

The Rising Tide of Antisemitism in Western Australia

2 September 2025

Introduction

There's been an alarming "Rising Tide" of antisemitism since 7 October 2023, emboldened by our government's lack of action to stop it.

In fact, our federal government, by its criticisms of Israel and apparent acceptance of Hamas propaganda, has exacerbated the problem.

Many members of our community feel betrayed and threatened in the current environment. Some have expressed their consideration of emigrating...

To understand what's happened since 7 October 2023, it's necessary to understand some background, which I'll review before turning our attention to recent events.

Judaism

To understand antisemitism, we need to understand Judaism.

Society

Judaism is not just a religion. It defines a way of life - a society.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks:

“The Torah is not merely a code of personal perfection. It is the framework for the construction of a society, a nation, a culture... It contains welfare legislation, civil law, rules governing employer-employee relationships, environmental provisions, rules of animal welfare, public health, and governmental and judicial systems.”¹

Centrality of Israel

Israel is where Jews were sovereign for 1500 years before the Roman conquest at the time of Christ, and Israel has always been central to Jewish prayer, poetry, music, dreaming and longing, even over two millennia of exile.

Israel is the only place where Jews, as a collective, have sovereignty, self-determination, and the ability to create an entire Jewish society: steeped in the language, values, calendar, history, art, music, poetry and wisdom of the Jewish people.

¹ “The Religious Significance of Israel...” COVENANT & CONVERSATION, 29 July 2019, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: <https://rabbisacks.org/the-religious-significance-of-israel-masei-5779/>

Antisemitism Mutates

Antisemitism is a prejudice that like a virus, has survived over time by mutating.

Theological Mutation

In the Middle Ages, antisemitism was justified by theology, as described by Reverend Professor Rowan Strong at a recent CCJW presentation. Christians blamed Jews for the death of Jesus, and for rejecting him as Messiah. Christian Replacement Theology (Supersessionism) purported that a “new covenant” through Christ supersedes the Covenant with the Jewish people.

This Supersessionism has motivated millennia of antisemitism. Christianity is in the process of rejecting Replacement Theology; however, it continues to influence some Christians today.

For example, a November 2013 talk entitled “*The Pope: The ‘Prime Minister’ of the New Israel*” at St Paul’s Catholic Church in Mt Lawley,² proposed that “Old Israel” is the Jewish People, whose “fidelity” to G-d has been questionable; that the (Catholic) Church is the “New Israel”; that Jesus’s disciple Peter was the first “Prime Minister” of the “New Israel”; and that the Roman Popes since then are the subsequent “Prime Ministers” of the “New Israel”.

Professor Matthew Ogilvie recently published “*Antisemitism in Catholic Theology and Its Effect on the Holy See’s Relationship with Israel*”³, which suggests that despite *Nostra Aetate*, antisemitic theology persists in some Catholic circles. He suggests that modern Catholic movements, like Liberation Theology, frame Israel as an oppressor, perpetuating antisemitic tropes under the guise of social justice. (More about this mutation later.)

² “The Pope: The ‘Prime Minister’ of the New Israel” at St Paul’s Catholic Church in Mt Lawley, presented by Robert Haddad, Head, New Evangelisation, Catholic Education Office, Sydney.

³ The *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs* (Vol. 17, Issue 1, pp. 51–63) [Antisemitism in Catholic Theology and Its Effect on the Holy See’s Relationship With Israel: Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs: Vol 17 , No 1 - Get Access](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23739770.2023.2221549) (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23739770.2023.2221549>)

Political element:

There is often a political motivation to antisemitism.

As Reverend Professor Strong points out, when Christianity was progressively adopted as the official religion in Europe, Christian states became intolerant towards the rebellious Jews.

Ruth Wisse (Emeritus Professor of Harvard) asserts that antisemitism is often associated with such political objectives:

“Anti-Semitism is a modern political phenomenon — an ideology that anchors or forms part of a political movement and serves a political purpose. It arose alongside other ideologies like liberalism, conservatism, socialism, communism, anarchism, and (somewhat later) fascism, opposing some of them and merging with others. Anti-Semitism was the most protean⁴ of these ideologies and was therefore valuable in forging coalitions even among otherwise competing groups. To take anti-Semitism seriously, let alone to subdue it, requires first recognizing its political nature.”

