

Statement on Antisemitism

NASUWT is committed to fostering a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for all staff and pupils in schools and colleges. The Union believes that hatred, prejudice, and discrimination in any form are antithetical to the values of education and the principles of equality and justice that we stand for.

We note with concern the persistence of antisemitism in our society and its harmful impact on Jewish pupils and staff.

Antisemitism is racism, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews or Jewish heritage and beliefs. Antisemitism manifests in the form of hostility, prejudice, intimidation, discrimination or violence against Jews as a religious, ethnic or racial group. NASUWT recognises the work of those who understand the problem and importance of tackling, antisemitism.

NASUWT asserts that antisemitism and anti-Jewish bigotry blights the lives of Jewish people and communities and must be challenged and eradicated.

The Union notes with the utmost concern the experience of Jewish teachers, that antisemitic incidents are on the rise in schools and colleges, with many experiencing or witnessing antisemitic taunts, intimidation, insults or other forms of discrimination on the basis of their Jewish faith or heritage.

Antisemitism ruins lives. NASUWT abhors the evidence that many Jewish teachers and pupils are 'pressured' into hiding their identity in schools and colleges for fear of harassment or intimidation in and around the school environment.

NASUWT commits, in the strongest terms, to challenging all forms of antisemitism in the workplace, within the Union and in wider society. We pledge to work with employers, governments/administrations and other civil society organisations to challenge anti-Jewish hatred and hostility and to ensure that our schools and colleges are safe and inclusive environments for all pupils and staff.

We believe that education is a powerful tool in eradicating hatred and fostering a culture of respect and inclusion. We are committed to creating an environment where every student and educator, regardless of their faith, ethnicity or background, feels safe, valued, and respected.

Antisemitic acts are unlawful and contrary to the rules, bylaws and policies of the NASUWT. Any reported incidents of antisemitism will be taken seriously and investigated by NASUWT. We will not hesitate to take all appropriate action against any members who perpetrate any acts of antisemitism or anti-Jewish hatred.

NASUWT is unequivocal in its stand for peace, justice, equality and human rights. Together, we want to build a future free from antisemitism and hatred, ensuring that our workplaces and our union are safe and inclusive places of teaching, learning and democracy.

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IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism

<https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>