

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

JANUARY 2023



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A significant part of combating antisemitism is monitoring of the prevalence of antisemitic incidents. One of the aims of the Action and Protection League (APL) is to heighten the awareness of antisemitism in the society. The primary tool in achieving this is continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes in public life. Neither Jewish communities nor individual Jews can be protected unless there is data on antisemitic incidents and other hate crimes and that these are collected and analysed. The data collected by the Action and Protection League, cooperated with Action and Protection Foundation (APF), are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report. The monitoring report is carried out by the APF.

The reports deal with two forms of behaviour: antisemitic hate crimes and hate-motivated incidents. Both types of behaviour are referred to as "hate incidents" in the reports. The main difference between an antisemitic hate crime and other hate crimes is that the former possesses an antisemitic motive. Due to differences in legislation and application of legislation in various countries, there are different interpretations of which antisemitic incidents that are violations of criminal law. In addition are some hate-motivated acts, albeit troubling for Jews, not considered criminal if they, e.g., are considered belonging to the realm of freedom of speech. The APL considers it essential to record both types of hate incidents in order to gain a general overview and to make it possible to analyse changes over time.

In order to have the most extensive scope possible, the APL uses a variety of sources simultaneously. The incidents are not only recorded, but the characteristics of the individual incident are also analysed. The data recorded includes the incident's location, the perpetrator (if known), victim, and consequences (if any). In addition, are the various types of incidents differentiated in the reports.

In January, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified one hate incident of an antisemitic nature. This was categorised as Hate Speech. This month, we identified two Further Hate Incidents as well.

The Hate Speech category includes the following case: On the Day of Honour, far-right organisations announced their programme as an anti-fascist commemoration.

The Further Hate Incidents category included past statements by the Jobbik mayor of Jászberény and another prestigious award for antisemite Mihály Takaró.

Our Foundation did not initiate any new proceedings this month, nor did we receive any notifications related to our previous proceedings.

ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

In the last decade there has been a rise in antisemitism in Europe. Surveys by e.g. the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)¹ and the ADL Global 100² show a broad spectrum of antisemitism and how it fluctuates over time.

The character of antisemitic incidents is quite different in the monitored countries concerning content, expressions, and perpetrators. Current antisemitism is mainly connected to Islamism, Far-right groups, and Far-left groups. Islamist expressions are most frequent in countries with large Muslim populations in Western Europe and uncommon in Eastern and Central Europe. Far-left expressions of antisemitism can often be found disguised as Anti-Zionism in Western Europe and is often connected to the conflict in the Middle East.

In East and Central Europe, right-wing expressions of prejudice against Jews frequently have old roots, not only among groups related to Fascism and Nazism, but at times also in populist-nationalist settings. In several countries Jews have found themselves under more threat during the last decade. This does not only include physical attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions but is also visible in the growth of conspiracy theories, online hatred, and political campaigns favouring banning of, e.g., brit milah and kashrut.

Countering antisemitism becomes an increasingly urgent issue for Europe. Action and Protection League of Europe (APL) has been established to explore the causes of modern-day antisemitism and to implement effective defense.

¹ EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS: ANTISEMITISM - OVERVIEW OF DATA AVAILABLE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION 2008-2018
² <https://global100.adl.org>

ABOUT THE REPORT

The general opinion on, and treatment of, antisemitism often takes extreme forms. On the one hand, some voices try to belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion, one-off incidents are exaggerated in the public arena to such an extent that they give the impression that they are frequent or a regular part of daily life. Knowledge of the actual situation(s) is an indispensable condition for the treatment of real problems. Monitoring of antisemitic hate crimes and incidents³ is one of the tools used in achieving this objective.

From 2019 the Action and Protection League has decided to monitor seven European countries. In the first stage, data is collected from seven countries: Austria, Czechia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Sweden, and more countries will be added later. All countries have their own particularities and vast differences when it comes to the monitoring of antisemitism

in some cases, there are several organisations with similar goals as the APL and in other countries, few or no similar activities. In no case will APL try to replace existing organisations, but rather seek cooperation and exchange of data.

Apart from the monthly reports, an annual summary review, including more detailed analyses on the incidents, is published. All reports are published in English, and almost all are published in the local language.

