



Statement on Adoption of Definition of Antisemitism

At a meeting on 25 November 2020, the [University of London Board of Trustees](#) agreed to adopt the definition of antisemitism developed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), with clarifications made to the definition by the UK House of Commons Home Affairs Committee. These clarifications are set out in paragraphs (24) and (94) of the Committee report.

Read the IHRA definition and its background [here](#).

Read the adopted clarifications from the UK House of Commons Home Affairs Committee [here](#).

In a letter to the Secretary of State for Education, Professor Wendy Thomson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, wrote:

“The importance of eliminating antisemitism, ignorance, and prejudice should never fade or weaken. Since its foundation in 1836, the University of London has demonstrated its commitment to the values enshrined in its Statutes: ‘The University shall not discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, religion, social background, or political belief.’”

Multiple generations of faculty and students at the University of London point with pride to the many times these principles have been put into practice. These include:

- Being the first British university to admit women to its degree-granting programmes, in 1868.
- Serving as home to the London School of Jewish Studies, granting its first degrees in 1904.
- Accepting Nelson Mandela to study law by correspondence while he was imprisoned during the struggle against apartheid.
- Co-founding the organisation Academics at Risk in 1933 and providing continuing support today to the Council for At-Risk Academics.

For more information about the University of London’s commitment to combating antisemitism and other forms of prejudice and discrimination, please contact the Inclusion Office at inclusion@london.ac.uk.