

FACT SHEET ON SHARED JEWISH ANCESTRY AND/OR ISRAELI NATIONAL ORIGIN



George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination or harassment on the basis of any protected characteristics, including Shared Jewish Ancestry and/or Israeli National Origin.

Discrimination or harassment against individuals or groups because of their Jewish ancestry or Israeli national origin, is **prohibited** at George Mason University.

In evaluating, whether conduct that constitutes harassment or discrimination is motivated by antisemitic or other discriminatory intent, George Mason will consider the *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance ("IHRA")* definition of antisemitism and *IHRA Contemporary Examples of Antisemitism*:

"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."
- IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

George Mason strives to create a welcoming community for all and seeks to educate and combat antisemitism, therefore, understanding what constitutes antisemitism is important for all members of our community. Below are some examples of antisemitic tropes, stereotypes, and beliefs:

- Portraying Jews as part of a conspiracy controlling the world, politics, the media, economy, or other societal institutions
- Portraying Jews as greedy, obsessed with money or wealth, or willing to make themselves rich by any means
- Accusing Jews of being responsible for real or imagined acts committed by a single Jewish person or the State of Israel
- Accusing Jews of being more loyal to Israel or the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide than their home country
- Claiming that Jews or Israel are responsible for killing Jesus or that Jews kill Christian children and use their blood for religious rituals (i.e., blood libel) or using such tropes or associated symbols as part of criticism of Jews or Israel
- Denying the Holocaust or the Jewish people's right to self-determination

As explained in the IHRA definition, "criticism of Israel, similar to that leveled against any other country, cannot be regarded as antisemitic." George Mason respects and protects the right of individuals to express their views on Israel's politics and actions. However, criticism of Israel applying a double standard or that is motivated by hatred of Jews or antisemitic beliefs can be a form of antisemitism. Similarly, criticism of Zionism can be antisemitic when Zionism is used as a proxy for "Jews" or "Israelis" and/or the criticism is based on antisemitic beliefs. A helpful video addressing this issue can be found [here](#).

Additional resources about antisemitism can be found [here](#).

Please note that antisemitic statements alone may be protected by the First Amendment and, therefore, not violate University policy, to the extent that they do not constitute harassment (i.e., conduct that is so severe or pervasive and objectively offensive that it interferes with, limits, or denies the ability of an individual to participate in or benefit from university educational or employment programs, services, opportunities, or activities), discrimination, or criminal conduct. ***However, even when antisemitism may be protected by the First Amendment, George Mason can still provide support and resources to those impacted.***

If you believe that you have experienced antisemitic discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or other conduct, please [file a Report with the OACC](#).

RESOURCES

[University Policy 1201: Non-Discrimination](#)
[George Mason University's Office of Access, Compliance, and Community](#)
[George Mason University Patriot Plan for Community Safety and Well-Being](#)
[Federal Executive Order 13899: Combatting Anti-Semitism](#)
[Federal Executive Order 14188: Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism](#)
[File a Complaint with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights](#)
[Chapter 471 of the 2023 Virginia Acts of Assembly](#)