The fight against hate crimes is of utmost importance since it differs from many other forms of criminal conduct. On one level can these crimes and incidents can be considered as messages. They are not only about the victim in question but points to a larger group. Antisemitism and other hate crimes are thus not only attacks against individuals, but the social fabric of the society as a whole. This does not, of course, diminish the distress and psychological trauma which individual victims might

suffer. These crimes are often not “only” against property or lead to physical threat of individuals, but it also concerns self-dignity. The offenses indicate that the victim is not an equal member or a member at all of the society. Since hate crimes, in general, target victims due to some unchangeable characteristics (real or imagined), the victim becomes almost defenseless. Victims often fear that they may again be targets of similar incidents or worse atrocities if they identify perpetrators to relevant authorities. Inappropriate handling of such incidents may easily lead to secondary victimization where the victim can be led to believe that it was their fault, e.g., by not being careful enough, etc. This type of criminal act also, as mentioned, has an effect on the group as a whole. The victims of these crimes are often interchangeable, since they are not targeted at individuals and any other member could just as well have been targeted. This means that all members of the targeted group become potential victims and might live in fear of a future when they themselves may be the target of a prejudice-motivated crime. This situation is particularly poignant for groups that have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length why Jews belong among such groups. These crimes undermine the fundamental value that all members of a society are of equal value. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the society as a whole. Not only may it encourage the perpetrators to commit further crimes, but it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society as a whole⁴.

It is not an exaggeration to state that fewer hate crimes are reported and documented than are committed. The discrepancy between committed crimes and reported crimes vary significantly between different countries is not necessarily connected to the number of Jews. A contributing factor

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

⁴ Levin & McDavitt 1999, 92-93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19-21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17-18; Perry 2001, 10).

to the under-reporting is that victims rarely report them to the police or relevant authority. There are several causes for this: many victims are not convinced that the authorities will handle the matter adequately, either because they lack the competence or that they are prejudiced. In addition, many victims are unaware of applicable laws or where to turn for help. Furthermore, some victims are worried that their concealed traits will be exposed and that they might suffer more by reporting incidents. Victims might also fear that authorities will not be able to prove a hate-crime motivation and that reporting is thus useless.

It is civic organizations that can help remedy these problems. These organizations can cooperate with police and relevant authorities, but also an intermediary between victim and authority. Reports by civic organizations can be expedient in alerting official authorities on hate-motivated crimes, and long-term tendencies can be outlined through the use of collected data. Civil organizations can prepare cases for legal process, may provide legal defense for victims, and give other forms of aid and support.

METHODOLOGY

The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows⁵ (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 15–16):

- hate crime: a crime as defined by the criminal code, which has been motivated by prejudice against a certain group of people⁶
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a specific group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The heightened importance of individual hate crimes is indicated by the fact that the criminal code of numerous countries deals with these cases separately. Although there is a widely accepted definition of antisemitism (see IHRA 2017), there is currently no consistent definition of hate crimes in the countries monitored by the APL.

In addition are the legal consequences different in the monitored countries. This means that an incident which a crime in one country could be legal in another. The obvious example concerns the so-called Holocaust denial, which, e.g., is outlawed in Hungary, but legal in several countries monitored by APL. Since the Action and Protection League has a broad scope when it comes to data collection, everything is covered in the reports, but in some instances, similar acts are filed as a crime in one country and "only" an incident in another. In every case, we follow the definitions in the criminal code of the individual countries. We estimate that this problem will diminish over time due to the adaptation of the same definitions and legislation in the European Union.

Our reports contain detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problems. The reports are based on sources taken from international, independent monitoring services, local informants as well as data collected by other organizations working with same or similar issues.

The monthly report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by antisemitism in the broadest possible sense: perpetrator, target, means, or message. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument, or other property. It is essential, however, that an antisemitic motivation can be established. This means that the perpetrator chose the given target on the basis that he/she was Jewish or perceived as being Jewish. It is thus not relevant whether the assumption is correct or not: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

In the course of monitoring, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are also considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code in the individual country (e.g. violent assault of a member of a community, incitement to hatred of a community, denial of the crimes of the national socialist regime, use of symbols of autocratic regimes etc.), but can also include other acts mentioned in the Criminal Code, if prejudice can be proven as a motivating factor.

When identifying hate incidents, various indicators are recorded during the monitoring period⁷ and are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by antisemitism.

