Schwartz Concord
Laura Smith Concord	Lauren Kopcso Concord	Lauren Solomon Concord	Leah Small Concord
Linda Kimerling Concord	Luis Yarza Concord	Lynn R. Gudmand Concord	Marc S Girolimetti Concord
Margaret Yalman Concord	Matthew Smith Concord	Maxim Shajenko Concord	Michael S Wengrovitz Concord
Michael Sentance Concord	Michael Solomon Concord	Michelle Schmidt Concord	Miriam Zarchan Concord
Nancy Kerr Concord	Nathan Bosdet Concord	Nina Abelowitz Concord	Peggy Levitt Concord
Peter C. Gudmand Concord	Rabbi Darby J. Leigh Concord	Rachel Kolbin-Gupp Concord	Rachel Krompinger Concord
Richard Schoenfeld Concord	Robert Burrow Levers Concord	Ross Homer Concord	Samantha booth Concord
Sarah B Satterthwaite Concord	Sarah Solomon Concord	Scott Akehurst-Moore Concord	Scott Smigler Concord
Shanna Theriault Concord	Shannon von Thaden Concord	Steffi Samman Concord	Stella Kaplowitz Concord
Steven Rubin Concord	Sue Gladstone Concord	Susan Schwartz Concord	Yael Shavit Concord
Yonina Goorno Concord	Adeline Weinstock Carlisle	Adrien Khelemsky Carlisle	Aleksandra Ikanowicz Carlisle
Alex Goldstein Carlisle	Alon Heim Carlisle	Atara Korik Carlisle	Charlie Weinstock Carlisle
Jed Weinstock Carlisle	Jonathan Holm Carlisle	Joshua Jacob Silverstone Carlisle	Judy Korik Weinstock Carlisle

Katherine Benjamin Carlisle	Lisa George DiBartolomeo Carlisle	Lisa Thirer Carlisle	Marc Bernstein Carlisle
Meredith Mills Carlisle	Neil Weinberg Carlisle	Rebekah Vieira Carlisle	Sabrina Graves Carlisle
Sara Vuckovic Carlisle	Sasha Miyamoto Carlisle	Stephanie Kapsalis Carlisle	Tal Rotman Carlisle
Carol Barron Acton	Irina Esterkin Ashland	Julia Allen Bedford	Rachel Gould Belmont
Rose Olshevsky Billerica	Ed Goldberg Boston	Ida Plotzker Boston	Nina Isakovich Boston
Sara Bleier Brighton	Aylit Schultz MD Brookline	Daniel Lipton Brookline	Evelyn Stein Brookline
Juliette Landesman Brookline	Kayla Zuber Brookline	Lisa Shatz Brookline	Marina Kanotiner Brookline
Maya Abramson Brookline	Miriam Dorfman Brookline	Penelope Smith Cambridge	Peter Brand Cambridge
Leslie Chizek Centerville	Jacinda Brown Chestnut Hill	Natalie Korik Chestnut Hill	Cara Nicoletti Dedham
Rona Trachtenberg Fairhaven	Jordan Long Fitchburg	Brett Berkman Framingham	Dennis Staroselsky Framingham
Hagit Brit Artzi Framingham	Irina Zeylikman Lexington	Tracey Wright Lexington	Jonathan Sheffi Lincoln
Sharon Stanfill Lincoln	Colleen Mitchneck Malden	Andrea York Marblehead	Kelli Kirshtein Maynard
Audrey Markowitz Melrose	Deb Martino Melrose	Elizabeth Rotondi Melrose	Jill Batchelder Melrose
Laura Plourde Melrose	Andrea Schoenfeld Natick	Cheryl Gelfand Natick	Daniel Weiner Natick
Keren Gordon Hack Natick	Alexandra Polukin Needham	Anat Hanono Needham	Deborah Reich Needham
Jane Marks Needham	LaurennMerrill Needham	Amy Boddy Newton	Dmitry Genis Newton
Elizabeth Ross Newton	Esther M. Korn Newton	Honi Kawut Newton	Irene Neginsky Newton
Jeff Goldstein Newton	Jeffrey Spiegel Newton	Jessica Poscover Newton	Jonathan Levin Newton
Jone Dalezman Newton	Kerry Hurwitz Newton	Lynne Satlof-Karas Newton	Natasha Kincy Newton

Pamela Swartz Newton	Prof. Janet Liebowitz, Esq Newton	Prof. Janet Liebowitz,Esq Newton	Tal Nir Newton
Yuri Kazakevich Newton	Randie Goldberger Newton Center	Robin H Goldstein Newton Center	Debbie Wilson Norfolk
Tamar Albert Norwood	Wendy Ward Norwood	Christina Feinberg Peabody	Peter Strom Rockport
Laurie Mulsman Salem	Karen Baytch Sharon	Karen Baytch Sharon Sharon	Lauren Ziskind Sharon
Marina Shereshevskaya Sharon	Renata Kuchinsky Sharon	Rochel Saks Sharon	Susan Musicant Shikora Sharon
Marina Nativ Shrewsbury	Rosaline F. Barron Springfield	Samuel Babich Springfield	Andrea Robin Stoneham
Maeva Stockbridge Stoneham	Nancy Callender Stoughton	Joanna Honig Stow	Laurie Ann Livoli Stow
Rachel Tadmor Stow	Adam Cohen Sudbury	Amy Friedman Sudbury	Amy Spound Friedman Sudbury
Andrea Brener Sudbury	Erica Silverman Sudbury	Maya Rakhman Waltham	Michael Brand Waltham
Cecile Reve Watertown	Cecile Reve-Kotler Watertown	Debra Neiman Watertown	Gabriela Reve Kotler Watertown
Rachael Sack Watertown	Rachel Kay Watertown	Sharon Krebs Watertown	Tali Shapira Watertown
Deb Nicoletti Wellesley	Jonah Ginsberg Wellesley	Laura Frank Wellesley	Marcy Rosenberg Wellesley
Robert Ginsberg Wellesley	Jessica Morano Westfield	Laura Ervin Westfield	Karen Burstein Westford
Mark Eckstein Woburn	Helen Silverman Worcester	Jennifer Schneidermann Alamo	Debra Fruchtman Albany
Stefanie Traub Allentown	Todd Garber Allentown	Tzvi and Rachel Anolick Alon Shvut	Ifat Gutmans Atherton
Barrie Mandel Atlanta	Cheryl Tobin Atlanta	Daryl Pinsky Atlanta	Frankel Jody Atlanta
Helene Smith-Gabai Atlanta	Iris kirshenbaum Atlanta	Randee Smolensky Atlanta	Robyn Regenbaum Atlanta
Debra Sobin Atlantic Beach	Cynthia Grossman Austin	Sophie Forman Austin	Daniela Gliksberg Aventura
Miriam Tabacinic Aventura	Itai Schwartz Bala Cynwyd	Dee Gold Bala Cynwyd,, PA	Alan Newman Baltimore

Dr. Milton Ehrlich Baltimore	Goldie Lesser Baltimore	Heidi Zaner Baltimore	Ingrid Paymar Baltimore
Laura Poliakoff Baltimore	Meira Horowitz Baltimore	Michael Kotlicky Baltimore	Miriam Lichter Baltimore
Rita Prince Baltimore	Robert M Cooper MD Baltimore	Sarah Rosenbloom Baltimore	Sims Jacoby Baltimore
Marlene Weinstein Beachwood	Rochelle Ehrenreich Esq. Beachwood	Dave Sherman Beersheva	Fink Bergen County
Michelle Gee Bergen County	Tammie C Farkas Bergenfield	Miri Maik Bergenfield,, NJ	Ella Voloshin Bethlehem
Jacob Tauber Beverly Hills	Roberta Zelkha Beverly Hills	Sharon Kornmehl Beverly Hills	Linda Pittman Blaine
Danielle Arfin Boca Raton	Deborah Green Boca Raton	Elana Ecker Boca Raton	Laura Meischenguiser Boca Raton
Leah Eisig Boca Raton	Max Brandsdorfer Boca Raton	Melinda Tansman Boca Raton	Rhonda Schuval Boca Raton
Rosa Golish Boca Raton	Emily Kopitz Boulder	John E. Herzenberg, MD Boulder	Ann Cohn Boynton Beach
Annette Kranson Boynton Beach	Cheryl Zwiren Boynton Beach	Dina Ganz Boynton Beach	Alisa Eilenberg Bronx
Danielle Liss Bronx	Goldie Erlick Bronx	Rebecca Sherman Bronx	Irina Laskin Bronx, NY
Adele Katzenelenbogen Brooklyn	Avi Abel Brooklyn	Avigal Nisim Brooklyn	Chani Friedman Brooklyn
Cindy Neiburg Brooklyn	Elisheva Gerber Brooklyn	Elizabeth Goldbaum Brooklyn	Ella Lang Brooklyn
Elliot Horowitz Brooklyn	Elyse Wexler Brooklyn	Esther Jacobs Brooklyn	Genia Bekker Brooklyn
Isla Berg Brooklyn	Jesse Greene Brooklyn	Joy Mimun Brooklyn	Judith Brenner Brooklyn
Karen Lubitz Brooklyn	Mosseri Sally Brooklyn	R Berk Brooklyn	Roslyn Lew Brooklyn
Sari Fainburg Brooklyn	Sary Levine Brooklyn	Victor Shine Brooklyn	Victor Tawil Brooklyn
Marina Spitkovskaya Bryn Mawr	Donna Feldman Buffalo Grove	Sybil Berman Calabasas	Debbie Hertz Cardiff CA
Ann Slochowsky Cedarhurst	Beth Englard Cedarhurst	Chana Adelman Cedarhurst	Erika Eisner Cedarhurst

