

Questioner	Question	Answer
1.	<p>I have been a Hastings Resident since 2008 and though not politically active locally I remain concerned and observant. I am aware of the motion being proposed to adopt the IHRA definition of anti-semitism at Full Council, October 21st 2020.</p> <p>I am a Labour voter both locally and nationally who condemns racism in all its forms. Given the rise in anti-semitism nationally and the embarrassing and inadequate mishandling of anti-semitism within the Labour Party, I seriously question why the IHRA definition of anti-semitism has not already been adopted.</p> <p>I register my support for the motion and ask the Leader of the Council, what possible reasons could she and the Labour Group have for not adopting the IHRA definition.</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>The agenda for the Council meeting on 21st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.</p>
2.	<p>Even though the 2011 census showed that only 0.2% of Hastings residents identified as Jewish, does the Leader of the Council agree that the Council's adoption of the IHRA definition of Antisemitism would demonstrate the Council's leadership against antisemitism as a wider societal problem which must be challenged everywhere, regardless of a local authority's demographic?</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>The agenda for the Council meeting on 21st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.</p>

<p>3.</p>	<p>What action is Hastings BC going to take to address its national reputation as a safe haven for anti-Semites, with organisations such as the Jewish Voice for Labour and the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign being free to promote antisemitic events and speakers in Hastings?</p> <p>How will such actions support those both in the council and in Hastings who are victims of antisemitism?</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>The agenda for the Council meeting on 21st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>If it has been made clear to Hastings Borough Council that Council Tax payers of any religious heritage would feel safer and more protected having the Council adopt an internationally recognised definition of anti-discrimination as Council policy, why would it choose not to do so?</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>The agenda for the Council meeting on 21st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Hastings is unfortunately becoming known nationally as a safe-haven for antisemites, with various groups, for example, JVL and the PSC, regularly engaging in antisemitic activity and spreading misinformation in the town.</p> <p>My own experience is that they have created a hostile and fearful environment for Jews who have pride in their religion and identity. This has been brought to the Council's notice on several occasions, including by the resignation of a Councillor due to antisemitism locally and nationally.</p> <p>Can the Leader of the Council explain why this administration has done nothing to address this very serious issue? Further, what actions will they take to strengthen their anti-racism policies so that Jews feel safe and respected in the town?</p>	<p>Councillor Forward:</p> <p>The agenda for the Council meeting on 21st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.</p>

6.	Will the Council confirm that supporting Jewish people Hastings by adopting the IHRA's full definition of antisemitism, including all given examples, does not in any way conflict with or prevent legitimate and well-formulated criticism of the Israeli government?	Councillor Forward: The agenda for the Council meeting on 21 st October contains a motion from Cllr Rogers, proposing the adoption of the IHRA definition.
----	--	--