For the broadest possible scope in monitoring antisemitic hate incidents, the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. In addition to media monitoring, reports from local informants the Action and Protection League also rely on reports filed by victims. In Hungary, the Action and Protection League has a 24-hours-a-day Hotline that serves to ease the passage of reports. The goal is to supply a similar service for the other countries so reports can be filed in the local languages. It is also possible to file reports anonymously online. Such reports will be of especially great importance to this study. If a victim cannot or does not want to file a report, the APL can use an intermediary to help the victim in the process. Such an intermediary may be a family member, an acquaintance of

⁵ The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakrabarti and Garland 2009, 4–7).

These definitions can serve as important addenda to an understanding of these crimes; however, they are difficult to apply in practice. This is what made the creation of simpler, more practical definitions necessary.

⁶ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behaviour would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24). For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁷ These indicators are described in the Methodology section

the victim, a witness of the incident, or another civil organization.

It is a declared objective of the League to be in close contact with the authorities, since in some countries, they are the first to be approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent relevant sources: television, radio, as well as the printed and online versions of the press. An essential segment of the report is composed of monitoring the expressions of online hatred as a phenomenon that is continually growing.

The public discourses are monitored by a team of experts. One of our aims is to cover the increasingly large segment of the media with continuous monitoring. Monitoring extends to roughly all receivable TV and radio stations, all the printed press with high print-runs, as well as online material not only on news portals, but the social comment arenas and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried out systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents, some are considered a part of the statistics, but some are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics.⁸

The categories for hate incidents that are included in the statistics are as follow:

- The hate incidents have to have occurred in the countries monitored; no matter whether the victim is a citizen of the country or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an antisemitic intent or content can be proven, or if the victim was attacked for being Jewish or due to an assumed Jewish identity
- Deliberate and wanton impairment of any Jewish institution or building (even if no further, antisemitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])

- Antisemitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection League appearing on blogs, forums, community pages and similar.
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Antisemitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions or similar
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Moreover, events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics⁹ :

- Antisemitic hate incidents that are related to the countries monitored and Jewry in these countries, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in the country in question, antisemitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online forums, but have not been reported to Action and Protection League.
- Other news that only indirectly are linked to antisemitism

A number of the aspects of the registered incidents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice are mentioned above.

These indicators pertain to various characteristics of the perpetrator, data concerning the victim, the time and location of the incident. These are recorded in the course of collection of data. Tabs are kept on whether incidents had any, and if so, what sort of possible legal consequences.

⁸ The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

⁹ The criteria for hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics were modified, therefore the present description is different from the one we used in 2013.

Apart from registering incidents, it is also important to capture the qualitative differentials between them. The typification of cases is carried out in two ways. According to one of the systems of categorization, the following types are differentiated: incitement against members of a community, violence against members of a community, use of symbols of autocratic regimes, and Holocaust denial.

Based on the *Facing Facts! Guidelines*, seven types of incidents are differentiated as follows¹⁰:

- Homicide: any attack on a person that causes loss of life
- Extreme physical violence
 - Any attack on a person that potentially causes serious bodily harm
 - Any attack involving weapons, or other tools that can cause bodily harm
 - Any attack on property, where there is a potential for the people occupying the property to be killed
 - Bombs and letter bombs
 - Kidnapping
- Assault
 - Any physical attack against a person or people, which does not pose a threat to their life and is not serious
 - Attempted assault, which fails due to self-defense, or if the victim runs away
 - Throwing objects at a person or people, including where the object misses its target
- Damage to property
 - Any physical attack directed against property, which is not life-threatening
 - Desecration of property
 - Arson attacks on property where there is not threat to life, failed attempts at arson

- Threats
 - Any clear and specific threat, whether verbal or written
 - Any “bomb” which is assessed to be a hoax
 - Stalking
 - Defamation
- Hate speech
 - Public hate speech
 - Hate speech channeled via the internet and social media
 - Abusive behavior
 - Abusive literature sent to more than one person
 - Hate speech in literature and music
- Discriminatory incidents

Placing hate incidents in context is also a priority. These actions do not exist in empty space and are by no means independent of the social and cultural environment in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often the processes, rather than separately occurring events (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which leads to a better understanding of the environment surrounding the incidents.¹¹ In presenting timelines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

JANUARY 2023

In January, the Action and Protection Foundation's monitoring activity identified one hate incident of an antisemitic nature, categorised as Hate Speech.