Josh Ehrlich Cedarhurst	Karen Brenner Cedarhurst	Wendy Stern Cedarhurst	Alison Adelman Centereach
Robert Borsato Centreville	Sara Druker Champaign, IL	Lisa Hannifin Chatsworth	Daniel Dubinsky Chicago
David Tessler Chicago	Israel Gross Chicago	Jaime Schneider Chicago	Jo Levine Chicago
Robbin Katzin Chicago	Tracy Noren Chicago	Yael shiner Chicago	Liza Tacher Chula Vista
Elizabeth Sunshine Cleveland	Stacey Escott Clifton	Marla Sheffer Clifton Park	Diane Dankner Coconut Creek
Harold Kahn Coconut Creek	R Ganel Columbia	Rina Koshaf Dallas	Lisa Lowhurst Danville
Amanda Smith Denver	Rikki Mor Denver	Dvora Nissan East Brunswick	Naomi Hillel East Brunswick
Malka Golian East Hills	Mona Goldstein East Setauket	Donna Mensch Edison	Laurie Schluskel Edison
Lisa Spiegel Edison	Rosanne Koenigson Edison	Paula Mantell El Cajon	Ella Perez El Dorado Hills
Deborah Kivelevitz Elizabeth	Guy Serbin Elizabeth	Beth Haimm Englewood	Deena Ottensoser Englewood
Ellen Englewood	Leeora Kidron Englewood	Marcia Baum Englewood	Marly Herscovici Englewood
Sarah Blum Englewood	Sima Danziger Essex Fells	Amy Vaknin Fairlawn	Ben Lang Fairlawn
Elizabeth B Jacob Fairlawn	Tally osmer Fairlawn	Ann Morhaime Far Rockaway	Benjy Krischer Far Rockaway
Rebecca Spirn Far Rockaway	Rifky Warshaw Far Rockaway	Lee Ann Ann Benadiva Farmington	Iris Laharty Fayetteville
Yehudit Sobel Florence,, SC	Ellen Weisman Flushing	Joseph Hochberg Flushing	Olga Inoyatova Flushing
Shifra Atik Flushing	Zoya Aminov Forest Hills	Debra Bachman Fort Lauderdale	Lily Rosenblatt Fort Lauderdale
Alana Tinnin Fort Worth	Gabriella Diamond Franklin Square	Dr. Evelyn Damalie Frederick Maryland	Avner Fazilov Fresh Meadows
Elka Hellman Fresh Meadows	Charles Brumer Ft. Lauderdale	Elaine Asa Fullerton	Teri McLean Patrick Gainesville
Amy Mucklestone Gainesville,, MO	Cohen Renee Glencoe	Erica Freeman Glencoe	Randy Axelrod Glenside
Carole Lerman Great Neck	Julia Gavriel Great Neck	Mojdeh zadeh Great Neck	Pedram Mashieh Great Neck
Sarah Walls Great Neck	Sharon Senderowicz Great Neck	Yaffa Rabe Great Neck	Alix Raine Great Neck, NY 11021

Rachel Klechevsky LCSW Hempstead	Steven Levinson Hempstead	Anne Fuchs Hewlett	Tanya Green Hewlett
Toby Schwartz Hewlett	David Weinberg Highland Park	Marc Goldring Highland Park	Mary Ellen Bowers Highland Park
Nillie Goldman Highland Park	Rikki Samel Highland Park	Udi Highland Park	Helen Bohorodzaner Hollis
Joe G Hollis	Elana Maya Hollywood	Cheryl Jalfon Houston	Lidya Kushner Houston
Lori Meisel Houston	Jill Ryan's Huntington	Caryn Vogel Indianapolis	Mitchell Kopelman Inlet Beach
Leah Fischler Inwood	Michal Matcalf Israel	Jesse Rosenbaum Jamaica	Monica Lagnado Kew Gardens
Haleh Damaghi Kings Point	Shmuel Livian Kings Point	Rebeca Karcz LA Jolla	Ilana Laguna Woods
Cindy Cottle Lake Forest	Ariella Epstein Lakewood	Jodie Touboul Lakewood	Yael Lock Lakewood,, NJ
Iris Harel Lancaster	Cynthia Perry Larchmont	Ezra Bekhor Las Vegas	Alisa Berger Lawrence
Altchie pelcovitz Lawrence	Autumn Lido Mael Lawrence	Bonnie Septimus Lawrence	Evelyn Hurth Lawrence
Florence Mendel Lawrence	Gladys Neuman Lawrence	Judith Bruckstein Lawrence	Lauri Barbanel Lawrence
Lydia Kinzler Lawrence	Philip Kerstein Lawrence	Ruth Berkowitz Lawrence	Sharon Frieling Lawrence
Sharon Schwab Lawrence	Yael Mandel Lawrence	C.J. Berman Livingston	Caryn Borger Livingston
Gregory Berlin Livingston	Stacey Pinke Livingston	Susan Lugashi Livingston	Esther Langer Long Beach
Marlene Hahitti Long Beach	Sue Friedman Long Beach	Tuvia Barlev Los Altos	Lilach Whitman Los Angele
Alissa Haroush Los Angeles	Angela Sassounian Los Angeles	Ari VanderWalde Los Angeles	Danielle Maloff Los Angeles
Debra Barach Los Angeles	Esther Weiner Los Angeles	Fariba Ghodsian Los Angeles	Greg Gitler Los Angeles
Jeff Halpert Los Angeles	Kathy Emanuel Los Angeles	Lawrence Stern Los Angeles	Lesley Blacher Los Angeles
Mahshid Meimand Los Angeles	Mina Friedler Los Angeles	Nancy Prendes Los Angeles	Natalie Katzin Los Angeles
Ophira L Los Angeles	Rachel Fried Los Angeles	Reuben Yeroushalmi Los Angeles	Roberta Swarz Los Angeles

Shawn Los Angeles	Shirin Delkhah Los Angeles	Steve Frankel Los Angeles	Zohreh Mizrahi Los Angeles
Fariba Ramin Los Angeles	Jeff Selick Los Angeles	Judith Kandel Los Angeles	Gili Wolf Louisville
Tracey Amdur Manhattan	Sheri Odere Mar Vista	Craig Miller Margate,, NJ	Bonnie Silverman Marietta
Brad Epstein Marietta	Eileen Botvinick Marietta	Vicki Feldman Marietta	Devorah Klein Medford
Benjamin Alouf Media	Joe Kaufman Melbourne	Sigal Witkin Melbourne	Elissa Davis Meredith
Evan Schweitzer Merrick	Alan Weller Metuchen	Anne Landman Miami	Deborah Osborn Miami
Helene gassner Miami	Linda Amir Miami	Lourdes Gabriela Suarez Miami	Marlene Fox Miami
Raquel Haime Miami	Russell King Miami	Sid Lambersky Miami	Arnold Sudberg Miami Beach
Stanley Weinstein Miami Beach	Tova Schwartz Miami Dade	Courtney E Lee Middleton	Ruth Felsen Midlothian
Dan Tannebaum Milton	Ellen Tannebaum Milton	Kathleen Webster Mobile	Beth White Modi'in
Bari Dahan Monsey	Ben Blumenberg Monsey	Tova Friedman Monsey	Heather W Monson
Carla Burshtein Montreal	Georgette Bensimon Montreal	Ezra teitelbaum Morristown	Etti Hen Mount Vernon
Clyde Mann Mountain View	Mandy Adler N. Hollywood	Donna Lee Brooker Naples	Patrick Calman Naples
Tria Kobs Nashua	Liat Zilberman Nashville	Art Reiser Nassau	K Y New City
Sandra Beth Saffer New City	Tamar Naftaly New Hempstead	Avi Ras New Hope	Helen Gluck New Jersey
Lee Melchner New Jersey	Alan Jay Wasserman New Rochelle	Aviva Mann New Rochelle	Ellen Muss New Rochelle
Jodi Golinsky New Rochelle	Miriam Parness New Rochelle	Sara Rosenblatt New Rochelle	Alicia Davis New York
Anna Freilich New York	Arthur Farkash New York	Barbara Weinstein New York	Debra Schoenberg New York
Eileen Marder-Mirman New York	Eva Halfon New York	Gary Feldman New York	Henrie Louzoun New York
Lauren Friedman New York	Leah Sobel New York	Leslie Tuchman New York	Mark New York

Michelle Goldstein New York	Mike Kohanim New York	Naomi Sternberg New York	Penny Arthur New York
Renee Moskowitz New York	Rob Milam New York	Robert Krausz New York	Ruth Akerman New York
Ruth Friedman New York	Tamari Gruszow New York	Vera Bensimon New York	Yaira Singer New York
Alison Sussman New York City	Anna Ecker New York City	Ava Parnass New York City	Deborah Weiss New York City
Gregory Samson New York City	Heidi Weiss New York City	Jessica Sklar New York City	Margo Y Woll New York City
Melissa Levine New York City	Raymond E. Chalme' New York City	Robert New York City	Shlomi Gordon New York City
Sue Green New York City	Susan Mandel New York City	Susan Neumark New York City	Iris Gold Newtown
Harriet Altman North Miami Beach	Elizabeth H Goldberg North Providence	Danielle Fezouati North Richland Hills	David Friedman Northridge
Dave Bensonhurst Nyc	Rachel Kornbleuth Oak Park	Susan C thank Oak Park, MI	Vicky Shamah Oakhurst
Ann Ross Oakland	Ezra Masri Ocean Township	Bea Mauskopf Oceanside	Lenny Koegel Oceanside
Miriam Gerassi Oceanside	Neil Simon Oceanside	Phylis Buchwald Oceanside	Sharon Mor Oceanside
Vita Blechner Oceanside	Barbara S Freedland Odessa	Moises Tenenbaum Old Westbury	Nousheen Tabibzadeh Orange County
Rachel Proulx Orlando	Sandra J Delopoulos Orleans	Elaine Wisenthal Ottawa	Gail Scher Ottawa
H Labib Ottawa	Laurie Gordon Ottawa	Yaël Abraham Paige	Ruth A Harrison Palos Verdes
Alexander Lakhter Paramore	Elizabeth gindea Parkland	Patricia Kahloun Parkland	Naomi Rotter Parsippany
EmiLee Sperb Pasadena	Phyllis Zemble Penn Valley	Jenny Wilson Peoria	Brigitte Thalheimer Philadelphia
Nina Gordon Philadelphia	Nora Gold Philadelphia	Dee Feldman Pittsburgh	Paulina Kovalsky Pittsford
Douglas Mund Plainview	Miriam Fisher Plainview	Lisa Senzel Plainview, NY	Hamutal Bonen Pleasanton
Ben Schubert Portland	Beth Yakoby Princeton	Joseph Lichter Queens	Joyce Hochman Queens
Judy Shulman Queens	Julie Maltzman Redwood City	Arezou Saeedi Reno	Slobodkin Hylan Renton
Adrienne Epstein Richmond	Judith Mehl Richmond	Garson Hoffman Richmond Hill	Resa Schleifer Fogel River Vale

