

Agenda Education Subcommittee
Virginia Commission to Combat Antisemitism
Subcommittee meeting for Aug. 12, 2022
Charlottesville, Va.

1 Member's goals for the subcommittee –

2 Areas of focus –

a. antisemitism in Virginia schools, K-12, higher education, public and private. Examples including NEA anti-Israel resolutions; "ethnic studies" curriculum such as California and Massachusetts ' cases; and colleges, such as CUNY antisemitic, anti-Israel commencement speaker and university administrators' weak response; monitoring Virginia schools—including recent issues in Hanover and Loudoun counties public schools; K-12, higher education;

b. "Problems in the Pulpit/Interfaith Outreach." Examples including recent Presbyterian Church General Assembly vote, 266 -166, tarring Israel as an "apartheid against Palestinian people" and designating May 15 as a "day of mourning " re. establishment of Israel. How to connect with church organizational bodies in Virginia, engage in education re. Israel, anti-Zionism and its legitimization of antisemitism?;

c. Related to a., promoting initiatives by the Governor, such as annual proclamations regarding Jewish Heritage Month, through distribution in schools;

d. What is the role of Holocaust education in the schools? Should it be encouraged, required? Virginia Standards of Learning guidelines?

e. How is the history of the post-colonial Middle East taught, including establishment of Israel, Arab-Israeli wars, diplomatic efforts, in history/social studies courses in middle school and high school.

f. If Virginia adopts the IHRA definition of antisemitism (Commission's subcommittee on definitions will work on this), how should it be implemented in secondary schools and higher education?

3 Best practices—what has worked in other states? Review curriculum efforts of groups including CAMERA, ISGAP, Stand with Us, ADL, Judean Ethnicity Project of White Rose online magazine etc.

4 Subcommittee members' assignments by topics. Deadline for first progress reports.

Eric Rozenman
Subcommittee Chair