HATE SPEECH

Day of Honour: far-right organisations announce their programme as an anti-fascist commemoration

Source: merce.hu

6 January 2023 Far-right groups were due to hold an "Honour Day" event under the guise of a Holocaust commemoration, but police have initially refused to allow Nazis, neo-fascists and other far-right organisations to hold a rally, according to a Facebook post on the „Nem kinövöm, hanem ez egy komoly politikai mozgalom” ("I'm not outgrowing it, it's a serious political movement") Facebook page, known as a political meme site.

"We commemorate and pay tribute to our Jewish compatriots who returned to the eternal during the siege of Budapest, which the Nazis senselessly prolonged during the darkest days of the Holocaust. We protest with dignity against the neo-Nazi march" was the announced official aim of the rally.

However, the police's decision which Mércé has reviewed shows that they believe that the announcement was meant to trick them, and the group in fact wanted to reserve the area at the top of the Vienna Gate in Buda Castle for a far-right event; this is where anti-fascist counter-protesters traditionally greet far-right groups marching from Kapistran Square to Moszkva Square.

In response to a request from the assembly authorities, the co-organisation provided classified information that suggested the rally in question was linked to the commemoration of 'Breakout Day' and also pointed to certain links with the person of the applicant, meaning the applicant did not necessarily reveal his true intentions to the police, Mércé writes.

On the same day and at the same location, two more requests were received by the police. One was to commemorate the victims of the siege of Budapest, and the other was to commemorate the "heroes" who died in the breakout. The authorities banned both commemorations, citing the decision of the Curia VII.39.086/2022/8.

Both the decision and the police justifications recall that as Nazis and other far-right elements are aware that it is forbidden to celebrate Nazi war criminals and the ideology behind them, they try to designate other purposes for their gatherings in their announcements. In their forums, however, they clearly and explicitly refer to the rally as the "Day of Honour" or, in German, "Tag der Ehre", referring to the fact that the participants in the outbreak are remembered with respect in the contemporary far-right arena.

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents two cases this month. This section includes incidents classified as hate-motivated incidents but not included in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature and lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown. It also includes acts that may have an antisemitic intent and were committed by people connected to Hungary, but they did not take place in Hungary.

Jászberény mayor who posts Hitler quotes flees from journalists' questions

Source: origo.hu

13 January 2023 Lóránt Budai, a Jobbik politician, has won the by-election for the municipality of Jászberény. The politician had previously shared quotes from Hitler and Szálasi (leader of the Arrow Cross) on his social media page.

"I think I have nothing to do with this in 2019. Next question, please," Lóránt Budai replied during the election campaign four years ago, when Hír Tv confronted him with the fact that he had shared Nazi thoughts on Facebook and considered Szálasi to be Hungary's national leader, Origo recalls.

The newspaper notes that despite the scandalous remarks, the politician became mayor with the support of the opposition coalition. In 2022, however, the DK deputy mayor of Jászberény dissolved the council, forcing the city to hold by-elections.

Mediaworks now wondered whether it would be timely, in 2023, to talk about his scandalous posts. Lóránt Budai deflected a question by saying: "Keep up the good work!

APF: Another prestigious award for the notorious antisemite Mihály Takaró

Source: tev.hu

19 January 2023 Imre Madách will be remembered on the 200th anniversary of his birth on Friday in Balassagyarmat. The county's Madách celebrations will also include a ceremony for the Madách Prizes, which this year were awarded to Mihály Takaró, a literary historian, and László L. Simon, director-general of the Hungarian National Museum, the organisers told MTI.

According to the news agency's summary, "Mihály Takaró, Attila József Prize-winning literary historian, poet and teacher, was the first person in Hungary to prepare a guide to Hungarian language and literature for the high school graduation exam in the mid-1990s. In 2012, he initiated the inclusion of Ferenc Herczeg, Cécile Tormay, Dezső Szabó and József Nyirő, among others, in the new National Curriculum. He edited the literary history handbook and a textbook on Hungarian literature in the Carpathian Basin from 1920 to the turn of the millennium."

The Action and Protection Foundation recalls that Mihály Takaró regularly makes antisemitic remarks in his classes, such as that Imre Kertész was not Hungarian and that the Nyugat magazine was a Jewish rag.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Tamás Róna: It is a serious factual error to speak of systemic antisemitism in Hungary

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

15 January 2023 The President of the Hungarian Jewish Prayer Society was astonished to read an article in The Wall Street Journal in which the author called Viktor Orbán an antisemite.