hilarie lawlor Rochester	Jen Spring Rockville Centre	Laura Schneid Roslyn	Wendy Dreskin San Anselmo
William Dreskin San Anselmo	Cynthia Rajsbaum San Diego	Deena Swidler San Diego	Esther Wulff San Diego
Orna McCann San Diego	Rachel Herman San Diego	Sigal Sherman San Diego	Sofia Minevich San Diego
Xu Perry San Diego	Samuel Jason Gaynor San Francisco	Shulamit Glaubach MD San Francisco	Aviva Poczter Sands Point
Naomi Ehrich Santa Cruz	Gail Rubin Sarasota	Kim Blomsness Savannah	Pearl Sullivan Scarsdale
Shoshana Noble Scarsdale	R Green Scotch Plains	D Lev Seattle	Maleah Spinell Seattle
Marilyn Greenspan Seattle	Sheryl Begoun Seattle	Jonathan Cottrell Silver Spring	Pauline Jaffe Silver Spring
Cheryl Rothstein Skokie	Danny Weiss Skokie	Genevieve Rosenberg Skokie	Leora Shefer Skokie
Sophie Melman Somerset	David Harper South Bend IN	Keren Lebeau South Orange	Judy Jubas Southfield
Chava Shiel Spring Valley	Shani nissel Spring Valley	Mikhail Muchnik Springfield Township	Elina Furman Landauer Stamford
Judy Goldstein Stamford	Robin Portman Stamford	Michele Lomagino Staten Island	Mark Yarsike Sterling Heights
Michele Libman Stuart	Darlene Mollov Suffern	Idit Ghivoni Tampa	Susan Theise Tappan
Alissa Horn Teaneck	Dorienne Planer Teaneck	Dr. Passi Rosen-Bayewitz Teaneck	Elchanan Ogorek Teaneck
Joseph Weiss Teaneck	Mark Wiesen Teaneck	Michelle Ritholtz Teaneck	Minna Heilpern Teaneck
Rena Barta Teaneck	Robin Rosenbaum Teaneck	Ruth Roth Teaneck	Sandra Grodko Teaneck
Shoshana Poloner Teaneck	Susan Richman Teaneck	Susan Wiesen Teaneck	Tova Wieder Teaneck, NJ
Karen Kalina Tenafly	Michael Adams Tenafly	Norman Preston The Villages, FL	Eileen Walsh Subai Toms River
C. Roblin Toronto	Elliot Lavi Toronto	Gary Chapman Toronto	Linda Segal Toronto
Sara Grosbein Toronto	Gabriel Stern Tustin	Nora Stern Tustin	Glenda Sacks University City
Cindy Shavit Valley Stream	Devora Lederer Valley Stream	Inna Kaplan Valley Stream	Lisa Schneider Valley Stream

Rachel Greenberger Valley Stream	Rachelle Etra Valley Stream	Gail Mainster Vancouver	Judith Borts Vaughan
Melanie Moreno Washington	Anna Pfeffer Wayland	Cyrus Mizrahi Wayland	Tania Person Wayland
Shelli Smith Wellington	Michele Faudem West Bloomfield	Tali Kest West Hartford	Adam Rosenblum West Hempstead
Amy Finkelstein West Hempstead	Barry Sprung West Hempstead	Craig Berkowitz West Hempstead	Ilan Rogoszinski West Hempstead
Marla Traub West Hempstead	Moshe Deutsch West Hempstead	Perri Bashevkin West Hempstead	Simcha Levine West Hempstead
Steven Mochan West Hempstead	Marla Rose West Milford	Gail Bukiet West Orange	Jeff Stiel West Orange
Lucy Smith West Orange	Mark Rudin West Orange	Tamara Fiche West Orange	Gabriel Grossman West Palm Beach
Tikva Carrick West Windsor	Barbara Silverstein Westhampton Beach, NY	Rick Bitsky Westport	Jonathan Goldberg White Plains
Kevin Drantch Williamsville	Jill Peraud Winnetka	Ken Zuckerberg Woodcliff Lake	Wendy Zuckerberg Woodcliff Lake
Roya Lewis Woodland Hills	Arleen Mermelstein Woodmere	Ava Cushner Woodmere	Bonnie Sigman Woodmere
Diane Sarnoff Woodmere	Eileen Friedman Woodmere	Elaine Arnold Woodmere	Emily Klein Woodmere
Fay Feder Woodmere	Fran Rabinowitz Woodmere	Fraydi Menashy Woodmere	Jacqueline Zion Woodmere
Karen Elefant Woodmere	Lisa Abittan Woodmere	Pearl Ratz Woodmere	Rachel fries Woodmere
Rachel Greenbaum Woodmere	Rachelli Menashy Woodmere	Rebecca Robinson Woodmere	Rina Schiowitz Woodmere
Sandy Weiss Woodmere	Sheryl Weisberger-Litton Woodmere	Aviva Silberberg Wynnewood	Deby Goodman Yorba Linda
Carol Haber-Cohen Yorktown			

Resources:

1. [Non-legally binding working definition of antisemitism \(IHRA\)](#)
2. [American Jewish Committee \(mainstream explanation and defense of IHRA\)](#)
3. [List of countries endorsing IHRA](#)
4. [Town of Acton, MA use of IHRA](#)
5. [Massachusetts Special Commission on Combating Antisemitism report](#)
6. [Town of Sudbury, MA use of IHRA](#)

7. [Town of Westford, MA use of IHRA](#)
8. [U.S. states use of IHRA \(37 plus the District of Columbia\)](#)
9. [U.S. State Department use of IHRA](#)
10. [European Union use of IHRA](#)
11. [Commonwealth of Massachusetts endorsement of IHRA](#)
12. [Town of Sharon, MA use of IHRA](#)
13. [Town of Millis, MA resolution use of IHRA](#)

Dear Select Board,

Attached please find our letter, signed by 137 people, which affirms the need to promote safety and belonging for all in Concord-Carlisle, including our Jewish neighbors. The letter also asks the Select Board to not adopt the IHRA working definition of antisemitism. Of the 137 people signing, 68 are Concord residents, 18 are Carlisle residents and 51 are from neighboring towns.

The proposed Proclamation's statements opposing antisemitism and promoting a welcoming community are positive steps that affirm our community's values. However, we note that the IHRA definition is controversial and divisive, and it is opposed by the ACLU and Human Rights Watch. Locally, the Boston Globe printed an opinion piece on 1/24/26 opposing the adoption of the IHRA definition. We therefore believe that residents should be afforded more time to discuss and provide feedback on the proposed adoption of the IHRA definition.

We also note that there is immense community concern about the IHRA definition. We obtained 137 signatures in less than 4 days of circulating this letter. In addition, the educational forum entitled "Protecting Free Speech in K-12 and Beyond" about the implications of IHRA on free speech was attended by about 70 people, and the video on Minuteman Media Network has nearly 460 views in just 9 days.

Given this evidence of community interest as well as the concerns raised by the ACLU and others, we request that the Board pass the Proclamation without the IHRA definition, and postpone the adoption of the IHRA definition so that the community has more time to provide feedback.

Our best,

Ece Turnator, Concord

Lauren Marguiles, Carlisle

Protecting Freedom, Safety, and Belonging for All in Concord and Carlisle

In recent months, social bias, discrimination, and hate have increased across the United States, Massachusetts, and our community. We share the fear many Jewish families are experiencing and believe it is our responsibility to protect Jewish people from hatred and harm. We unequivocally reject antisemitism and are deeply troubled by its rise, alongside Islamophobia, racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ hate, and other forms of violence and discrimination nationwide.

It is precisely because we care about the safety and dignity of *all* our neighbors—including Jewish residents—that we urge town leaders not to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. As part of a current campaign to incorporate this definition into town policy, it is important to be clear that the IHRA framework can be misused in ways that harm other communities, rather than promote real safety and belonging for all—and that alternative, equity-based frameworks to fight antisemitism should be considered.

This is especially concerning because adopting the IHRA definition in our community would stifle free speech, chill open dialogue in our schools and community spaces, and risk mischaracterizing legitimate political expression as hatred.

The IHRA definition includes examples that explicitly equate criticism of the Israeli government and its policies with antisemitism. Yet criticizing the actions, laws, or policies of any state—including Israel—is a legitimate part of democratic discourse and is not, in itself, antisemitic.

If adopted, the IHRA definition could lead to students, educators, parents, and residents being labeled antisemitic for engaging in good-faith political discussion or expressing solidarity with Palestinians. Palestinians and those who advocate for Palestinian rights could be forced to somehow prove that they are not antisemitic simply to express their experiences, needs, and aspirations. This expectation is dehumanizing and harmful. No one should have to pass a litmus test to be deemed worthy of safety, dignity, and belonging.

Such an approach would undermine respectful dialogue and weaken—rather than strengthen—the fight against real antisemitism. Fear and marginalization are not experienced by only one group. In our community today, Muslim and Palestinian families report feeling unsafe or reluctant to share their identities at school. Black and brown families, including some METCO students, have raised concerns about marginalization for years and have called for deeper, more consistent support when hate speech occurs.

These experiences are real, ongoing, and documented, and they reflect just some of the communities—alongside our Jewish neighbors—who deserve protection, representation, and belonging.

True equity and belonging work must address *all* forms of hatred and discrimination without privileging one group’s safety at the expense of another’s.

We cannot protect one community by silencing or harming others. We believe our diverse community is strongest when we stand united—protecting Jewish neighbors while also safeguarding Muslim, Arab, Black, brown, METCO, and Palestinian families to name just some groups who study and live in our towns.

We therefore urge town leaders to reject the IHRA definition and instead adopt antisemitism language that:

- **Clearly names and confronts antisemitism**
- **Protects free speech and political expression**
- **Does not conflate criticism of the state of Israel with hatred of Jewish people**
- **Allows schools and town bodies to address all forms of hate with clarity and precision**

There are alternative frameworks available that meet these goals without the documented harms of IHRA’s definition of antisemitism. We believe our community can—and must—address antisemitism and all forms of hate without undermining free expression or marginalizing other communities.

We, the undersigned, urge Concord town leaders to reject the IHRA definition of antisemitism and protect freedom, safety, and belonging for everyone in our community.

