



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
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Ronan Harris  
Managing Director UK & Ireland, Google  
6 Pancras Square  
London  
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MC2021/13506/DC  
7 July 2021

Dear Ronan,

**Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA)  
Working Definition of Antisemitism.**

All online abuse is unacceptable and online communication should never be a refuge for abusive, harmful or criminal behaviour. The Community Security Trust's (CST) recent report highlights that in 2020 there were 634 reported online instances of antisemitism. This is the second-highest annual total of online incidents ever reported to CST. This figure accounts for only reported instances with the actual instances likely to be much higher. These statistics alone highlight the role platforms have in allowing this type of harmful material to spread.

The Government is committed to tackling those who spread extremist views which promote violence, hatred and division against individuals and communities in our society. This includes the spread of antisemitic content online, which can incite hatred and division against the Jewish community. In December 2016, the Government formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism.

The online safety regulatory framework will put significant measures in place to ensure platforms tackle illegal and legal but harmful content, including antisemitic abuse. It will require platforms to take effective steps to remove and limit the spread of illegal content, including criminal antisemitic abuse.

It is in this context that I would like to strongly encourage you to adopt the definition and consider its practical application in the development of your company's policies

and procedures. The definition is not legally binding, but it is an invaluable tool for organisations to understand how antisemitism manifests itself in the 21st century and to tackle it.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Oliver Dowden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP**  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport