



## ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE: Recent developments

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**Anti-Semitism continues to affect Jewish populations all over Europe.** European Jews are consistently subject to physical violence, insults, discrimination, harassment (online and in person), attacks against property, and the desecration of places of worship and cemeteries.

A European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights unique survey on Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of discrimination, hate crime and Antisemitism reveals that "in the 12 months prior to the survey, **almost half of the respondents (46 %) worry about being verbally insulted or harassed in a public place because they are Jewish, and one third (33%) worry about being physically attacked in the country where they live because they are Jewish**". Furthermore, **75 % of respondents consider Antisemitism online to be a problem, while another 73 % believe Antisemitism online has increased over the last five years.**<sup>1</sup>

### Antisemitism across Europe

While in some countries such as France there has been a reported drop in antisemitic incidents from 2015 to 2016<sup>2</sup> there has been a rise in antisemitic incidents in countries such as Germany, where reports state that between **January and September 2015, 194 anti-Semitic incidents were reported and that number rose to 461 during the same period in 2016.**<sup>3</sup> Official police statistics recorded some 1,300 antisemitic crimes nationwide in 2015. In the United Kingdom, The Community Security Trust recorded 557 antisemitic incidents across the United Kingdom in the first six months of 2016, an 11% increase compared to the same period in 2015.<sup>4</sup>

It is important to note, however, that even when there are reported drops in Antisemitism in countries such as France, Jewish communities continue to face discrimination and some European Jews hide their identity due to fears of being persecuted. For example, **40% of 1,200 Jews surveyed in France said they avoided wearing symbols that identified them as Jews for fear of antisemitic attacks.**<sup>5</sup> Fear of persecution affects Jews across Europe with **23% of Jews surveyed in eight European countries stating that they avoided Jewish events or sites because they feared for their safety.**<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2013-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member-states-0\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2013-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member-states-0_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Report-Antisemitism-in-Germany-doubled-in-last-year-479227>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Report-Antisemitism-in-Germany-doubled-in-last-year-479227>

<sup>4</sup> <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2016/08/04/cst-antisemitic-incidents-report-january-june-2016-published-today>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/brexit-europe-jews-flee-antisemitism-islamism-muslim-brotherhood-far-right-rabbi-pinchas-goldschmidt-a7340201.html>

<sup>6</sup> [http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2013-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member-states-0\\_en.pdf](http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-2013-discrimination-hate-crime-against-jews-eu-member-states-0_en.pdf)

## Online hate speech

Online antisemitic hate speech is a worldwide problem. The Anti-Defamation League reports that between August 2015 and July 2016 a total of **2.6 million tweets containing language frequently found in antisemitic speech were posted across Twitter**, these tweets had an estimated reach of **10 billion**. Such a large reach has the potential to contribute to the normalisation of antisemitic hate speech.<sup>7</sup> In October 2016 **40 million users were exposed to antisemitic messages on Twitter**.<sup>8</sup> Many of these tweets **reinforce negative and false stereotypes about Jews** such as Jews control the media, Jews control global finance, Jews perpetrated 9/11, etc.<sup>9</sup>

## Vandalism

**The desecration of Jewish places of worship and cemeteries continued to be a problem across Europe in 2016.** The Anti-Defamation League reports a variety of different cases across Europe.<sup>10</sup>

