



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2022-06D

Defining and Combating Antisemitism

WHEREAS, antisemitism, including harassment on the basis of actual or perceived Jewish origin, ancestry, ethnicity, identity, affiliation, or faith, remains a persistent, pervasive, and disturbing problem in American society, including here in Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Jews continue to be a targeted minority in the United States and are, according to FBI statistics and other reporting, consistently the most likely of all religious groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such incidents are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest attack against the American Jewish community took place on October 27, 2018, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, killing eleven worshippers and injuring several more; and

WHEREAS, in January 2022, a terrorist believing in antisemitic conspiracy theories took hostages during Sabbath services at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas for over eleven hours; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has seen several domestic terrorism plots targeting the Jewish community, including one in Toledo in December 2018 and another in Youngstown in August 2019, for which the terrorists are now serving prison sentences; and

WHEREAS, my Administration is committed to combating the rise of antisemitism and antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world. Antisemitic incidents have increased since 2013 and students, in particular, continue to face antisemitic harassment in schools and on university and college campuses; and

WHEREAS, with effective policymaking, all benefit from accurate and uniform definitions; and

WHEREAS, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), by consensus vote of its member states, adopted a Working Definition of Antisemitism in May 2016, which has become the internationally recognized, authoritative definition for use by governments and international organizations. That definition reads in full:

“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.”

WHEREAS, in the United States, the IHRA Working Definition is utilized by various government and law enforcement agencies in monitoring, training, and education, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education.

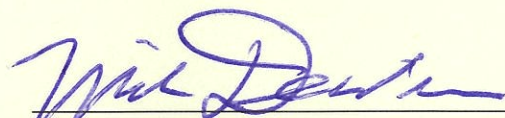
NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, order all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions, including all public colleges and universities to adopt the above-referenced IHRA definition of antisemitism or an appropriate alternative definition and to encourage all federal and local governments and governmental agencies and entities to adopt it as well.

In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of any policy, or regulation prohibiting discriminatory acts as outlined in Executive Order 2019-05D, all State agencies, departments, boards, and commissions shall take into consideration the definition of antisemitism set forth above for purposes of determining whether the alleged act was motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent.

This Executive Order augments Executive Order 2019-05D “Anti-Discrimination Policy in State Government” by providing for a clearer definition of antisemitic acts. It continues to be the policy of my Administration to prohibit unlawful and inappropriate discriminatory practices in State government and to ensure that all State government employees have employment opportunities based upon their talent, skill, dedication, merit, and fitness for the job.

Nothing in this order shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon any rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or the State Constitution. Nothing in this order shall be construed to conflict with local, federal, or state discrimination laws.

I signed this Executive Order on April 14, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio, and it will expire ten (10) calendar days after my last day as Governor of Ohio unless rescinded before then.


Mike DeWine, Governor

ATTEST:

Frank LaRose, Secretary of State