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⁴ (readily assuming different forms or characters; extremely variable)

⁵ “The Functions of Anti-Semitism”, National Affairs magazine, Number 49, Fall 2021, by Ruth R. Wisse: <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/the-functions-of-anti-semitism>

Racial Mutation

In the 19th and 20th centuries, antisemitism was justified by so-called racial science, first arising from German Nationalism.

Wilhelm Marr (Germany 1870s) claimed that Jews would use the country's emerging rights and freedoms to "*conquer Germany from within*".⁶ He coined the term "antisemitism" derived from a distinction between "Aryan" and "Semitic" languages, falsely extrapolated to describe corresponding racial groups.

Marr preferred "*Antisemitismus*", based on race, to the traditional "*Judenhaas*", based on religion. Jews cannot escape this racial form of hatred by converting. The only "solution" is the elimination of Jews. This is the form of the hatred that was followed at that time by the composer Richard Wagner and later by Adolf Hitler.

⁶ Wilhelm Marr, The Victory of Judaism over Germandom (March 1879): https://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1797

Human Rights Mutation

Today, Jews are attacked for the existence of Israel, purportedly in defence of human rights (even in parts of the Christian Church, with concepts like Liberation Theology, as identified by Prof. Ogilvie).

Denying Israel's right to exist threatens to undermine and ultimately destroy the Jewish people.

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: ***“...not liking people because they're different isn't antisemitism. It's xenophobia. Criticizing Israel isn't antisemitism: it's part of the democratic process... Antisemitism is something much more dangerous – it means persecuting Jews and denying them the right to exist collectively as Jews with the same rights as everyone else... Whenever you hear human rights invoked to deny Israel's right to exist, you are hearing the new antisemitism.”***⁷

While older mutations are also evident, or are invoked to express the hatred, the most common form of antisemitism today is motivated by violent rejection of Jewish nationhood.

⁷ “The Mutation of Antisemitism” 19 April 2017, by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks: <https://rabbisacks.org/the-mutation-of-antisemitism/>

Defining Antisemitism

IHRA Definition

As Rabbi Jonathan Sacks acknowledged, while criticism of Israel is not necessarily antisemitic, it sometimes is, and we need to distinguish antisemitism from valid political discourse.

In 2016, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) adopted a [Working definition of antisemitism](https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism)⁸, which has been endorsed by 46 nations, including Australia. It is the international standard for identifying antisemitism.

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

“...Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity...”

⁸ <https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>

The IHRA Definition goes on to provide several examples...

1. *Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
2. *Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
3. *Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
4. *Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).*
5. *Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.*
6. *Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*
7. ***Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.***
8. ***Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.***
9. ***Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.***
10. ***Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.***
11. *Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.*

Rule of thumb: the 3D Test

I like to use a rule of thumb: the 3D Test⁹ devised by Natan Sharansky in 2004, after his participation in a conference on anti-Semitism in Europe, which was the precursor to the IHRA Definition.

- The first D is the test of **demonization**. Jews were demonized for centuries. Today the Jewish state is demonized by wild accusations of apartheid, genocide, and deliberate starvation, or by comparing Israelis to Nazis., Such accusations are antisemitic.
- The second D is the test of **double standards**. Just as Jews were subjected to discrimination, now Israel is. If Israel is criticized, do similar policies by other governments elicit the same criticism, or is there a double standard at work? It is antisemitism, for instance, when Israel is singled out by the United Nations for human rights abuses while tried and true abusers like China, Iran, Cuba, and Syria are ignored.
- The third D is the test of **delegitimation**. In the past, antisemites tried to deny the legitimacy of the Jewish religion and the Jewish people. Today, they deny the legitimacy of the Jewish state. While criticism of an Israeli policy may not be anti-Semitic, the denial of Israel's right to exist is always antisemitic. The Jewish people have a right to live securely in their homeland, like other peoples.