In his open letter, published by Magyar Nemzet, Tamás Róna stated that antisemitism is unfortunately still present. At the same time, he stressed that to speak of systemic antisemitism in Hungary is a serious factual error and shows ignorance.

"Since the fall of communism, the current Hungarian government (now in its fifth mandate, ed.) has sought supportive cooperation with the Jewish communities, and this has been especially true in the last 12 years", said the Chief Rabbi, who added that the term "Jewish supremacy" cited in the article is inherently antisemitic and evokes the worst moments of the Second World War, the Holocaust and Nazism.

"To call Viktor Orbán an antisemite in a world-famous newspaper that reaches millions of people is an extreme statement, especially because, as Chief Rabbi, I can say that our government has been supporting Hungarian and Hungarian-speaking Jewish communities in Hungary and neighbouring countries for 12 or 13 years", Tamás Róna noted.

Shlomo Köves: Viktor Orbán is not antisemitic

Source: neokohn.hu

19 January 2023 Shlomo Köves, Chief Rabbi of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH) was a guest on Jazzy Radio's Business Class programme. The hosts interviewed the leading rabbi on the 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Budapest ghetto. Rabbi Köves commemorated the liberation of the ghetto as an important, shocking and joyful event. Neokohn summarised the conversation.

"Today is not only a day of sad remembrance but also a joyful celebration despite the incomprehensible losses", said Köves.

The Chief Rabbi said that even in this time of dynamic rebuilding of the Jewish community, it should not be forgotten that 600,000 Hungarian Jews were exterminated with unprecedented speed during the Holocaust.

Speaking about the House of Fates, Shlomo Köves said that the delay in opening the museum was due to financial difficulties and that new donors and supporters needed to be found. It could open its doors at the end of 2024.

"The House of Fates is an opportunity to tell the story of the Holocaust from the Jewish perspective. It will educate and commemorate, as well as make the memory of the Holocaust relevant", added the head of the EMIH.

The Chief Rabbi also reacted to an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal, which called the Hungarian Prime Minister an antisemite.

"The accusation is unfair. Neither Viktor Orbán nor any of the former Hungarian prime ministers I know personally are antisemitic," said Köves, who called the approach of the well-known publicist irresponsible and said that criticism of democratic deficits should not be confused with the issue of antisemitism.

"Antisemitism is an existing problem in Hungary. It is a social problem, a disease that has been present for centuries", he said.

Hungarian Jewish organisations unite for a strategy against antisemitism

Source: mzsihisz.hu

24 January 2023 In October 2021, the European Commission (EC) adopted the EU Strategy against Antisemitism and in Support of Jewish Life and recommended that EU governments prepare their national strategies. Mzsihisz, in cooperation with Hungarian Jewish organisations, wishes to assist the government's work with a working document.

Mzsihisz, with the support of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and the American Jewish Committee (AJC), has prepared a draft that, in its final form, could serve as a working document to help the Hungarian government formulate a national strategy against antisemitism and in support of Jewish life.

Representatives of Hungarian Jewish organisations gathered at the Mzsihisz headquarters in Síp Street to discuss this draft. At the meeting, András Heisler, President of Mzsihisz, explained that the strategy not only aims to propose solutions against hate speech, racism and exclusion but also to support, strengthen and revitalise the Jewish community and religious life in Europe.

It was noted at the meeting that it is commendable that the Hungarian government has consistently taken a pro-Israel stance in international political and diplomatic bodies and organisations and has stood up for the Jewish State in the UN in cases where the UN has wished to take unprincipled decisions against Israel.

András Ligeti, head of the Budapest office of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), presented international efforts and examples. He also pointed out that the fight against antisemitism is an essential part of the strategy, as is support for Hungarian Jewish life.

He highlighted the €20 million in funding announced by the EU to support NGOs fighting racism, exclusion and discrimination.

At the meeting, representatives of Jewish organisations said they would like to see more emphasis on supporting culture, the arts and Jewish civil life to help Jewish community life in Hungary.

European survey on antisemitism launched

Source: mzsihisz.hu

25 January 2023 The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has launched its third major continental survey on antisemitism in selected EU Member States. The survey is open to people aged 16 and over who identify themselves as Jewish and asks them about antisemitic phenomena in their environment, according to the Mzsihisz website.

