



# UNLEARN ANTISEMITISM

A LEARNING GUIDE FOR UNLEARN IT





## PART 3: UNDERSTANDING ANTISEMITISM

### Jewish Lived Experience of Antisemitism

1. This video includes many harmful caricatures of Jewish people from different eras. Pause the video on one or more of these images and take a moment to identify some of the ways that stereotypes of Jewish people have been spread through drawings, paintings, and cartoons. Why do you think racial imagery is used as such a powerful method to spread hate?
2. In a Newsweek article Natan Sharansky explains his 3D test for antisemitism as follows, "If we watch a 3D movie without 3D glasses, we see a blurred, partial picture. But when we put on our 3D glasses everything becomes clear—and when we use the 3D test for anti-Semitism we can easily distinguish between legitimate criticism [of Israel] and anti-Semitism. These 3Ds—demonization, delegitimization and double standards—are the three main tools that anti-Semites employed against Jews throughout history."

[Natan Sharansky: Why BDS Fails My 3D Test on anti-Semitism.](#) Newsweek. September 25, 2019.

As you watch this short video, take a closer look at one of the examples of historic antisemitism. Can you apply the 3Ds to that example? Are Jews being demonized, delegitimized, or are double standards being applied?

How are these 3Ds helpful in assessing whether words, actions, or images are conveying legitimate criticism of the Israeli government policy? How can the 3Ds test be used as a tool to redirect antisemitic bias instead of reinforcing antisemitism?

Slow down to consider Jess Burke's comments:

1. a) Take a moment to define the following terms: imperialism, colonialism, inquisitions, expulsions, ghettoization, and slavery.  
  
b) Reflect on whether you have ever considered that these terms might connect to Jewish experiences.
2. How does this video S.I.T. with you?
3. What is something new that you learned about the ways that Jewish people in different parts of the world have experienced anti-Jewish racism?
4. "Jewish people exist in a liminal space. We are often labeled as too white to participate in anti-racism initiatives in our workplaces, or to be victimized by racism itself; we are then simultaneously labeled as non-white, by the structures of white supremacy, historically and contemporarily, all the while, Jews of colour, Sephardim, Mizrahim, and Black Jews are completely erased, spoken over, and perceived as non-existent." Is Jewish existence subject to stereotypes about appearance? Is Jewish existence subject to stereotypes about behaviour? Has your understanding of how Jews show up in the world shifted since beginning this module?

### Additional Resources:

- [The Power of a Lie: The History of the Blood Libel](#) (Facing History & Ourselves)
- [Antisemitism from the Enlightenment to World War I](#) (Facing History & Ourselves)
- [Antisemitism Today](#) (United States Holocaust Museum)
- [Antisemitism Uncovered: Myth – Jews Have Too Much Power](#) (ADL)