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation to town of Concord/School	Town of residence
Kerry	Abukhalaf	Was born and raised in Concord. Attended Willard, Peabody, and CCHS.	Cambridge
Allison	Aley	Concord resident	Concord
Walid	Alsharafi	Concord	Concord
Amani	Alsharafi	yes	Concord Ma 01742
Michael	Ansara	Property owner	Carlisle
Aristaios	Apollos	Student of CPS, resident and organizer in Concord	Concord
John	Ballantine	Former member of Carlisle select board and fincom	Carlisle
Jennifer	Bell	Concord	Concord
Rami	Benhamida	Resident of Concord and former student	Concord
Eitan	Berechman	-	Newton, MA
Shana	Berger	None	Somerville
Lisa	Berland	Resident	Concord

Louise	Berliner	citizen	concord
Pamela	Bishop	Resident	Concord
Pamela	Blau	Many friends	Cambridge
Enid	Boasberg	resident	Concord
Emma	Boettcher	Carlisle	Carlisle
Dan	Booth	CCHS parent	Concord
Katherine	Booth	Resident/parent	Concord
Khaled	Boumar	Resident	Concord MA
Pat	Brewer	resident	Concord
Cathy	Chadwick	Resident and employooyee	Concord
Eric	Chadwick	Concord	Concord
Sarah	Chapman	Alumni Parent, and CCHS Teacher, Concord Resident	Concord
Deborah	Chassler	none	Brookline
Maura	Clarke	resident/mother of CMS student	Concord
David	Clarke	Concord	Concord
Mary	Clarke	resident	Concord
Kate	Clarke	Resident	Concord
Shahar	Colt	Rabbi in Massachusetts	Northampton MA
Maureen	Cosgrove-Deery	Citizen	Carlisle
Megan	Crowe-Rothstein	Concerned Jewish parent in MA	Arlington
Sharmili	Das	School	Carlisle
Margaret	Day	I attend events, go to museums, parks, playgrounds, restaurants, stores, and social actions.	Maynard
Joyce	DeGreeff	Parent	Concord
Christine	Denaro	Resident of Concord	Concord
Megan	Denis	Resident and Parent of students attend the public schools	Concord
Stephen	Dirrane	Resident	Concord
Nancy Rose	Dow	resident	Concord

Tracie	Dunn	Concord	Concord
Cosette	Dunn	Resident	Concord
Areeg	Eluri	Carlisle Resident/shared school system	Carlisle
Leah	Even Chorev	Concerned Jewish Israeli American resident of neighboring town	Arlington
Marjorie	Feld	n/a	Westwood
Tamzen	Flanders	Friend of members; member of CJFS	Boston
Katie	Flynn	Neighbor in Lexington	Lexington
Elizabeth	Frank	Parent of 2 CCHS students	Concord
Rachel	Freed	CCHS future parent	Carlisle
Stuart	Fried	resident / voter	Concord
Mark	Gailus	Concord resident	Concord, Massachusetts
Tanya	Gailus	Resident	Concord
Stephanie	Galaitisi	My office is in Concord	Somerville
Lauren	Gibbs	I see people who live in Concord, I see friends in Concord, I go to the theater in Concord, I eat in Concord and I am a Massachusetts citizen	Cambridge, MA
Amanda	Green	CCHS	Concord
Stanley	Griffith	taxpayer	concord
Alyssa	Grinberg	Parent at Carlisle Public School/Future CCHS parent	Carlisle
Gilda	Gussin	Grown children attended Concord Schools	Concord, Ma
Julia	Halperin	Former resident of Concord	Boston
John	Haran	Parent of children who participate in Concord youth sports and will be future CCHS students	Carlisle
Mahreen	Hoda	parent in the district	Carlisle
Omar	Hoda	Parent in district	Carlisle
Nafeesa	Hoda	Former student	Carlisle
India	Hoeschen-Stein	Resident of Concord	Concord
Wendy	Holt	Concord resident, parent of former CC students	Concord
Jane	Hosie-Bounar	Resident	Concord

Asif	Huseni	Resident	Concord
Zuhayr	Huseni	Resident of Concord graduate of CCHS	Concord Massachusetts
Zaina	Huseni	Alumni and resident	Concord
Tabassum	Huseni	Concord public school	Concord
Hewon	Hwang	Resident	Concord
Sarah	Jennings	Resident and educator	Concord
Anju	Joglekar	Affiliation through friends and acquaintances	Arlington
Jennifer	Johnson	Resident	Concord
Carrie	Jones	Carlisle resident/ kids participate in sports/activities in Concord community and will attend CCHS	Carlisle
Mattan	Kamon	Jewish resident with 9th grader at CCHS	Concord
Ayesha	Kapadia	Yes	Yes
Kate	Kavanagh	Concord	Concord
Manizeh	Khan	None	Somerville
Karen	Klein MD	Concerned Jewish community leader	Boston
Daniel	Kleinman	Brookline	Brookline
Mattea	Kramer	Concerned bystander	Amherst
Lydia	Kuhn	Resident	Concord
Zvi	Ladin	Israeli-American Jew	Newton
Heather	Larkin	Concord Carlisle High School	Carlisle
Nancy	Lawrence	Resident/relative of pass students and present teacher	West Concord
Akiva	Leibowitz	Jewish-American-Israeli Massachusetts resident	Brookline
Jenn	Lewin	N/A	Brookline
caroline	light	friend	belmont
Emily	Lines	Resident and CPS parent	Concord
Margaret	Litvin	Concerned Jewish neighbor	Arlington
Ava	Lublin	Grew up here, still live and work here	Concord, MA
Beatrice	Manz	I am not a resident of Concord, but have family connections	Arlington MA

Lauren	Margulies	Parent at Carlisle Public School	Carlisle
E	Mary	resident	Concord
Rabbi Michael	McCloskey	Concerned neighbor	Boston
Hugh	McCrary	Resident	Concord
Susan	McCrary	Resident, and parent of two CCHS graduates	Concord, MA
Jackie	Meehan	Resident of Concord	Concord
Liese	Meier	My kids attend Carlisle Public School (eventually CCHS) and we are involved in a variety of Concord Rec programs	Carlisle
Jennifer	Montbach	Town resident, parent of two CPS graduates	Concord MA
Vanessa	Moroney	Parent of two CCHS students	Carlisle
Ray	Moroney	Parent of CCHS Students	Carlisle
Nora Lester	Murad	Neighbor	Newton
Elizabeth	Nahas	grandmother	Carlisle
Maddie	Nicole	I used to live in Carlisle and have worked full-time in Concord for five years	Watertown
Molly	Peterson	Resident of Concord	Concord
Carrie	Pollack	deeply concerned Jewish neighbor	Sudbury
Logan	Prewitt	Lifelong Concord resident	Concord, MA
Ellen	Quackenbush	Resident	Concord
Lizabeth	Roemer	As a professor at U Mass Boston, I'm invested in educational freedom in all MA towns	Somerville
Lawrence	Rosenwald	Nearby neighbor	Maynard
Karen	Ross	Concerned Jewish Israeli-American neighbor	Maynard
Elisabeth	Sackton	Signing as individual/member of Kerem Shalom but not representing Kerem Shalom	Lexington
Ahmad	Saud	Neighbor	Malden
Mark	Schafer	Born and raised in Acton, went to summer camp and many activities in Concord throughout my life	Roxbury, MA
Marcia	Schloss	Concord	Concord
Gail	Schwartz	Concerned educator	Arlington
Lauren	Shear	Frequently work in Concord/Carlisle	Brighton

Noam	Shoresh	Concerned Jewish Israeli American	Newton, MA
Kiley	Slayter	n/a	Quincy
Lina	Smith	Teacher	Arlington
maddie	squarcia	I work in Concord	Watertown
Sue	StCroix	Citizen	Concord
Brooks	Stevens	Resident	Concord
Stephanie	Tabashneck	I used to do work in Concord	Waltham
Kareem	Talhouni	Resident/Parent	Concord
Ece	Turnator	CCHS	Concord
Lora	Venesy	Concord	Concord
Rachael	Walton	Former resident	Cambridge
Lea	White	Former Acton resident who still loves to visit Concord	Providence, RI
Ryan	Williams	Resident	Concord
Noah T.	Winer	My Jewish cousins and friends live in Carlisle.	Northampton
N	Yassa	Resident taxpayer	Concord

Additional comments from signers:

- “Freedom, Safety, and Belonging for ALL!” –**Concord resident**
- “As a Jew, I strongly oppose the IHRA definition of antisemitism. It is insulting.” –**Concord resident**
- “At a time when free speech is under threat in the United States, please do not impose this draconian indefensible restriction on Concordians.” –**Concord resident**
- “As a Jew, I reject the IHRA definition of anti-semitism. Conflating anti-semitism with criticism of Israel is not a positive for Jews. The idea that that somehow criticism of Israel is not valid as long as other countries are committing similar atrocities is absurd. We condemn genocide wherever it occurs; but as an American whose tax dollars are supporting the genocide, it is particularly egregious.” –**Concord resident**
- “I support the ACLU position of rejecting the IHRA initiative and definition.” –**Concord resident**

- “Israel is racist and apartheid country. I strongly reject inclusion of criticism of Israel as antisemitic in IHRA law.” –**Concord resident**
- “We must stand with our Jewish neighbors against discrimination or attack. We must stand with any neighbors against discrimination or attack. Calling out the actions of the current Israeli government is not antisemitic. It’s moral.” –**Concord resident**
- “I am Jewish and I agree that we need to protect all people from hate and protect our freedom of speech” –**Concord resident**
- “I acknowledge that antisemitism is real, dangerous, and must be actively opposed in all forms. However, I do not support adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism because it equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism. Criticizing a state for committing apartheid, engaging in war crimes, or carrying out actions that result in the mass killing of innocent civilians, including women and children, is not hatred of Jewish people. It is moral, political, and human rights and based criticism of a government and its policies. Treating such criticism as antisemitism suppresses protected speech and shields a state from accountability. I urge the Select Board to reject the IHRA definition and pursue an approach that combats antisemitism without silencing legitimate criticism of state violence and human rights violations. I stand with the Jewish residents of Concord and all of the United States and would love to adopt an alternative framework.” –**Concord resident**
- “Criticism of the state of Israel does not equal antisemitism; just like criticizing governments such as Saudi Arabia does not equal Islamophobia. I believe in the safety of our Jewish community and ALL communities within our town but IHRA is another way for a foreign country to stifle the free speech of Americans and has nothing to do with the protections of the Jewish community, it’s a form of oppression.” –**Concord resident**
- “Injustice to one is injustice to all. MLK Jr.” –**Concord resident**
- “Criticizing this particular government of Israel is something that MANY American Jews do. Netanyahu is a criminal and should be in jail for corruption, in addition to bombing Gazan citizens. As a Jew, I love Israel and think Jews and Palestinians should live together in peace and harmony. This particular Israeli government is terrible for everyone - Jews and Arabs and others... Do NOT support the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Stop antisemitism without stopping the ability to critique Israel's current Netanyahu-led government.” –**Concord resident**