⁹ [Nathan Sharansky: Antisemitism in 3-D](https://www.hagalil.com/antisemitismus/europa/sharansky-1.htm) published in the Jerusalem Post, Feb. 23, 2004 (<https://www.hagalil.com/antisemitismus/europa/sharansky-1.htm>)

A Century of Arab Antisemitism

Arab leaders have incited antisemitism for a century and radicalised the entire Palestinian Arab society with a genocidal ideology. The Mufti of Jerusalem who was appointed in 1920, was a Nazi ally and his political heirs, Arafat and Abbas, continue his genocidal ideology to this day. They incite hatred of Jews from kindergarten, glorify “martyrdom”, and fund terrorism.

Middle eastern despots have utilised this antisemitic, genocidal ideology in the service of their political aims. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Egyptian dictator, Nasser, used it to further his hegemonic ambitions to form a pan-Arab nation, seeking to unite several nations to attack and destroy Israel. This “ring of fire” was active from 1948 till 1973 (25 years), when Israel destroyed it and Egypt switched from the Soviet to the US side of the cold war and entered a cold peace with Israel.

Since the “Islamic Revolution” in 1979, Iranian dictators have motivated terrorist proxies with the same antisemitic, genocidal ideology to further their hegemonic ambitions of strengthening a Shi’ite crescent of influence from Yemen through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, and surrounding Israel with a “ring of fire” which Israel has recently seriously damaged but is still fighting (45 years later).

Antisemitic Lawfare

Natasha Hausdorff, International lawyer (UK) describes lawfare as the misuse of legal systems and language to achieve political or ideological goals. It is often used by lawless groups and societies to sway public opinion in stronger, law-abiding states and societies.

The anti-war campaign during the Vietnam conflict was the first use of lawfare by a weaker, totalitarian society to defeat a militarily stronger democratic society that abides by the rule of law.

Since the [2001 UN World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa](#)¹⁰, an international “[lawfare](#)”¹¹ campaign to equate Zionism with racism, incorporating a [boycott, divestment, and sanctions](#)¹² (BDS) campaign, has become an integral part of the century-old Arab antisemitic ideology. It is aimed at destroying Israel, not promoting peace.

This lawfare campaign has been adopted by so-called “human rights activists”.

Some proponents of BDS may be well-meaning, being unaware of the history and ultimate objectives of the campaign. Nevertheless, it certainly provides cover for antisemites to [disseminate their hatred](#)¹³.

¹⁰ <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/UN/durban1.html>

¹¹ ngo-monitor.org/key-issues/lawfare-international-law-and-human-rights/about/

¹² http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/ngos_and_the_bds_movement_background_funding_and_strategic_options

¹³ <https://www.ngo-monitor.org/key-issues/bds/bds-and-antisemitism/>

Antisemitism in WA

Antisemitism did not arise on 7 October 2023 – it has been growing for several decades, including in WA.

The antisemitic Lawfare campaign and BDS movement has attracted purported “human-rights” activists to adopt antisemitic attitudes, which tick all 3 Ds of the 3D test:

- demonising Israel and Jews;
- delegitimising Israel’s right to exist; and
- applying double standards by holding Israel to a standard that they demand of no other nation.

Here in WA, in 2011, a [supporter of the BDS campaign was jailed for 3 years](#)¹⁴ under the Racial Discrimination Act, for actions he took at a Friends of Palestine BDS demonstration in South Perth.

Our principal concern is of antisemitism in the education system. Some pre-2023 examples follow.

Curtin 2010: Grant of PhD for Antisemitic Thesis

In 2010, Curtin University granted a PhD to Sandra Nasr, based on her thesis entitled “*Tactical Terror: Israel in the Palestinian Territories*.” She accused Israel of “*dehumanising*” Palestinians, allegedly motivated by Jewish concepts of “*superiority and entitlement*”.

Three eminent Professors reviewed the thesis and concluded, among other things, that it is ignorant, manifestly unjustified propaganda. An international law expert, stated: “*This was far and away the worst PhD thesis I have ever read... I do not see how the thesis could have been allowed to proceed...*”

¹⁴ <https://thewest.com.au/news/wa/wa-race-vilifier-seeks-iran-political-asylum-ng-b88343577z>

Curtin 2011: The Walls of Jericho Role Play

In 2011, Curtin University hosted a Role-Play about a fictitious “*kidnapping of prominent Arabs by an extreme Zionist settler*” which is a highly unlikely event compared to the likelihood of an Arab terrorist act. It didn’t even mention the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit by Hamas, which was current at that time.

