



**Georgia Commission on the Holocaust Executive
Director Sally Levine's remarks to the Senate Judiciary
Hearing on HB30, January 22, 2024**

The Holocaust has important lessons for us as we evaluate HB 30, a bill which adopts the definition of antisemitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Antisemitism cannot be allowed to thrive when it grows, unchallenged. In Nazi Germany, the government implemented antisemitic laws and used propaganda incrementally. Everything they did was legal. The laws in Nazi Germany reflected the antisemitic ideology of the government. Experiencing little opposition by ordinary Germans, the Nazi government was emboldened to increase their propaganda and restrictions against Jews, ultimately ending in violence and mass murder.

Our laws reflect our beliefs and values. In opposing and defining antisemitism, we emphatically state who we are. In the face of rising antisemitism, here in Georgia, in our democratic society, we must not stay silent, we must not tolerate hate, racism and antisemitism.

To stand against antisemitism, we must agree on what it is. Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism, supports the IHRA definition of antisemitism, explaining that it is a message we take seriously. She wrote that, "Action starts with understanding."

HB 30 helps us to provide that framework of understanding. The passage of HB30 shows that here, in Georgia, antisemitism will not go unchallenged.