- “Please take an open minded and generous approach to this question. A Jewish friend asked me to consider signing this and I am glad to do so, especially in these current times.” –**Concord resident**
- “I am a member of J Street. this group is an excellent resource and has published great position papers on this topic” –**Concord resident**
- “Teachers should be able to teach accurate accounts of history.”-**Concord resident**
- “I am a student at the University of Vermont. In 2022, UVM was hit with a lawsuit by a pro-Israel group demanding the university adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, explicitly targeting student clubs that simply expressed opposition to Israel's colonization of Palestinian land. While the university did not adopt it, the lawsuit compelled them to de facto repress speech critical of Israel. I experienced this firsthand when campus police came to my off-campus apartment at night and subsequently interrogated me in the campus police building for taking down a public poster advertising a right-wing pro-Israel campus speaker. Their posture was that I was a potential terrorist and a threat to Jewish students. I am certain I would have been treated even worse if the university had de jure adopted the IHRA Definition. I implore you, please uphold the right of Concord students to free speech.” –**Concord resident**
- “There has been discourse in town that our focus should be on what goes on in our community right now. This view has been expressed in fact by residents who support the adoption of the IHRA definition. However the letter above is more consistent with keeping our focus to our town, by not conflating respectful and caring treatment of each other with unquestioningly supporting the actions of a different State and its governing leadership in all matters.” –**Concord resident**
- “Dialogue and free speech are the foundation of USA constitution” –**Carlisle resident**
- “I am very concerned that students and teachers will not be able to discuss world history, literature, and current events that could involve debate and possible criticism of the GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. I am worried that if the IHRA definition of antisemitism is adopted that it will silence important dialogue and that students and teachers who do broach the subject of the actions of the government of Israel could be brought up on hate crime charges — a serious criminal offense. Free speech is in danger if IHRA definition of antisemitism is adopted. Please find meaningful ways to address and protect against antisemitism, but do not do it by limiting free speech. –**Carlisle resident**
- “What Concord does will influence other towns across the country. Please lead carefully. Antisemitism is bad but the IHRA definition fuels anti-Palestinian racism and that's also bad!” –Newton resident

- “I would add that I believe the IHRA definition, by labeling criticism of Israel as criticism of Jews, implicitly implicates the Jewish community in the actions of Netanyahu's government; in the long run, that is dangerous for the community as a whole.” –Arlington resident
- “Students, teachers, and many others are already often afraid and are having a hard time holding real conversations about Israel and its relation to the Palestinians. Please don't make it even harder by adopting the IHRA definition. I'm worried that if you pass it in Concord and Carlisle, it will make it that much more likely to happen in Newton.” –Newton resident
- “Please understand that adopting IHRA in Concord is of concern to residents of neighboring towns as it will provide a dangerous precedent and legitimacy to pass similar measures in other towns.” –Arlington resident
- “The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is very narrow and limits the ability to speak out against genocide and Islamophobia.” –Maynard resident
- “Conflating antisemitism with criticism of Israel as IHRA explicitly outlines in its examples is wrong and dangerous, Clearly evident in the board's own caveats and concerns adopting the IHRA definition poses. It doesn't make any sense adopting such a controversial definition.” –Malden resident
- “I am a proud Jewish person, and the IHRA definition of antisemitism does not serve me or my Jewish community, or my Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim friends, neighbors, and community members. All of our freedom and well-being is intertwined.” –Watertown resident
- “Adopting the IHRA definition will make Concord public discourse less civil, not more. Please don't wade into this divisive issue, which has caused so much bitterness in the Jewish community for the past 10 years. It will undermine the whole message of your lovely Proclamation and turn Concordians against each other.” –Arlington resident
- “I am Jewish, 74 years old, and support the points of view expressed in this letter. Onward.” –Brookline resident
- “The IHRA definition of antisemitism does not make Jews safer. Please look at Together for an Inclusive Massachusetts and Concerned Jewish Faculty & Staff for more equitable approaches.” –Boston resident
- “I'm a Jew, born and raised in Acton and bar mitzvahed in Maynard. The IHRA definition of antisemitism has already been used to silence, punish, fire, and dox non-Zionist Jews as well as Muslims and other People of Color exercising free speech in ways that are in no way antisemitic. Even Kenneth Stern, the main

drafter of the IHRA definition, has for years spoken out AGAINST its use as a legal or public policy mechanism. I likewise urge my former neighbors to follow his and CJFS” –Roxbury resident

- “At a time when the demonization and criminalization of political speech and affiliation is becoming increasingly common at the federal level and threatening to unravel our democracy, I fear--as a proudly Jewish resident of neighboring Sudbury--the dangerous precedent that would be set by Concord's official embrace of the controversial and divisive IHRA definition of antisemitism which conflates antisemitism with political speech/stances, such as criticism of Israel.” – Sudbury resident
- “I am Jewish, my partner is a rabbi, and I stand in solidarity with Palestinians. The IHRA definition is awful and curbs thoughtful discourse.” –Waltham resident
- “I am signing as an individual. I have participated in Concord Jewish institution for 25 years” –Lexington resident
- “I'm deeply concerned by this because I worry about a precedent establishing IHRA as the definition of antisemitism in Concord and then that spreading to Somerville. I believe to protect a diverse community, we must fight antisemitism within the framework of anti racism more broadly, recognizing that all of our safety is tied up together.” –Somerville resident
- “I am very concerned about how embracing the IHRA definition will impact free speech and the teaching of Palestinian history. Antisemitism should be addressed within a framework that deals with bias and discrimination against those whose ethnicity or religion is under-represented in the community of Concord. This conversation needs to be widened to include the voices of those who have not yet been invited to the table. Education reform should include an understanding of anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia, both of which have been documented in Massachusetts.” –Cambridge resident
- “Please do not adopt the IHRA definition. It is incoherent and vague to such an extent that it could be used punitively to destroy the rights to academic freedom, free speech and express political dissent. While I know a few people in Concord (teachers, students, residents) who will be directly affected by the passage of your IHRA proclamation, I am very concerned generally about its impact on all Concord residents.” –Arlington resident
- “The only reason to adopt the IHRA definition, when there are several other better options, is to ensure that the conflation of antizionism and antisemitism can continue to be used.” –Northampton resident
- “please resist using the IHRA definition. use the JDA (Jerusalem Declaration) instead!” –Belmont resident

Resource List

- American Civil Liberties Union Rejection of IHRA, available at <https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Reject-Definitions-of-Anti-Semitism-that-Encompass-Protected-Speech.pdf>
- Center for Constitutional Rights rejection of IHRA, available at <https://ccrjustice.org/letter-civil-rights-groups-demand-doe-reject-ihra-definition-antisemitism>
- Human Rights Watch Rejection of IHRA, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/04/human-rights-and-other-civil-society-groups-urge-united-nations-respect-human>
- Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, available at <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>
- Diaspora Alliance Resources available at <https://diasporaalliance.co/>
- Institute for Middle East Understanding, available at <https://imeu.org/resources/key-issues/explainer-the-ihra-working-definition-of-anti-semitism/221>
- Institute for Understanding Anti-Palestinian Racism, available at <https://antipalestinianracism.org/>
- Project Esther: A Nexus Project Briefing, available at <https://nexusproject.us/nexus-resources/project-esther-a-nexus-project-briefing/>

Please publish this updated petition with additional 219 signatures. The updated signature count is as follows: 76 Concord signers, 24 Carlisle signers, and about 250 from other nearby MA towns.

Thank you,
Ece Turnator, Cambridge Turnpike, Concord
Lauren Margulies, Carlisle

Protecting Freedom, Safety, and Belonging for All in Concord and Carlisle

In recent months, social bias, discrimination, and hate have increased across the United States, Massachusetts, and our community. We share the fear many Jewish families are experiencing and believe it is our responsibility to protect Jewish people from hatred and harm. We unequivocally reject antisemitism and are deeply troubled by its rise, alongside Islamophobia, racism, anti-LGBTQIA+ hate, and other forms of violence and discrimination nationwide.

It is precisely because we care about the safety and dignity of *all* our neighbors—including Jewish residents—that we urge town leaders not to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. As part of a current campaign to incorporate this definition into town policy, it is important to be clear that the IHRA framework can be misused in ways that harm other communities, rather than promote real safety and belonging for all—and that alternative, equity-based frameworks to fight antisemitism should be considered.

This is especially concerning because adopting the IHRA definition in our community would stifle free speech, chill open dialogue in our schools and community spaces, and risk mischaracterizing legitimate political expression as hatred.

The IHRA definition includes examples that explicitly equate criticism of the Israeli government and its policies with antisemitism. Yet criticizing the actions, laws, or policies of any state—including Israel—is a legitimate part of democratic discourse and is not, in itself, antisemitic.

If adopted, the IHRA definition could lead to students, educators, parents, and residents being labeled antisemitic for engaging in good-faith political discussion or expressing solidarity with Palestinians. Palestinians and those who advocate for Palestinian rights could be forced to somehow prove that they are not antisemitic simply to express their experiences, needs, and aspirations. This expectation is dehumanizing and harmful. No one should have to pass a litmus test to be deemed worthy of safety, dignity, and belonging.

Such an approach would undermine respectful dialogue and weaken—rather than strengthen—the fight against real antisemitism. Fear and marginalization are not experienced by only one group. In our community today, Muslim and Palestinian families report feeling unsafe or reluctant to share their identities at school. Black and brown families, including some METCO students, have raised concerns about marginalization for years and have called for deeper, more consistent support when hate speech occurs.

These experiences are real, ongoing, and documented, and they reflect just some of the communities—alongside our Jewish neighbors—who deserve protection, representation, and belonging.

True equity and belonging work must address *all* forms of hatred and discrimination without privileging one group’s safety at the expense of another’s.

We cannot protect one community by silencing or harming others. We believe our diverse community is strongest when we stand united—protecting Jewish neighbors while also safeguarding Muslim, Arab, Black, brown, METCO, and Palestinian families to name just some groups who study and live in our towns.

We therefore urge town leaders to reject the IHRA definition and instead adopt antisemitism language that:

- **Clearly names and confronts antisemitism**
- **Protects free speech and political expression**
- **Does not conflate criticism of the state of Israel with hatred of Jewish people**
- **Allows schools and town bodies to address all forms of hate with clarity and precision**

There are alternative frameworks available that meet these goals without the documented harms of IHRA’s definition of antisemitism. We believe our community can—and must—address antisemitism and all forms of hate without undermining free expression or marginalizing other communities.