Curtin 2014: BDS Forum

Curtin University’s Centre for Human Rights Education (CHRE), Friends of Palestine WA and Students for Palestine held an event in August 2014, to promote **the** global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign. Organisers made no attempt to invite speakers who oppose BDS, or to inform the attendees about the history and ultimate aims of this campaign.

Curtin 2018: Praise for Hitler

During the 2018 border clashes between Gaza and Israel, a Jewish student at Curtin University overheard some “Friends of Palestine” in conversation while waiting to enter a lecture theatre. The gist of their conversation was:

“It’s a shame that Hitler didn’t finish the job...”

Curtin 2021: Guild Accuses Israel

In May 2021, The Curtin University [Guild published a baseless accusation](https://www.facebook.com/curtinguild/posts/4042754139116323)¹⁵ condemning “*Israel’s deliberate targeting of essential services including water supplies and the mass-murder of innocent Palestinians including children*” after terrorists from Gaza fired over 4000 rockets at Israel civilians.

¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/curtinguild/posts/4042754139116323>

...since 7 October 2023

Now, since the outbreak of the current hostilities on 7 October 2023, we've seen an even greater rising tide of antisemitism around the world, including in WA. Our Community Security Group (CSG) in WA has recorded a marked increase in antisemitic incidents.

In 2022, they recorded 26 overtly antisemitic incidents, including antisemitic criticism of Israel. They recorded a total of 81 incidents, including suspicious activity like loitering near a synagogue. (Note that not all incidents are reported.)

Compared to 2022, CSG recorded the following increase in incidents in subsequent years:

- 2023: 254%
- 2024: 431%
- 2025: (projection based on incidents in the first 6 months) 515%

Some examples follow.

Early in 2024, a woman accosted my 92-year-old mother in Dianella Plaza shopping centre. She shouted **"You're a Jew... go back to where you came from..."** A security guard removed her from Mum's proximity.

A group of youths accosted Rabbi Dan Lieberman and his sons at a kids' soccer match. They shouted Palestinian slogans and followed them menacingly back to their parked car.

Damian Joshua Arkeveld, 27, sprayed antisemitic graffiti across three Perth suburbs a few months ago. His grandfather Cornelius Arkeveld reportedly blamed himself¹⁶ for convincing his grandson that **"The state of Israel is doing exactly the same thing as the Nazis were doing..."**

¹⁶ "Damian Arkeveld spared more jail ..." by Rebecca Le May in The West Australian, Friday, 21 March 2025.

Universities (since 7 October 2023)

Once again, the education system is our primary concern...

Curtin 2024: Encampment Appeasement

In May 2024, Curtin University allowed a large anti-Israel encampment over several weeks, most probably instigated and funded by activists from outside the campus. The University appeased the activists by [entering into an MOU](#)¹⁷ with the Guild, and [issuing a statement accusing Israel](#)¹⁸ “**of identity-based violence, and oppression against the people of Palestine in Gaza and the West Bank**”.

Curtin 2024: Graduation Keffiyeh Protest

In August 2024, emboldened by the University’s *laissez-faire* attitude to the encampment, the Curtin Guild announced a campaign to conduct a mass anti-Israel protest at the forthcoming graduation ceremony. Many students said that they’d rather not attend the graduation ceremony than be confronted by a sea of keffiyehs and flags waved by resentful activists.

Murdoch 2024: Gaza Speaks Symposium

In 2024, Murdoch University held a one-week Symposium entitled “Gaza Speaks”, inviting speakers with public records of making many antisemitic statements. Each speaker effectively assumed, as axiomatic, that Israel is conducting a “genocide” and is entirely responsible for all the death, destruction, and misery in the region. Not a single speaker presented an Israeli point of view.

