

February 1, 2023

**Michael L. Tichnor**  
President

**Ted Deutch**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Edward and Sandra Meyer  
Office of the CEO

**Chair, Board of Governors**  
**Robert E. Lapin**

**Chair, Board of Trustees**  
**Steven J. Wisch**

**Officers**  
**Roberta S. Baruch**  
Chair, Advocacy

**David R. Berz**  
Treasurer/Secretary

**Matthew J. Coen**  
Chair, Global  
Communications

**Ilene Engel**  
Chair, Leadership  
Development

**Cliff P. Goldstein**  
Associate Chair,  
Board of Trustees

**Frank Linde**  
Chair, Audit Committee

**Anthony E. Meyer**  
Associate Chair,  
Board of Trustees

**Robert L. Newmark**  
Chair, Regional Offices

**Steven L. Zelkowitz**  
Associate Treasurer/  
Chair, Budget Committee

**At-Large Members**

Jeffrey H. Aronson  
Matthew Bronfman  
Michael Feldstein  
David W. Inlander  
Ilana Ron Levey  
Andrew H. Marks  
Linda Mirels  
Ben A. Plotkin  
Lisa L. Pruzan  
Joyce Silberstang

**Commission Steering  
Committee Chairs**

Melanie Nelkin  
Amy Levin Ragen  
Harriet P. Schleifer  
Jeffrey E. Stone

**ACCESS Representatives**

Jonathan Alden  
Lauren Mogil

**Honorary Presidents**

Stanley M. Bergman  
Robert H. Elman  
E. Robert Goodkind  
Alfred H. Moses  
Bruce M. Ramer  
Robert S. Rifkind  
Harriet P. Schleifer  
John M. Shapiro  
Richard J. Sideman  
Harold Tanner

**Deborah Enix-Ross, Esq.**  
President  
American Bar Association  
750 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611-4403

Re: Resolution 514

Dear Ms. Enix-Ross:

On behalf of the American Jewish Committee, I am writing to welcome Resolution 514, condemning antisemitism.

The fight against antisemitism is not a fight for Jews only. No less than other forms of bigotry, antisemitism corrodes the foundation of our democratic society. Adding the American Bar Association's powerful voice to the battle against antisemitism is a welcome advance in the effort to cleanse the nation of this scourge.

That said, we also must express our regret if the Bar Association is unable to see its way clear to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Association's ("IHRA") definition of antisemitism, which includes some extreme forms of criticism of Israel as antisemitic. That Definition is widely accepted internationally, by the United States' Departments of State and Education, a Presidential Executive Order, more than 30 states, and countless municipalities.

Critics of that Definition have wildly mischaracterized its intent and impact—in many cases confusing categorizing some criticism of Israel as antisemitic speech with suppression of such speech, two very different things. The upshot is that in this one respect, Resolution 514 does not capture the reality of contemporary antisemitism as Jews experience it.

We accept that Resolution 514 may pass without such a reference. Nonetheless, if that happens, we urge you to make it clear that the omission of the reference to the IHRA is not to be understood as a repudiation of that Definition by the Bar Association.

As we understand it, there was disagreement among members of the Association as to whether the IHRA definition should be referenced in Resolution 514. The short time frame between the adoption of the amended version of the Resolution and the meeting of the House of Delegates did not allow for a full debate on the subject and recognition that

a resolution now is better than either no resolution or postponing the resolution until a later meeting appears to have led to the current compromise.

We don't ask that you endorse the IHRA Definition or any other. But we hope that you will make it plain that the Bar has taken no position on the validity of the IHRA Definition and to publicly acknowledge that antisemitism sometimes masquerades as criticism of Israel.

All this said, we end where we began—with appreciation for the decision of the Bar Association to join the ranks of those actively condemning antisemitism.

Sincerely,



Marc D. Stern  
Chief Legal Officer  
American Jewish Committee

*/drs*