We, the undersigned, urge Concord town leaders to reject the IHRA definition of antisemitism and protect freedom, safety, and belonging for everyone in our community.

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation to town of Concord/School	Town of residence
Allison	Aley	Concord resident	Concord
Aristaios	Apollos	Student of CPS, resident and organizer in Concord	Concord
Jennifer	Bell	Concord	Concord
Lisa	Berland	Resident	Concord
Louise	Berliner	citizen	concord
Pamela	Bishop	Resident	Concord
Enid	Boasberg	resident	Concord
Dan	Booth	CCHS parent	Concord
Katherine	Booth	Resident/parent	Concord
Pat	Brewer	resident	Concord
Cathy	Chadwick	Resident and employooyee	Concord
Eric	Chadwick	Concord	Concord

Maura	Clarke	resident/mother of CMS student	Concord
David	Clarke	Concord	Concord
Mary	Clarke	resident	Concord
Kate	Clarke	Resident	Concord
Joyce	DeGreeff	Parent	Concord
Christine	Denaro	Resident of Concord	Concord
Megan	Denis	Resident and Parent of students attend the public schools	Concord
Angelina	DeSocio	Neighbor	Concord
Nancy Rose	Dow	resident	Concord
Tracie	Dunn	Concord	Concord
Elizabeth	Frank	Parent of 2 CCHS students	Concord
Stuart	Fried	resident / voter	Concord
Tanya	Gailus	Resident	Concord
Amanda	Green	CCHS	Concord
Stanley	Griffith	taxpayer	concord
Bella	Harris	Resident of Concord	Concord
India	Hoeschen-Stein	Resident of Concord	Concord
Wendy	Holt	Concord resident, parent of former CC students	Concord
Jane	Hosie-Bounar	Resident	Concord
Zaina	Huseni	Alumni and resident	Concord
Tabassum	Huseni	Concord public school	Concord
Hewon	Hwang	Resident	Concord
Sarah	Jennings	Resident and educator	Concord
Kate	Kavanagh	Concord	Concord
Afrah	Khasim	Resident/Graduate from CC Highschool	Concord
Emily	Lines	Resident and CPS parent	Concord
E	Mary	resident	Concord
Hugh	McCrory	Resident	Concord

Bridget	Neale	CCHS Parent	Concord
Molly	Peterson	Resident of Concord	Concord
Ellen	Quackenbush	Resident	Concord
Marcia	Schloss	Concord	Concord
David	Starmer	Resident	Concord
Sue	StCroix	Citizen	Concord
Brooks	Stevens	Resident	Concord
Miles	Sweet	Citizen	Concord
Kareem	Talhouni	Resident/Parent	Concord
Lora	Venesy	Concord	Concord
Ryan	Williams	Resident	Concord
N	Yassa	Resident taxpayer	Concord
Walid	Alsharafi	Concord	Concord
Rami	Benhamida	Resident of Concord and former student	Concord
Sarah	Chapman	Alumni Parent, and CCHS Teacher, Concord Resident	Concord
Stephen	Dirrane	Resident	Concord
Cosette	Dunn	Resident	Concord
Asif	Huseni	Resident	Concord
Jennifer	Johnson	Resident	Concord
Mattan	Kamon	Jewish resident with 9th grader at CCHS	Concord
Lydia	Kuhn	Resident	Concord
Jackie	Meehan	Resident of Concord	Concord
Ece	Turnator	CCHS	Concord
Jennifer	Montbach	Town resident, parent of two CPS graduates	Concord MA
Khaled	Boumar	Resident	Concord MA
Amani	Alsharafi	yes	Concord Ma 01742
Zuhayr	Huseni	Resident of Concord graduate of CCHS	Concord Massachusetts
Gilda	Gussin	Grown children attended Concord Schools	Concord, Ma

Ava	Lublin	Grew up here, still live and work here	Concord, MA
Susan	McCrary	Resident, and parent of two CCHS graduates	Concord, MA
Logan	Prewitt	Lifelong Concord resident	Concord, MA
Mark	Gailus	Concord resident	Concord, Massachusetts
Amy	Starmer	Live in concord	Conord
Nancy	Lawrence	Resident/relative of pass students and present teacher	West Concord
Ayesha	Kapadia	Yes	Yes
NEGAR	TARADJI	Concord resident	Concord
Emma	Boettcher	Carlisle	Carlisle
Gil	Cyr	I live in Carlisle	Carlisle
Sharmili	Das	School	Carlisle
Areeg	Eluri	Carlisle Resident/shared school system	Carlisle
Noor	Farhat	Friend's child goes there	Carlisle
Alyssa	Grinberg	Parent at Carlisle Public School/Future CCHS parent	Carlisle
John	Haran	Parent of children who participate in Concord youth sports and will be future CCHS students	Carlisle
Mahreen	Hoda	parent in the district	Carlisle
Omar	Hoda	Parent in district	Carlisle
Carrie	Jones	Carlisle resident/ kids participate in sports/activities in Concord community and will attend CCHS	Carlisle
Anthony	Klauzinski	CARLISLE	CARLISLE
Liese	Meier	My kids attend Carlisle Public School (eventually CCHS) and we are involved in a variety of Concord Rec programs	Carlisle
Vanessa	Moroney	Parent of two CCHS students	Carlisle
Ray	Moroney	Parent of CCHS Students	Carlisle
Jasmine	Punzalan	Carlisle resident	Carlisle
Michael	Ansara	Property owner	Carlisle
Maureen	Cosgrove-Deery	Citizen	Carlisle

Rachel	Freed	CCHS future parent	Carlisle
Nafeesa	Hoda	Former student	Carlisle
Heather	Larkin	Concord Carlisle High School	Carlisle
Lauren	Margulies	Parent at Carlisle Public School	Carlisle
Elizabeth	Nahas	grandmother	Carlisle
Melanie	OHare	We spend lots of time in Concord for sports, shopping, friends, and at The Umbrella. All three of our children went to preschool in Concord and we are members of the Concord Country Club.	Carlisle
John	Ballantine	Former member of Carlisle select board and Fincom	Carlisle
Rachael	Walton	Former resident	Cambridge
Mattea	Kramer	Concerned bystander	Amherst
Elizabeth	Dray	n/a	Arlington
Anju	Joglekar	Affiliation through friends and acquaintances	Arlington
Margaret	Litvin	Concerned Jewish neighbor	Arlington
Sarah	McKinnon	Your neighbor! Frequent guest.	Arlington
Gail	Schwartz	Concerned educator	Arlington
Lina	Smith	Teacher	Arlington
Rebecca	Steinitz	friend and neighbor	Arlington
Marina	Wagner	Neighbor	Arlington
Christina	Ahmad	We visit Concord to see friends and for recreation and dining	Arlington
Melissa	Clarke	I am a student at Umbrella Arts	Arlington
Megan	Crowe-Rothstein	Concerned Jewish parent in MA	Arlington
Leah	Even Chorev	Concerned Jewish Israeli American resident of neighboring town	Arlington
Wei	Ng	Neighbor	Arlington
Beatrice	Manz	I am not a resident of Concord, but have family connections	Arlington MA
Eli	Gerzon	I worked on Hutchins Farm for years	Arlington, MA
Diana	Griffin	friend	Ashland

Kevin	Heaton	Na	Atlington
Candice	Woodson	Alumni and parents taught there	Ayer
Chris	Bartley	N/a	Barnstable
Heather	Korbmacher	Previously worked for the Concord School District	Bellingham
Yara	A	Neighbor	Belmont
caroline	light	friend	belmont
Jonathan	Haines	Concerned educator	Belmont
Zahir	Adil	No	Billerica
Jennifer	Morrison	Massachusetts resident	Blackstone
pat	westwater-jong	I lived in Concord years ago and now live in another town in CD3.	Bolton
Diane	Abrams	Family members	Boston
Betsy	Abrams	Friends live there	Boston
Emily	Achtenberg	Relatives	Boston
Leo	Balik	Community member	Boston
Owen	Berson	attended high school in Concord (Concord Academy)	Boston
Ellen	Blackburn	None	Boston
Rachel	Breslau	Community member	Boston
Banjineh	Browne	Boston Public School Teacher	Boston
Ilene	Carver	n/a	Boston
Ava	Cheloff	Interested citizen	Boston
Via	DeCinti	Boston Resident	Boston
Tamzen	Flanders	Friend of members; member of CJFS	Boston
Bruce	Fleischer	Friends	Boston
Laura	Foner	Have friends who live in the community	Boston
Karsten	Frey	Visit Concord sometimes	Boston
Laura	Gang	Concerned citizen	Boston
Julia	Halperin	Former resident of Concord	Boston
Jenny	Hochstadt	None	Boston

Sarah	Horsley	regular swimmer at Walden Pond	Boston
Ali	Huda	Mass resident	Boston
Marlena	Idrobo	none	Boston
Steven	Jango-Cohen	Visitor	Boston
Anisa	K	Neighbor	Boston
Judith	Kanter	Boston resident	Boston
Amy	Kiley	MA public school employee - Boston	Boston
Karen	Klein MD	Concerned Jewish community leader	Boston
Catya	Kurban	Neighboring town resident	Boston
Jordana	Laks	None	Boston
yvonne	lalyre	visitor	Boston
Martha	Matlaw	friend	Boston
Rabbi Michael	McCloskey	Concerned neighbor	Boston
Lindsey	Minder	Friend of resident	Boston
Casey	Phalen	Neighbor	Boston
Jana	Pickard-Richardson	supporter, concerned citizen	Boston
Erin	Plummer	friend of residents	Boston
Sandy	Sachs	2 neighbors graduated there thru metco.	Boston
Emily	Sedgwick	U.S. citizen and Massachusetts resident	Boston
Shelley	Stevens	Non affiliated	Boston
Ashley	Tarbet	Concerned community member	Boston
Corey	Valois	MA resident	Boston
Pamela	Varley	friends in town	Boston
Evie	Weinstein-Park	friend	Boston
Heidi	Winston	School Nurse	Boston
Ellen	Wolpert	N/a	Boston
Ginny	Zanger	a concerned Jew	Boston
Robin	Busiek	Live nearby	Boston