We suggested some online material be disseminated, to provide participants the opportunity to consider other content and points of view, The University refused to do so.

¹⁷ https://www.curtin.edu.au/news/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Signed-MOU-Curtin-Student-Guild-23052024_2.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.curtin.edu.au/news/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/PDF-Curtin-University-Statement.pdf>

Curtin 2025: Cancels Symposium Series

A Curtin University lecturer was persuaded to terminate a proposed series of seminars about hostilities in the Middle East, intended to have a diversity of views represented ... because the lecturer was encouraged by senior staff to consult the student Guild, which asserted that the Jewish students want the series cancelled. However, AUJS has no knowledge of any Jewish students objecting.

Curtin 2025: Ben Gurion University Agreement

On 17 March 2025, a BGU student was invited to apply to study at Curtin University in accordance with a student-exchange agreement with Ben Gurion University (BGU). Then on 26 March this invitation was withdrawn. Student Guild social media posts claim that student anti-Israel activism caused the University to terminate its exchange program with BGU. The Vice Chancellor denied this, asserting that it was suspended because of the current hostilities, but the University refused to publicly refute the Guild's claim...

Curtin 2025: Guild expels AUJS

In early 2025, the Curtin University Student Guild expelled the Australian Union of Jewish Students (AUJS) chapter on campus.

Curtin 2025: Muslim Brotherhood Chaplain

An Islamic Chaplain and visiting lecturer at Curtin University, Sheikh Yahya Ibrahim, also works with Muslim Brotherhood leader Dr. Tareq Al-Suwaidan and others, in organising the annual Muslim Brotherhood Prophetic Summit.

Tareq Al-Suwaidan said of the October 7 Hamas attack that:

- all Israelis are soldiers - criminals, and deserve to be killed;
- Israeli women should be taken captive, because they are all soldiers, except for the disabled women; and
- the Jews influence world governments through their control of the media and global finance.

John Curtin College of the Arts (High School) – 2024

Parents of students at John Curtin College of the Arts high school reported the following incidents to me after 7 October 2023.

Maths teacher

Since about mid-2024, a Maths teacher wore Palestinian-coloured ribbons and a Palestinian flag pin. She honoured Arab terrorism prisoners in Israel and assassinated leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in the classroom.

Humanities and Social Sciences Teacher

A Humanities and Social Sciences Teacher told his class, that there is “*a genocide unfolding in real time in Palestine*”.

English Teacher

An English Teacher handed out an anti-Israel, anti-Western conspiracy-theory article for the class to read in September 2024.

English Teacher 2

Another English Teacher often wore T-shirts with anti-Israel messages and told his class that he had shaved his head in solidarity with the poor people of Gaza.

Posters at School

Free Palestine Posters were mounted on school premises in Oct 2024 and were kept there for several months, despite complaints.

Antisemitism in the Schoolyard

Some students at the school referred to Jewish students as “Israel.” One student had a swastika drawn on his arm.

The following slurs were made to Jewish students at the school:

- “Heil Hitler”
- “Check your shower tonight, it might be gassed”
- “Gas the Jews”

Some of these incidents became public over 6 months later, when one of the parents approached The West.

The Education Department responded commendably. The teacher who praised a terrorist leader has been moved to another school and the Department has engaged the Holocaust Institute of WA to train School Principals and Security & Integrity personnel in Judaism and antisemitism.

Conclusion

In summary: there's been an alarming tsunami of antisemitism since 7 October 2023, emboldened by our government's lack of action to stop it. In fact, our federal government, by its criticisms of Israel's elected government and repetition of Hamas propaganda, has exacerbated the problem.

Many members of our community feel betrayed and threatened in the current environment. Some have expressed their consideration of emigrating...

Fortunately, our state government has been more proactive than the federal government, but a lot more needs to be done.

Anti-Semitism Panel: Members questions

1. Do you see similarities and differences between the Australian social landscape now with regard to antisemitism in comparison to the situation which existed in Europe prior to World War II and the Holocaust?
 - Similarities: public expressions of hatred, vilification, exclusion (social, professional, academic); feelings of betrayal; anxiety about safety (self and family); questioning of Australia as home.
 - Differences: Israel is home (the place that, if you want to go there, they must let you in); IDF is strong; we are no longer stateless and powerless. If Australia is no longer safe, we can emigrate to Israel.

