**The Canadian Reform Jewish Community**

**Endorses the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism**

With the steep rise of antisemitism in the modern world on both the far left and the far right of the political spectrum, the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, the Reform Rabbis of Canada, and ARZA Canada: Association of Reform Zionists of Canada – collectively the voices of liberal and progressive Judaism in Canada – welcome and endorse the contribution of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition of Antisemitism in providing definitions and guidelines to aid in identifying and, by extension, combatting this troubling phenomenon.

We applaud the governments of Canada and Ontario for having adopted the IHRA definition. We encourage all provincial and municipal jurisdictions to adopt the definition in order to provide consistent and clear understanding of how to define and combat antisemitism.

Canadians are proud of our Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms which guarantees the rights and freedoms set out in it subject only to such reasonable limits prescribed by law. The IHRA definition of antisemitism will help in clarifying those limits when antisemitic acts are perpetrated.

As an important step in combatting the growth of antisemitism on both the far left and the far right of the political spectrum, we join the Union for Reform Judaism, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Women of Reform Judaism, and ARZA: Association of Reform Zionists of America, in endorsing the use of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism.

15 February 2021

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Pekka K. Sinervo, C.M. Lee Weisser Rabbi Dan Moskovitz

President President Chair, Reform Rabbis of Canada

CCRJ ARZA Canada Rabbi, Temple Sholom, Vancouver, B.C.

**About the CCRJ, Reform Rabbis of Canada, ARZA Canada and the URJ**

The Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ) supports and strengthens progressive Jewish congregations across Canada that are affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), building communities that advance contemporary and inclusive Jewish life. Providing vision and voice to transform the way people connect to Judaism, we help congregations stay relevant and innovative, motivate more young Jews to embrace Jewish living, agitate for a more progressive society, and foster meaningful connections to Israel.

The Reform Rabbis of Canada brings together the spiritual leaders of the Canadian Reform community. They are the rabbinic leaders within the synagogues affiliated with the CCRJ and are the voice of the Canadian Reform community.

*The Association of Reform Zionists of Canada (ARZA Canada) is an affiliate of the CCRJ and URJ. ARZA Canada is a member organization of ARZENU, the International Association of Reform Zionists, and the Canadian Zionist Federation. With over 6,000 members, its mandate is to connect with Reform communities throughout Canada, foster connections with and strengthen ties to the Reform Movement in Israel, and work to realize the vision of Reform Zionism.*

The Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), founded in 1873, has grown into the largest and most powerful force in North American Jewish life, with nearly 900 member congregations and work that inspires, connects, and educates millions of people. Our legacy, reach, leadership, and vision mean that we can unite thousands of years of tradition with a modern, evolving Judaism to strengthen Jewish communities today and for future generations.

Visit us at [*www.ccrj.ca*](http://www.ccrj.ca)*, www.arzacanada.org* and [*www.URJ.org*](http://www.URJ.org?utm_source=PressRelease&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PressRelease) to learn about our social justice initiatives, camps and programs for young Jews, services for congregations and communities, and how you can work with us to create a more just, whole, and compassionate world. Enjoy related content at [*ReformJudaism.org*](http://www.ReformJudaism.org?utm_source=PressRelease&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PressRelease) and connect with URJ on [*Twitter*](https://twitter.com/URJorg) and [*Facebook*](https://www.facebook.com/URJorg/).