The survey aims to determine how self-identified Jews perceive and experience different forms of antisemitism. The questionnaire will be available at www.eujews.eu until 26 March 2023.

The survey is open to people aged 16 and over who identify as Jewish in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The survey was commissioned and conducted by Kantar Public with the support of the European Union Foundation for Progressive Judaism. The FRA aims to provide the most meaningful picture possible of the antisemitism experienced by European Jews so that the results can be used by EU institutions, Member States, policymakers and influential public figures, as well as Jewish and broader civil society organisations.

Holocaust survivor Edith Bruck says communication between generations has become impossible

Source: konyvesmagazin.hu

25 January 2023 A documentary film about Edith Bruck, a Hungarian-born woman living in Italy, has been screened. Pope Francis also appreciated the film. Bruck has previously translated poems by Attila József, Gyula Illyés and Miklós Radnóti into Italian. Her autobiographical novel *Lost Bread* tells the story of the Holocaust. On the occasion of the film screening, she spoke about her work and experience with young people and about Pope Francis, wrote *Könyvesmagazin*.

The documentary's first screening was held at the Hungarian Cultural Institute in Rome.

Speaking to MTI before the premiere, Edith Bruck said remembering "is always very important: it was yesterday, it is today, and it will be tomorrow, so I will continue to bear witness". She added that she has been going to schools for decades, and during the pandemic, she did the same online because young people need to know what happened and how.

"Antisemitism, racism and exclusion are still relevant today so that it never happens again and never happens to any people", she stressed. According to her, young people are bad at learning history and have lost touch with older generations.

"They don't speak or listen to their parents and grandparents; the elderly have no voice; they don't matter. The tradition of the younger generation asking the grandfather to tell them how it was and what happened has been lost", summarises the author, who sees the biggest problem as the loss of memory and testimony within families. "The world inside and outside families has become divided, there is no communication between generations", she said.

During the screening, a letter from Pope Francis was presented. He wrote that despite her suffering, Edith Bruck proclaims the beauty of life, dignity, fraternity and inter-religious dialogue.

Tamás Róna: Jewry is flourishing in Hungary

Source: index.hu

30 January 2023 Chief Rabbi Tamás Róna says that while crimes against Jews are commonplace in the West, Judaism is growing in Hungary. He told Index that the Hungarian Prime Minister could be accused of antisemitism in the West because "superficial and petty voices often reach the international press and can produce incomplete and damaging articles".

In Western Europe and overseas, crimes against Jews are commonplace, while in Hungary, Judaism is flourishing, said the Chief Rabbi, who wrote a letter in response to American historian David Nirenberg, who called Prime Minister Viktor Orbán an antisemite in *The Wall Street Journal*.

According to the Chief Rabbi, the author's answer was surprisingly quick, and he was delighted.

"I must admit that I did not expect a response at all. I thought it would be a letter (left unopened, ed.) in the essay writer's inbox. David Nirenberg thanked me for my comments and my opinion on his essay. I feel we have left on positive terms. I confirmed as I did in my open letter that I am happy to be at your disposal for any similar questions concerning Hungarian Jewry, both as a private person and in my capacity as Chief Rabbi", said Tamás Róna.

Tamás Róna explained that nowadays, the

United States of America — which defines itself as an advanced Western society — is at the point where the UN and a rapper famous for his obscene lyrics are mentioned together. He stressed that in Kanye West's country, a document had been produced comparing Israel to the Nazis at the UN headquarters.

"Eight decades after the Holocaust, the United Nations has shown an attitude delegitimising the Jewish state but legitimising Palestinian terrorism. I think this is dangerous. In fact, according to a recent statistic, in Germany, there are four antisemitic attacks a day against our Jewish brothers and sisters. And in the USA, more than 60 per cent of religious crimes are committed against Jews. These are just some of the many figures", he added.

According to the Chief Rabbi, Hungary's Judaism is experiencing new prosperity.

He said that Christian-Jewish dialogue is growing stronger. The government has provided much cultural and social assistance, especially in the last decade.

"For example, we recently published our

sixth Jewish textbook and are already preparing the seventh. Or I could mention that a new wing has been built in the Mazsihisz Charity Hospital, and that university and cultural life have received much support. But more importantly: I have nothing to fear in Hungary because I am Jewish. That is priceless. Unfortunately, this is not the case in France."

