



## THE ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS ACT

- The Antisemitism Awareness Act (AAA) is legislation to combat antisemitism in the United States, with a focus on educational institutions. The Act provides clear guidelines to identify and address antisemitic incidents, ensuring educational institutions oppose antisemitic discrimination. It's important to note that the Act protects free speech while combating discrimination and hate speech

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### KEY PROVISIONS

- **Adopting the IHRA Definition:** The AAA relies on the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition and its associated examples.
- **Education:** The Act focuses on educational institutions, seeking to ensure that schools, colleges, and universities take appropriate steps to recognize and respond to antisemitism on their campuses. It encourages institutions to improve reporting and train staff to identify antisemitism. This is crucial to creating a safe environment for Jewish students.
- **Free Speech:** The Act uses the IHRA definition **only as guidance**, and only when investigating **an underlying unlawful act**. The AAA aligns with current legislation that balances First Amendment freedom of speech while recognizing the need to prevent discrimination. Courts have recognized that speech that directly incites imminent criminal activity or consists of specific threats of violence targeted against a person or group is not protected. The AAA uses these precedents and operates within the established legal parameters.
- **Academic Freedom:** The Act explicitly protects academic freedom and open discourse. Recognizing the importance of open debate, the Act ensures that steps to counteract antisemitism do not impede scholarly discussion or legitimate criticism of policies and ideas.



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## WHY THE ANTISEMITISM AWARENESS ACT IS NEEDED ?

- The AAA is a response to the skyrocketing antisemitism that emerged in the aftermath of the 10/7 attacks in Israel, especially on college campuses. It provides clear guidelines to support institutions in addressing and combating antisemitism.
- The Act provides provisions to ensure victims' complaints are taken seriously by institutions and victims receive appropriate support, which is a must for the safety of Jewish students and faculty.

Students of all backgrounds must be able to learn in an environment free from hate, hostility, and fear. By addressing antisemitism, the Act seeks to create an environment conducive to academic learning for all students.

## CONCLUSION

- The Antisemitism Awareness Act gives educational institutions the means to fight antisemitism and protect Jewish students on campus. The IHRA definition gives a clear-cut definition of antisemitism, providing a framework to address Jew-hatred while protecting free speech.