



**“The Role of the United Nations in Combating Antisemitism”
High-level online event, 17 November 2020**

Contribution of Luxembourg

The United Nations was founded as a direct response to the devastation wrought by the Second World War and the Shoah. The UN plays a key role in combating antisemitism. In this regard, Secretary-General António Guterres has taken a very strong stance. We congratulate him for receiving the Theodor Herzl Award in recognition of his commitment to the fight against antisemitism.

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief mandated by the UN Human Rights Council, Ahmed Shaheed, has published an extensive report on the fight against antisemitism. We value his efforts. We also welcome the fact that this year’s UN Holocaust Remembrance was dedicated to “Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice”. During the Luxembourg Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in 2019-2020, the most qualified educational experts have come forward with a document entitled “Recommendations for Teaching and Learning about the Holocaust”¹. Those recommendations were adopted by IHRA in Luxembourg on 3 December 2019. They provide comprehensive guidance on why, what, and how to teach about the Holocaust. Luxembourg highly appreciates the support of UNESCO in this endeavor. Both UNESCO and the UN as such are Permanent International Partners of IHRA and contribute to its work with their wide knowledge and experience.

During the Luxembourg Presidency in 2019-2020, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance agreed on strong pledges. They are encapsulated in the 2020 IHRA Ministerial Declaration², which was adopted on 19 January 2020 in a meeting chaired by Jean Asselborn, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg. In that declaration, IHRA members pledged to “continue working together to counter Holocaust denial and distortion, antisemitism, and all forms of racism and discrimination that undermine fundamental democratic principles”.

The Luxembourg government adopted the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in January 2020.

Going forward, the Luxembourg government is working on a national strategy for the fight against antisemitism, which will include educational measures and awareness raising as concerns social media.

The Luxembourg government is consulting a variety of national stakeholders, including civil society, about broader reforms to tackle all forms of discrimination and exclusion.

The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Luxembourg is considering the possibility to include elements on combating antisemitism in its training for diplomats.

¹ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/educational-materials/ihra-recommendations-teaching-and-learning-about-holocaust>

² <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/about-us/2020-ihra-ministerial-declaration>