2. What is the sentiment of the Australian Jewish Community towards PM Albanese providing \$20M to UNRWA as aid for the Palestinian people, particularly given the Israeli Government has alleged that many of the members of UNRWA were known to have links to Hamas and the 7 October attacks?

- DISMAY – funding UNRWA perpetuates the conflict.
- UNRWA staff members were enthusiastic participants in Hamas's Oct. 7 atrocities. There is copious evidence.¹⁹
- All other refugees of the world — more than 35 million in 135 countries — are served by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNRWA serves those "... whose normal place of residence was Palestine between 1 June 1946 and 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict" ...AND their descendants. UNHCR settles refugees. UNRWA perpetuates them (600k in 1948 has become over 5m).
- UNRWA has schooled Arab children for 75 years to hate and murder Jews and is a primary cause for the Gazan Arab effort in perpetuity to destroy Israel.²⁰
- UNWRA does not consider Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) to be terror groups. It partners with these groups. Over 99% of UNRWA staff are local Palestinians.²¹
- More than 1,200 UNRWA employees—about 10% of its workforce—have significant links to Hamas.²²
- UNRWA facilities—offices, schools and warehouses—are used by Hamas for military purposes.
- Hamas terrorists, possibly with the cooperation of UNRWA, steal aid for its forces and to sell at hugely inflated prices.

¹⁹ אונר"א ממשיכה להסתבר: תיעודי עובדי סוכנות הסיוע בטבח ב-7 באוקטובר
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7PTCe15sE8>)

²⁰ Cut Off the UNRWA | The American Spectator | USA News and Politics

²¹ ngo-monitor.org/reports/unrwa-constellation-partnerships-with-un-agencies-and-terror-linked-ngos/

²² <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/at-least-12-u-n-agency-employees-involved-in-oct-7-attacks-intelligence-reports-say-a7de8f36>

3. What is the sentiment of the Australian Jewish Community to PM Albanese's recognition of a Palestinian state?

- ONCE AGAIN – DISMAY
- It rewards the Hamas barbaric attack. Hamas applauds it as vindication of their terrorist tactics.
- It undermines the prospect of negotiations to return hostages, ceasefire etc – encourages Hamas to increase its demands.
- Gaza was effectively a Palestinian-ruled territory. Creating another on the West Bank would also most likely be brutally seized by Hamas and used to attack Israel repeatedly.

4. How do I support Jews and Judaism without choosing against Palestinians and Islam and vice versa? Are there some practical everyday things that I can do?

- Unfortunately, the Palestinian-Arab cause (or as Einat Wilf calls it: “Palestinianism”) is defined by the objective of destroying Israel and claiming all the land “from the River to the Sea” as an Arab state. It is THEY who regard Israel and Jews as enemies – zero-sum.
- Supporting Israel or the Jewish people does not require vilifying Palestinian Arabs or Islam. Peaceful coexistence is beneficial for all.
- You can support peaceful coexistence by educating fellow Australians and pointing out that vilifying Israel and Jews, and seeking to destroy them, perpetuates the conflict. Peace can be achieved by accepting the right of Jews to sovereignty in their ancient homeland.

5. Given the presence of Anti-Semitism over so many centuries and in many different cultures, can education, legislation, or cultural change really make a difference in the non-Jewish human condition?

- Education, cultural change and legislation are essential to combat antisemitism.
- Though evil persists, we must persist in combating it.
- Deuteronomy 30:19–20: “... ***I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life....***”

6. Given that this event is sponsored by the Council of Christians and Jews, Western Australia, are there any suggestions or ideas you might offer to the Christians here as to how they might support Jews experiencing Anti-Semitism, or to support Jews generally?

- Reach out to Jewish friends to express your support and friendship
- Learn to recognise antisemitism - speak up and call it out when you see it. Be an UP-stander, not a bystander.
- Elie Wiesel: “***Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.***” - “***To remain silent and indifferent is the greatest sin of all.***”