SarahEvan	Colvario	Neighbor	Boston
ENID	ECKSTEIN	none	Boston
Celeste	Gutiérrez	Massachusetts educator	Boston
Rizwan	Huda	friends	Boston
Leena	Ismail	I have friends with children that attend the school	Boston
Joanie	Parker	Ally	Boston
Nancy	Sableski	N/A	Boston
Elana	Wolkoff	I am a Jewish educator & mental health professional	Boston
Paulina	Migalska	I have friends with school aged children in Concord	Boston, MA
Martina	Tan	Community member	Boston, MA
Jodi	Seaver	Relatives there	Brattleboro
Maggie	B-G	Previous town of residence	Brighton
Claire	Costigan	Family and Friends	Brighton
Lauren	Shear	Frequently work in Concord/Carlisle	Brighton
Rosangeline	Fleming	School teacher in nearby district	Brighton
Gabriella	Romano	Kids I nanny and coach	Brighton
Liza	Alpert	None	Brookline
Deborah	Chassler	none	Brookline
Laura	Derman	NA	BROOKLINE
Lydia	Dilulio	MA resident, concerned about the effects of this decision on other school districts	Brookline
Eva	Kaso-Collette	Have friends	Brookline
Daniel	Kleinman	Brookline	Brookline
Akiva	Leibowitz	Jewish-American-Israeli Massachusetts resident	Brookline
Jenn	Lewin	N/A	Brookline
Isaiah	Plovnick	Concerned Jewish community member	Brookline
Kerry	Abukhalaf	Was born and raised in Concord. Attended Willard, Peabody, and CCHS.	Cambridge

Rachelle	Ain	N/A	Cambridge
Hana	Azzouz	community	Cambridge
Peri	Barest	Community member	Cambridge
Pamela	Blau	Many friends	Cambridge
Mary Baine	Campbell	occasional visitor, friend of some Concord residents	Cambridge
Lia	Eggleston	community interest	Cambridge
Laura	Gross	Jewish sports-parent who comes to Concord with other school's team	Cambridge
Sarah	Hobbs Butler	Community member working at umbrella arts	Cambridge
Michael	Kourabas	None	Cambridge
Rena	Leib	Visitor	Cambridge
Lisa	McDonnell	none	Cambridge
Hubert	Murray	None	Cambridge
Sydney	Rubin	neighbor	Cambridge
Ezra	Rudel	Friend	Cambridge
Elena	Saporta	N/A	Cambridge
Nancy	Wechsler	Concerned citizen of ma	Cambridge
Akunna	Eneh	Friend of resident	Cambridge
Peter	Leopold	Alum	Cambridge
Mal	Malme	None	Cambridge
Sacha	Mankins	None/greater Boston Jewish community	Cambridge
Julia Gray	Peters	Community Member	Cambridge
Gabriel	Robinson	Neighbor	Cambridge
Lauren	Gibbs	I see people who live in Concord, I see friends in Concord, I go to the theater in Concord, I eat in Concord and I am a Massachusetts citizen	Cambridge, MA
richard	colbath-hess	No	Cambrifge
Leah	McGowan	Friend	Canton

Brigid	Bowser	Family in concord, play sports and bike in concord, love my neighbors!!	Charlestown
Lauren	Costello	Concord will be used as a precedent to further the Trump agenda	Dedham
Beilah	Ross	Concerned Jewish MA resident	Dorchester MA
Amiee	Ross	Not just another jew for Palatine	Easthampton
Aliza	Cohen	N/a	Greenfield
Robin	Gregg	Resident of neighboring state (NH).	Hancock, NH
Giannalda	Fontana	No affiliation	Jamaica Plain
Ora	Gladstone	friends live there	Jamaica plain
Eileen	Goldberg	Concerned Jewish Citizen of the Commonwealth of MA.	Jamaica Plain
Ellen	Israel	None, but I am Jewish	Jamaica Plain
Anne	Kaufman	Friend	Jamaica Plain
Helen	Raizen	concerned Massachusetts citizen	Jamaica Plain
Chinjutha (Aki)	Thangtharnarkeat	Concord Academy student	Jamaica Plain
Jake	Wise	n/a	Jamaica Plain
Frances	Perkins	friend	Jamaica Plain, MA
Nancy	Lessin	Friends with retired teachers from Concord-Carlisle High School	Jamaica Plain/Boston
Bart	Leib	Library Assistant, Concord Free Public Library	Leominster
Amahl	Bishara	resident of neighboring town	LExington
Katie	Flynn	Neighbor in Lexington	Lexington
Elizabeth	Goersbach	Neighboring town	Lexington
Eric	Kramer	Neighboring towns person	Lexington
Elisabeth	Sackton	Signing as individual/member of Kerem Shalom but not representing Kerem Shalom	Lexington
Toby	Sackton	Spouse born there; plan to be buried at sleepy hollow	lexington
Erin	Hartel	I live nearby, visit Concord regularly and have friends with children at Concord Academy.	Lexington
Charles	Inouye	Neighbor	Lexington

Elana	Jabbour	Lexington for Palestine	Lexington
Christine	Halikias	Neighbor	Lexington MA
Giulia	Sorcini	N/A	Lexington, MA
Lena	Mackley	Not a resident, but an educator who cares from afar	Lockport
Mary	Saba	N/A	Malden
Ahmad	Saud	Neighbor	Malden
Ivy	McCall	None	Marblehead, MA
Margaret	Day	I attend events, go to museums, parks, playgrounds, restaurants, stores, and social actions.	Maynard
Lawrence	Rosenwald	Nearby neighbor	Maynard
Karen	Ross	Concerned Jewish Israeli-American neighbor	Maynard
Clara	Sherley-Appel	My niece and nephews all go / went to CCHS	Maynard
Tess	Fedore	My family lives in concord	Maynard
Kayla	Randazzo	CCHS grad	Maynard
Jessica	Thompson	Next door resident, parent, and business owner	Maynard
Chloe	Brosnan	Medford	Medford
sophie	cashen	Concerned neighbor	Medford
Maximillian	Ives	Concerned Neighbor	Medford
Micah-Shalom	Kesselman	None directly	Medford
Sally	Orme	Concerned citizen	Medford
Michael	Prentky	Concerned Jewish neighbor	Medford
Ashley	Ryder	life long MA resident	Medford
Abbie	Doane	Concerned Jewish community member	Medford
Julia	Lieberman	None, but I grew up in Lexington	Medford
Priyanka	Maudgal	Activist	Medford
Luna	Zaru	No	Melrose
Amit	Sachdeva	CCHS class of 1997, parents, brother, sister-in-law, and niece live there today	New York, NY

Ted	Ruetenik	Former long-term resident of West Concord	Newburyport, MA
Luanne	Grossman	Concerned citizen	Newton
Elaine	Landes	Neighbor	Newton
Nora Lester	Murad	Neighbor	Newton
Brittany	Schwartz	n/a	Newton
Zvi	Ladin	Israeli-American Jew	Newton
Hicham	Skali	Neighboring town	Newton
Eitan	Berechman	-	Newton, MA
Noam	Shoresh	Concerned Jewish Israeli American	Newton, MA
Jane	Matlaw	NEWTONVILLE	NEWTONVILLE
Jane	Matlaw	friends live there	NEWTONVILLE
Catherine	Hodes	none	Northampton
Gaurav	Jashnani	Fellow educator	Northampton
Noah T.	Winer	My Jewish cousins and friends live in Carlisle.	Northampton
Helen	Bennett	My sister in law works in Concord	Northampton MA
Shahar	Colt	Rabbi in Massachusetts	Northampton MA
Anna	Gold	Future resident	Northborough
Andy	Roshal	Friend of Concord residents	Oberlin, Ohio
Lea	White	Former Acton resident who still loves to visit Concord	Providence, RI
Devorah	Phillips	Substitute teacher at Attleboro public schools	Providence, RI
Kiley	Slayter	n/a	Quincy
Linda	Cohen	Community member	Revere
Rachelle	Abrahami	Massachusetts resident	Roslindale
Judith	Coughlin	None	Roslindale
Adah	Hetko	None	Roslindale
Stephanie	Sieburth	None, but as a Jew I care deeply about this issue.	Roslindale
Coriander	Sippen	Neighbor and friend	Roslindale

Mark	Schafer	Born and raised in Acton, went to summer camp and many activities in Concord throughout my life	Roxbury, MA
Tom	Alter	none	San Marcos, TX
Alyssa	Pearson	Concerned MA citizen	Saugus
Jesse	Thompson	None	Sharon
Franny	Alani	N/A	Somerville
Jane	Bestor	Family on two sides, and the affiliation that all Americans have to Concord by virtue of its place in American history and the principles espoused by the Trancendentalists and their intellectual heirs	Somerville
Sophia	Chen	MA Educator	Somerville
Maria	Dresser	None	Somerville
Stephanie	Galaitisi	My office is in Concord	Somerville
Manizeh	Khan	None	Somerville
AJ	Kurban	Near me	Somerville
Lacey	Kurban	Friend	Somerville
Rico	Martinez	Neighbor	Somerville
Thomas	Reid	Massachusetts Public Educator	Somerville
Lizabeth	Roemer	As a professor at U Mass Boston, I'm invested in educational freedom in all MA towns	Somerville
Emma	Rybeck	Neighboring resident	somerville
Shana	Berger	None	Somerville
Isabel	Fredricks	Concerned citizen of greater Boston	Somerville
Julian	Spielman	I reside nearby	Somerville
Carina	Kurban	Neighboring town	Somerville MA
Sarah	Nechamen	Neighbor	Sonerville
Theresa	Tauer	Educator in another city	St. Paul
Sally	Cimino	no	sudbury

Carrie	Pollack	deeply concerned Jewish neighbor	Sudbury
Avi	Lepsky	None	Sudbury
Willa	Bandler	Neighbor	Walpole
Joshua	Eike	I live in a neighboring town	Waltham
Stephanie	Tabashneck	I used to do work in Concord	Waltham
Merrie	Najimy	Employee	Watertight
Mark	Bilodeau	Two children attended	Watertown
Kate	Early	Former Concord resident	Watertown
Katherine	Hanna	Retired MA educator	Watertown
Maddie	Nicole	I used to live in Carlisle and have worked full-time in Concord for five years	Watertown
maddie	squarcia	I work in Concord	Watertown
Sosi	Toomajanian	Visitor	Watertown
Alyssa	Lawson	Neighbor	Watertown
Maggie	Migliozzi	Massachusetts resident	Watertown
Malak	Rafla	Community supporter	Watertown
Tim	Bilodeau	CCHS graduate, former Concord resident	Watertown, MA
Karl	Klapper	None	Wayland
Jennifer	Riley	none	Wayland
Shawn	Hasan	No affiliation Wellesley resident	Wellesley
Nancy	Lawrence	Resident/relative of pass students and present teacher	West Concord
Marissa	Evans	Former nanny for students in Concord	Westford, MA
Irene	Bre na	N/A	Westwood
Marjorie	Feld	n/a	Westwood
Naomi E. Aimee	Francaes	Concerned Jewish citizen of Whately, MA	Whately
Regina	Kurban	Winchester	Winchester
Andrew	Kurban	Resident of MA	Winchester

