



Antisemitism

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What is it?

Antisemitism is understood as hostility leading to prejudice and discrimination towards Jews, both as a group and as individuals. It is an old phenomenon dating back to Christians who believed that Jews were guilty of the crucifixion of Jesus. In addition to this religious antisemitism, other common forms involve political or economic bias. The term has been used since the 1870s, but the prejudice goes back much further. Antisemitism manifests itself in various ways, either directly or indirectly, against Jewish people, or even traditions, places, symbols. Holocaust denialism is an antisemitic phenomenon. Recently, antisemitism has increased internationally, especially online.

Who uses the concept?

Academics, including political scientists, historians, sociologists, experts in international relations, psychologists, and scholars of ethnic, demographic, and communication studies approach antisemitism locally and internationally in order not only to understand the phenomenon, but also to fight against it. Likewise, different Jewish organizations, entities, and groups have dedicated themselves to documenting and investigating forms of antisemitism around the world.

Fit with intercultural dialogue?

Intercultural dialogue can bridge the gap that exists between non-Jewish and Jewish

communities around the world. Antisemitism is a form of racism, often due to ignorance, so intercultural dialogue provides an opportunity to respond in productive ways. One part of such dialogue considers the contributions that different Jewish communities have made to the world; another is to make clear that Judaism is a religion, a tradition, a culture, and a way of life full of diversity and heterogeneity.

What work remains?

In addition to continuing to advance research and study of the various forms of antisemitism, efforts to eradicate the phenomenon are essential. The emergence of new forms of antisemitism today using new technologies, such as the internet and digital media, require not only intercultural dialogue and education, but also probably changes to the way online harassment is managed.

Resources

- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (Ed.). (2017). *Research in teaching and learning about the Holocaust: A dialogue beyond borders*. Available from: <https://tinyurl.com/22yvst5t>
- Lipstadt, D. E. (2019). *Antisemitism: Here and now*. New York: Schocken Books.
- Rozett, R., & Spector, S. (Eds.). (2000). *Encyclopedia of the Holocaust*. Jerusalem, Israel: Yad Vashem and Jerusalem Publishing House.