

This response was submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee consultation on Sixth Senedd Priorities

CYPE SP 82

**Ymateb gan: Amanda Sefton, Pennaeth Ymgyrchoedd, Undeb y Myfyrwyr Iddewig
Response from: Amanda Sefton, Head of Campaigns, Union of Jewish Students**

Theme 1: School-age education

Theme 2: Further and higher education

As the Union of Jewish Students, we are the representative body for over 8,500 Jewish students on campus across the UK and Ireland. We are responsible for facilitating positive and vibrant Jewish life on campus, in numerous ways, including combatting antisemitism in all its forms.

Antisemitism in the UK is on the rise and this increase is also on campus, shown in the Community Security Trust Campus Antisemitism Report 2018-20. Both HE&FE institutions need to take the first step in ensuring Jewish students are supported and protected on campus; adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism, in full. This is the definition that the majority of the British Jewish community support and use, and has so far been adopted by over 111 HE&FE institutions across the UK, however as far as we know only one Welsh institution has adopted : "Bangor University".

In May 2017, the First Minister Carwyn Jones announced that the Welsh Government had adopted the IHRA definition of antisemitism, including all the examples. Then in February 2020 Plaid Cymru adopted the definition as part of a review, commissioned by Plaid Cymru, undertaken by Liz Saville Roberts MP for Dwyfor Meirionnydd. These were incredible steps taken by the Welsh leadership to show the Welsh community the importance of adopting the definition and standing up against antisemitism. Although little action has been taken by previous Senedd's to push for HE&FE institutions in Wales to do adopt.

Adopting this definition is extremely important for Jewish students. Firstly, it is a sign from their institutions that they are taking the initial step to support them and stamp out antisemitism. Additionally, the definition is a useful tool and guidance, for universities to understand what and how modern-day antisemitism may



manifest, specifically when dealing with disciplinary and complaints processes. Lastly, it will show Jewish students that if there is an antisemitic incident on their campus, their institution will be using a definition they agree with, during the complaint's procedure. Adopting the IHRA definition of antisemitism is not the only thing institutions should be doing to support their Jewish students, however it is the first step in beginning to build relationships with Jewish students and creating a welcoming environment for them on their campus.

Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

Theme 4: Children and young people