Additional comments from signers:

- “Freedom, Safety, and Belonging for ALL!” –**Concord resident**
- “As a Jew, I strongly oppose the IHRA definition of antisemitism. It is insulting.” –**Concord resident**
- “At a time when free speech is under threat in the United States, please do not impose this draconian indefensible restriction on Concordians.” –**Concord resident**
- “As a Jew, I reject the IHRA definition of anti-semitism. Conflating anti-semitism with criticism of Israel is not a positive for Jews. The idea that that somehow criticism of Israel is not valid as long as other countries are committing similar atrocities is absurd. We condemn genocide wherever it occurs; but as an American whose tax dollars are supporting the genocide, it is particularly egregious.” –**Concord resident**
- “I support the ACLU position of rejecting the IHRA initiative and definition.” –**Concord resident**
- “Israel is racist and apartheid country. I strongly reject inclusion of criticism of Israel as antisemitic in IHRA law.” –**Concord resident**
- “We must stand with our Jewish neighbors against discrimination or attack. We must stand with any neighbors against discrimination or attack. Calling out the actions of the current Israeli government is not antisemitic. It’s moral.” –**Concord resident**
- “I am Jewish and I agree that we need to protect all people from hate and protect our freedom of speech” –**Concord resident**
- “I acknowledge that antisemitism is real, dangerous, and must be actively opposed in all forms. However, I do not support adopting the IHRA working definition of antisemitism because it equates criticism of Israel with antisemitism. Criticizing a state for committing apartheid, engaging in war crimes, or carrying out actions that result in the mass killing of innocent civilians, including women and children, is not hatred of Jewish people. It is moral, political, and human rights and based criticism of a government and its policies. Treating such criticism as antisemitism suppresses protected speech and shields a state from accountability. I urge the Select Board to reject the IHRA definition and pursue an approach that combats antisemitism without silencing legitimate criticism of state violence and human rights violations. I stand with the Jewish residents of

Concord and all of the United States and would love to adopt an alternative framework.” –**Concord resident**

- “Criticism of the state of Israel does not equal antisemitism; just like criticizing governments such as Saudi Arabia does not equal Islamophobia. I believe in the safety of our Jewish community and ALL communities within our town but IHRA is another way for a foreign country to stifle the free speech of Americans and has nothing to do with the protections of the Jewish community, it’s a form of oppression.” –**Concord resident**
- “Injustice to one is injustice to all. MLK Jr.” –**Concord resident**
- “Criticizing this particular government of Israel is something that MANY American Jews do. Netanyahu is a criminal and should be in jail for corruption, in addition to bombing Gazan citizens. As a Jew, I love Israel and think Jews and Palestinians should live together in peace and harmony. This particular Israeli government is terrible for everyone - Jews and Arabs and others... Do NOT support the IHRA definition of antisemitism. Stop antisemitism without stopping the ability to critique Israel's current Netanyahu-led government.” –**Concord resident**
- “Please take an open minded and generous approach to this question. A Jewish friend asked me to consider signing this and I am glad to do so, especially in these current times.” –**Concord resident**
- “I am a member of J Street. this group is an excellent resource and has published great position papers on this topic” –**Concord resident**
- “Teachers should be able to teach accurate accounts of history.” –**Concord resident**
- “I am a student at the University of Vermont. In 2022, UVM was hit with a lawsuit by a pro-Israel group demanding the university adopt the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism, explicitly targeting student clubs that simply expressed opposition to Israel's colonization of Palestinian land. While the university did not adopt it, the lawsuit compelled them to de facto repress speech critical of Israel. I experienced this firsthand when campus police came to my off-campus apartment at night and subsequently interrogated me in the campus police building for taking down a public poster advertising a right-wing pro-Israel campus speaker. Their posture was that I was a potential terrorist and a threat to Jewish students. I am certain I would have been treated even worse if the university had de jure adopted the IHRA Definition. I implore you, please uphold the right of Concord students to free speech.” –**Concord resident**
- “There has been discourse in town that our focus should be on what goes on in our community right now. This view has been expressed in fact by residents who support the adoption of the IHRA definition. However the letter above is more

consistent with keeping our focus to our town, by not conflating respectful and caring treatment of each other with unquestioningly supporting the actions of a different State and its governing leadership in all matters.” –**Concord resident**

- “Dialogue and free speech are the foundation of USA constitution” –**Carlisle resident**
- “I am very concerned that students and teachers will not be able to discuss world history, literature, and current events that could involve debate and possible criticism of the GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL. I am worried that if the IHRA definition of antisemitism is adopted that it will silence important dialogue and that students and teachers who do broach the subject of the actions of the government of Israel could be brought up on hate crime charges — a serious criminal offense. Free speech is in danger if IHRA definition of antisemitism is adopted. Please find meaningful ways to address and protect against antisemitism, but do not do it by limiting free speech. –**Carlisle resident**
- “What Concord does will influence other towns across the country. Please lead carefully. Antisemitism is bad but the IHRA definition fuels anti-Palestinian racism and that's also bad!” –Newton resident
- “I would add that I believe the IHRA definition, by labeling criticism of Israel as criticism of Jews, implicitly implicates the Jewish community in the actions of Netanyahu's government; in the long run, that is dangerous for the community as a whole.” –Arlington resident
- “Students, teachers, and many others are already often afraid and are having a hard time holding real conversations about Israel and its relation to the Palestinians. Please don't make it even harder by adopting the IHRA definition. I'm worried that if you pass it in Concord and Carlisle, it will make it that much more likely to happen in Newton.” –Newton resident
- “Please understand that adopting IHRA in Concord is of concern to residents of neighboring towns as it will provide a dangerous precedent and legitimacy to pass similar measures in other towns.” –Arlington resident
- “The IHRA definition of anti-Semitism is very narrow and limits the ability to speak out against genocide and Islamophobia.” –Maynard resident
- “Conflating antisemitism with criticism of Israel as IHRA explicitly outlines in its examples is wrong and dangerous, Clearly evident in the board's own caveats and concerns adopting the IHRA definition poses. It doesn't make any sense adopting such a controversial definition.” –Malden resident

- “I am a proud Jewish person, and the IHRA definition of antisemitism does not serve me or my Jewish community, or my Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim friends, neighbors, and community members. All of our freedom and well-being is intertwined.” –Watertown resident
- “Adopting the IHRA definition will make Concord public discourse less civil, not more. Please don’t wade into this divisive issue, which has caused so much bitterness in the Jewish community for the past 10 years. It will undermine the whole message of your lovely Proclamation and turn Concordians against each other.” –Arlington resident
- “I am Jewish, 74 years old, and support the points of view expressed in this letter. Onward.” –Brookline resident
- “The IHRA definition of antisemitism does not make Jews safer. Please look at Together for an Inclusive Massachusetts and Concerned Jewish Faculty & Staff for more equitable approaches.” –Boston resident
- “I’m a Jew, born and raised in Acton and bar mitzvahed in Maynard. The IHRA definition of antisemitism has already been used to silence, punish, fire, and dox non-Zionist Jews as well as Muslims and other People of Color exercising free speech in ways that are in no way antisemitic. Even Kenneth Stern, the main drafter of the IHRA definition, has for years spoken out AGAINST its use as a legal or public policy mechanism. I likewise urge my former neighbors to follow his and CJFS” –Roxbury resident
- “At a time when the demonization and criminalization of political speech and affiliation is becoming increasingly common at the federal level and threatening to unravel our democracy, I fear--as a proudly Jewish resident of neighboring Sudbury--the dangerous precedent that would be set by Concord's official embrace of the controversial and divisive IHRA definition of antisemitism which conflates antisemitism with political speech/stances, such as criticism of Israel.” – Sudbury resident
- “I am Jewish, my partner is a rabbi, and I stand in solidarity with Palestinians. The IHRA definition is awful and curbs thoughtful discourse.” –Waltham resident
- “I am signing as an individual. I have participated in Concord Jewish institution for 25 years” –Lexington resident
- “I’m deeply concerned by this because I worry about a precedent establishing IHRA as the definition of antisemitism in Concord and then that spreading to Somerville. I believe to protect a diverse community, we must fight antisemitism within the framework of anti racism more broadly, recognizing that all of our safety is tied up together.” –Somerville resident

- “I am very concerned about how embracing the IHRA definition will impact free speech and the teaching of Palestinian history. Antisemitism should be addressed within a framework that deals with bias and discrimination against those whose ethnicity or religion is under-represented in the community of Concord. This conversation needs to be widened to include the voices of those who have not yet been invited to the table. Education reform should include an understanding of anti-Palestinian hate and Islamophobia, both of which have been documented in Massachusetts.” –Cambridge resident
- “Please do not adopt the IHRA definition. It is incoherent and vague to such an extent that it could be used punitively to destroy the rights to academic freedom, free speech and express political dissent. While I know a few people in Concord (teachers, students, residents) who will be directly affected by the passage of your IHRA proclamation, I am very concerned generally about its impact on all Concord residents.” –Arlington resident
- “The only reason to adopt the IHRA definition, when there are several other better options, is to ensure that the conflation of antizionism and antisemitism can continue to be used.” –Northampton resident
- “please resist using the IHRA definition. use the JDA (Jerusalem Declaration) instead!” –Belmont resident

Resource List

- American Civil Liberties Union Rejection of IHRA, available at <https://www.aclu.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Reject-Definitions-of-Anti-Semitism-that-Encompass-Protected-Speech.pdf>
- Center for Constitutional Rights rejection of IHRA, available at <https://ccrjustice.org/letter-civil-rights-groups-demand-doe-reject-ihra-definition-antisemitism>
- Human Rights Watch Rejection of IHRA, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/04/04/human-rights-and-other-civil-society-groups-urge-united-nations-respect-human>
- Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism, available at <https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>
- Diaspora Alliance Resources available at <https://diasporaalliance.co/>
- Institute for Middle East Understanding, available at <https://imeu.org/resources/key-issues/explainer-the-ihra-working-definition-of-anti-semitism/221>
- Institute for Understanding Anti-Palestinian Racism, available at <https://antipalestinianracism.org/>
- Project Esther: A Nexus Project Briefing, available at <https://nexusproject.us/nexus-resources/project-esther-a-nexus-project-briefing/>