

The dangers of conflating Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism

Two terms that have surfaced over the past several weeks as the ongoing hostilities between Hamas and Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continue are Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism. While they are often used interchangeably, and any criticism of the government or the policies of the State of Israel is labeled anti-Semitic, [Jewish Voice for Peace has highlighted the danger of conflating these terms.](#)

Antisemitism is discrimination, targeting, violence, and dehumanizing stereotypes directed at Jews because they are Jewish and is totally unacceptable. It denigrates one of the great faith traditions of the world which is thousands of years old. Anti-Zionism, on the other hand, opposes a political philosophy ([Zionism](#)) that originated in the late 1800s and led to the formation of the State of Israel, a process that included dispossession (750,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes in 1947- 48), ongoing occupation (Israel has occupied Palestinian the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem since 1967) and numerous violations of international law.

[In a March 23, 2023 article in Georgetown Voice](#), contributor Annette Hasnas says, “Zionism as a political idea needs to be judged on its own merits and condemned for its own failings, and antisemitism needs to be taken seriously and actively combated. And conflating the two related but separate concepts actively hinders both pursuits.”