- 12 March 2016, in **Verdun, France** a synagogue was vandalised with two swastikas drawn on the wall and the phrase “f\*\*k the Jews.”
- 16 March 2016, in **Köthen, Germany** a bucket of feces was put on the wall of the Jewish cemetery.
- 3 May 2016, in **Castrillo Mota de Judíos, Spain** the town’s signpost was vandalised with antisemitic graffiti. This accompanies the spate of antisemitic incidents of vandalism that have affected the town since it changed its name to break any possible link with the persecution of Jews during the Spanish inquisition.<sup>11</sup>
- 19 May 2016, in **Manchester, UK** a Jewish cemetery was vandalised, with 14 gravestones destroyed.
- 4 July 2016 in **London, UK** an image of a Star of David hanging from a gallows was spray painted in two separate areas of the city.
- 11 September 2016, in **Budapest, Hungary** a Holocaust memorial was vandalised, with symbolic items of remembrance destroyed or thrown away.
- 12 September 2016, in **Ioannina, Greece** the city’s synagogue was vandalised with swastikas spray-painted on its walls.
- 26 December 2016, in **Paris, France** antisemitic messages including swastikas, Stars of David, and messages such as “Jews Forbidden” were written on the front gate and mailbox of a Jewish school.<sup>12</sup>

## Negative perceptions of Jews

In many countries across Europe the public has indicated increasingly negative attitudes towards Jews.

**Poland** - A study conducted by the Center for Research on Prejudice at the University of Warsaw finds a significant increase in negative attitudes toward Jews from 2014 to 2016.<sup>13</sup> The survey shows that in 2016 **55.98% of Poles surveyed would not accept a Jew as a family member** which is an increase from 45.53% in 2014. **32.20% of Poles surveyed would not accept a Jew as a neighbor** which is an increase from 26.70% in

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/press-center/CR\\_4862\\_Journalism-Task-Force\\_v2.pdf](http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/press-center/CR_4862_Journalism-Task-Force_v2.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Report-Antisemitism-in-Germany-doubled-in-last-year-479227>

<sup>9</sup> [http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/press-center/CR\\_4862\\_Journalism-Task-Force\\_v2.pdf](http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/press-center/CR_4862_Journalism-Task-Force_v2.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.adl.org/anti-semitism/international/c/global-antisemitism-2016.html>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/05/world/europe/castrillo-mota-de-judos-anti-semitic-vandalism.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/05/world/europe/castrillo-mota-de-judos-anti-semitic-vandalism.html?_r=0)

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/222323>

<sup>13</sup> <http://forward.com/news/world/360967/anti-semitism-spikes-in-poland-stoked-by-populist-surge-against-refugees/>

2014. And **15.1% would not accept a Jew as a co-worker**, up from 10% in 2014. According to a study by the Pew Research Center in 2016 **24% of Poles surveyed have a negative perception of Jews.**<sup>14</sup>

**Greece** – according to the Pew Research Center as of Spring 2016, Greeks have the most unfavourable views of Jews of any country in Europe. **55% of Greeks surveyed for the study had a negative opinion of Jews.**<sup>15</sup> The Pew Research Center study released in 2014 stated that **47% of Greeks surveyed in 2014 had an unfavorable opinion about Jews.**<sup>16</sup>

**Hungary** - The Pew Research Center study of 2016 found that **32% of Hungarians surveyed have a negative opinion of Jews.**<sup>17</sup> According to an additional survey, which was carried out on behalf of the Action and Protection Foundation (TEV) **Antisemitism in Hungary has grown over the course of 2016**, with the survey tying antisemitic attitudes with growing xenophobia in the country.<sup>18</sup>

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*The European Network Against Racism (ENAR) is a network of NGOs working to promote equality and solidarity for all in Europe. We connect more than 100 local and national anti-racist NGOs throughout Europe and voice the concerns of ethnic and religious minorities in European and national policy debates.*  
[www.enar-eu.org](http://www.enar-eu.org)

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<sup>14</sup> <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/07/Pew-Research-Center-EU-Refugees-and-National-Identity-Report-FINAL-July-11-2016.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/07/Pew-Research-Center-EU-Refugees-and-National-Identity-Report-FINAL-July-11-2016.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/05/12/chapter-4-views-of-roma-muslims-jews/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/07/Pew-Research-Center-EU-Refugees-and-National-Identity-Report-FINAL-July-11-2016.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.algemeiner.com/2016/06/16/a-third-of-all-hungarians-espouse-widespread-antisemitic-attitudes-survey-finds/>