



Religious Zionists of America (RZA–Mizrachi)
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MEDIA ADVISORY

January 4, 2026

Religious Zionists of America Condemns Mayor Mamdani’s Revocation of Antisemitism Definition

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Revocation Undermines Jewish Safety While Offering No Credible Alternative

The Religious Zionists of America-Mizrachi (RZA) strongly condemns Mayor Zohran Mamdani’s decision to revoke New York City’s adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, a move that weakens the city’s ability to confront rising antisemitism and leaves Jewish communities more vulnerable.

“The IHRA definition does not silence criticism of Israel or restrict free speech,” said Stephen M. Flatow, President of the Religious Zionists of America. “It simply helps identify when antisemitism is being repackaged as anti-Zionism. Revoking it does not protect Jews—it makes antisemitism easier to deny when it appears in its modern form.”

The IHRA definition—adopted by the U.S. State Department, dozens of democratic governments, and hundreds of universities and municipalities worldwide—explicitly states that criticism of Israel comparable to that leveled against any other country is not antisemitic. It does not ban protest, mandate disciplinary action, or regulate speech. Rather, it provides guidance to law enforcement, civil-rights agencies, educators, and policymakers in identifying antisemitic conduct, rhetoric, and discrimination.

By revoking IHRA without proposing a clearer or stronger alternative, the mayor has removed a widely accepted framework while offering nothing in its place. The result is confusion for institutions, diminished accountability for offenders, and increased risk for Jewish New Yorkers already facing heightened harassment and threats.

This decision follows a troubling pattern of political signaling toward ideological activists who reject Jewish national self-determination and routinely dismiss antisemitism when it’s expressed through anti-Israel rhetoric. Such posturing does nothing to combat hatred and instead sends the message that Jewish concerns are negotiable.

At a time when synagogues require constant security, Jewish schools face escalating threats, and public demonstrations increasingly cross from political protest into incitement, New York City should be strengthening its tools to confront antisemitism—not discarding them.

The RZA calls on Mayor Mamdani to immediately reinstate the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and to demonstrate through concrete action that the safety and dignity of Jewish New Yorkers are not subject to ideological politics.

Antisemitism does not disappear because a definition is revoked.

It only becomes easier to ignore.

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Established in 1913, the RZA is one of the oldest and most influential Zionist organizations in the United States. It helped create pioneering Jewish communities in the Land of Israel, campaigned for the establishment of Israel, and has inspired numerous American Zionists to make aliya. Today the RZA is on the front lines of pro-Israel activism and religious Zionist education. The RZA is not affiliated with any American or Israeli political party.