

US 'enthusiastically embraces' IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, Blinken says

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MANUEL BALCE CENETA / POOL / AFP ■ Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks during a news conference at the State Department in Washington, DC, on February 26, 2021.

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In letter to American Zionist Movement chief, Blinken stresses US-Israel ties, support for two state solution

The United States "enthusiastically embraces" **the working definition of anti-Semitism** by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the *Jewish Insider* reported on Monday.

The outlet was able to obtain a letter penned by Blinken to American Zionist Movement President Richard Heideman.

It cited Blinken as saying that stressing the long-running ties between Israel and the US and affirming Washington's commitment to fighting Israel's delegitimization.

Blinken also reiterated the belief in a two-state solution held by the administration of US President Joe Biden.

Affirming the support for the IHRA

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definition, including the examples it lists, Blinken said the US was eager "to counter Holocaust distortion and combat anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance abroad while we strengthen our efforts at home," as cited by the *Jewish Insider*.

The IHRA working definition defines anti-Semitism as "hatred toward Jews" and **lists a multitude of examples of such hatred**, including Holocaust denial and "claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor."

It has been criticized by some as limiting freedom of expression and academic freedom, as well as stifling legitimate criticisms of Israel by equating them to anti-Semitism.

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