128 studiosi avvertono: “Non incastrate le Nazioni Unite in una definizione di antisemitismo vaga e utilizzata come arma”

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In qualità di studiosi specializzati in antisemitismo, studi sull’olocausto, storia ebraica moderna e campi correlati, assistiamo con crescente preoccupazione a sforzi motivati politicamente per strumentalizzare la lotta contro l’antisemitismo all’interno e contro le Nazioni Unite.

L’ambasciatore israeliano alle Nazioni Unite Gilad Erdan ha guidato questi sforzi. Nei suoi persistenti tentativi di indebolire i palestinesi e di proteggere il governo israeliano dalle critiche internazionali Erdan è arrivato al punto di denunciare l’agenzia delle Nazioni Unite per i rifugiati palestinesi (UNRWA) e la Corte penale internazionale (ICC) come “antisemite”.

Al di là di tale diffamazione, il Sig. Erdan ora cerca di cambiare radicalmente le regole del gioco spingendo l’ONU ad adottare la “Definizione operativa di antisemitismo” dell’International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA WDA).

Troviamo questa definizione profondamente problematica. Vaga e incoerente, l’IHRA WDA non soddisfa i requisiti di base di una buona definizione.

Piuttosto che garantire una maggiore chiarezza, l’IHRA WDA ha generato confusione su ciò che costituisce antisemitismo.

Di conseguenza, l’IHRA WDA è diventata molto controversa e contestata, anche tra gli ebrei. Le sue debolezze hanno spinto 350 eminenti studiosi di antisemitismo, studi sull’Olocausto e campi

correlati ad approvare un’altra definizione più solida, la Dichiarazione di Gerusalemme sull’antisemitismo.

L’effetto divisivo e polarizzante dell’IHRA WDA deriva da undici “esempi contemporanei di antisemitismo” ad essa allegati, sette dei quali riguardano Israele. Ampie prove mostrano che questi esempi vengono utilizzati come armi per screditare e mettere a tacere come antisemitismo le legittime critiche alle politiche di Israele.

Tra coloro che denunciano tale uso improprio c’è Kenneth Stern, l’autore principale dell’IHRA WDA. Più recentemente, Antony Lerman, ex capo dell’Institute of Jewish Affairs del World Jewish Congress, ha aspramente criticato l’IHRA WDA per diversi difetti, inclusa la sua attenzione nei riguardi del cosiddetto “nuovo antisemitismo” legato a Israele, a scapito dell’attenzione verso forme virulente di antisemitismo ora in aumento.

Uno degli esempi dell’IHRA WDA dice: “Applicare doppi standard richiedendo a [Israele] un comportamento non previsto o richiesto da parte di nessun’altra nazione democratica”. Questo esempio è particolarmente soggetto ad abusi politici in seno alle Nazioni Unite, poiché può essere facilmente invocato per etichettare come antisemita qualsiasi risoluzione delle Nazioni Unite che critichi Israele.

Cerchiamo di essere chiari: accogliamo con tutto il cuore l’impegno delle Nazioni Unite a combattere l’antisemitismo e lodiamo l’ONU per i suoi fondamentali sforzi in questa direzione. Ciò a cui ci opponiamo e contro cui mettiamo fortemente in guardia è che le Nazioni Unite possano mettere a repentaglio questa lotta essenziale e danneggiare la propria missione universale di promuovere i diritti umani approvando una definizione che costituisce uno strumento politico per scoraggiare la libertà di parola e per proteggere il governo israeliano dalla responsabilità delle sue azioni.

Sappiamo che l’IHRA WDA è stata adottata da più governi, principalmente in Europa e negli Stati Uniti. Questo è di per sé problematico. Tuttavia, se le Nazioni Unite approvassero l’IHRA

WDA, il danno sarebbe esponenzialmente maggiore.

Il governo israeliano sarebbe incoraggiato e abilitato a intensificare la sua campagna contro gli organismi e gli esperti delle Nazioni Unite, usando come un'arma e sfruttando l'IHRA WDA come standard delle Nazioni Unite per "stabilire" che l'UNRWA, la CPI, il Consiglio per i diritti umani e organismi come la Commissione d'inchiesta sono antisemiti.

Inoltre i difensori dei diritti umani e le organizzazioni che contestano le violazioni israeliane sarebbero completamente esposti a campagne diffamatorie basate su accuse in malafede di antisemitismo, danneggiando la loro libertà di espressione e altri diritti fondamentali protetti e promossi dalle Nazioni Unite.

La missione e il mandato delle Nazioni Unite si basano su un serio dibattito sulle preoccupazioni relative ai diritti umani. L'adozione dell'IHRA WDA trasformerebbe qualsiasi discussione fattuale sulle violazioni e responsabilità israeliane in un aspro dibattito sulla presunzione di antisemitismo

Ciò potrebbe anche indebolire la capacità delle Nazioni Unite di agire come mediatore neutrale in Israele e Palestina. Le debolezze e la strumentalizzazione dell'IHRA WDA hanno implicazioni dirette per la capacità delle Nazioni Unite di combattere l'antisemitismo e tutte le altre forme di razzismo su basi universali. L'alto rappresentante delle Nazioni Unite Miguel Moratinos è stato incaricato dalle Nazioni Unite di sviluppare una "risposta rafforzata a livello di sistema [all'antisemitismo] basata su un approccio ai diritti umani".

Oltre a contraddire un approccio basato sui diritti umani [universali, ndt], l'IHRA WDA inevitabilmente politicizzerebbe quella risposta e quindi comprometterebbe la capacità delle Nazioni Unite di combattere efficacemente l'antisemitismo.

Invece di identificarsi formalmente con una definizione vaga e divisiva che è stata distorta per proteggere il governo israeliano, l'ONU dovrebbe rafforzare la sua lotta contro l'antisemitismo

basandosi sui suoi principi universali sui diritti umani, in conformità con la sua Carta.

Nella ricerca di un orientamento l'ONU dovrebbe essere libera diconsultare una varietà di risorse, inclusa la Dichiarazione di Gerusalemme sull'antisemitismo. Diamo il benvenuto al recente rapporto del Prof. E. Tendayi Achiume, relatore speciale delle Nazioni Unite sulle forme contemporanee di razzismo, in cui "mette in guardia contro la dipendenza dall'IHRA WDA come strumento guida per e presso l'ONU e le sue entità costituenti" e invita "gli Stati membri delle Nazioni Unite e i suoi funzionari [a] rifiutare fermamente e agire in modo responsabile per porre fine alla strumentalizzazione politica della lotta contro l'antisemitismo".

Esortiamo gli Stati membri delle Nazioni Unite e i suoi funzionari ad agire in base all'avvertimento del Relatore speciale Achiume e a invitare e tenersi pronti a sostenere le Nazioni Unite nei loro passi avanti.

Elenco delle firme [Data la non perfetta corrispondenza tra i titoli accademici italiani e quelli anglosassoni si è preferito lasciare l'elenco in originale, ndt]

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