Tamás Róna said: "France has the largest Jewish community in Europe, around 500,000 people."

"We know from our historical studies that, thanks to the age of conquest, many peoples, and religions and ethnicities live together. This can also give rise to major tensions. The question is, how can such an open country protect its citizens? It is no secret that the highest crime rate and the most extreme antisemitic attacks are reported from there", he said.

OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

Teenagers who desecrated Dohány Street Synagogue may be sentenced to community service

Source: blikk.hu

13 January 2023 The Budapest I. and XII. District Prosecutor's Office of the Juvenile Criminal Proceedings Department charged four teenagers with the group crime of hooliganism for behaving disorderly, kicking a garbage can, imitating Nazi arm gestures and pissing on the walls of the Dohány Street Synagogue on 1 May 2022. The defendants confessed to the crime.

In the indictment, the public prosecutor proposed a sentence of community service.

Tikvah Fund Israel CEO meets with Viktor Orbán

Source: neokohn.hu

19 January 2023 Prime Minister Viktor Orbán received Amiad Cohen, the executive director of Tikvah Fund Israel, at the Carmelite Monastery, Bertalan Havasi, the prime minister's press secretary, told MTI.

The conservative leader arrived in Hungary at the invitation of the Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities (EMIH). Still, his visit was also aimed at familiarising himself with the work of Mathias Corvinus College (MCC) and strengthening Hungarian-Israeli right-wing relations in education and publishing.

The meeting between Viktor Orbán and Amiad Cohen was also attended by Balázs Orbán, the Prime Minister's political director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of MCC, said Bertalan Havasi.

The Tikvah Fund is a Manhattan-based conservative, non-profit foundation that supports Israel and Jewish conservatives. Its Israeli affiliate, Tikvah Fund Israel, focuses on creating conservative education materials, translating books, and nurturing the next generation of conservative leaders.

Viktor Orbán: On this day, we pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust

Source: magyarnemzet.hu

27 January 2023 The commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day was held all over Europe: on 27 January 1945, Soviet Red Army soldiers liberated the Auschwitz death camp, and in commemoration of this, the UN General Assembly declared 27 January 2005 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and Justice Minister Judit Varga joined the commemoration.

"On this day in 1945, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp was liberated. On this day, we bow our heads to the victims of the Holocaust. The tragedy of the Jewish people is also the tragedy of the Hungarian nation", Prime Minister Viktor Orbán wrote on Twitter on the occasion of Holocaust Memorial Day.

Eszter Vitályos: The loss of Hungarian Jewry is the loss of the entire nation

Source: webradio.hu

27 January 2023 The terrible loss belongs to the whole of Europe, the whole world. The loss of Hungarian Jewry is the eternal loss of the entire nation, said the Parliamentary State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Innovation at a commemoration ceremony on the occasion of International Holocaust Remembrance Day organised by the Holocaust Documentation Centre and Memorial Collection Public Foundation in Budapest on Friday. Eszter Vitályos recalled that 78 years have passed since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, a camp that became a symbol of Nazism, where one in three victims was Hungarian.

"Hungary has learned from the past, and the Hungarian government has zero tolerance for antisemitism. It is committed and consistent in upholding these fundamental values at home and abroad", he said, pointing out that today in Hungary, Jewish and non-Jewish Hungarians can live together safely, and today in Hungary, "we are planning our future together".

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

The Wall Street Journal: Viktor Orbán considered an opponent of Jewish power

Source: mandiner.hu

6 January 2023 An opinion article in The Wall Street Journal says that antisemitism is rising in the United States and globally. The author argues that recent events clarify that Jew-hatred is not limited to a single group, just as the politicians associated with antisemitism are related to different circles.

According to the Mandiner summary, British left-wing politician Jeremy Corbyn and right-wing Prime Minister Viktor Orbán identify as opponents of Jewish power.

Berliner Zeitung: There is antisemitism in Hungary despite its friendship with Israel

Source: mandiner.hu

16 January 2023 According to the author of the Berliner Zeitung, "historically, the European Zionist movement was initially supported in part by Christians, who supported the Jewish state because they feared that Jews would undermine the ethnic homogeneity of their homeland," states an article by Mandiner.

Hanno Hauenstein believes that Hungary is an excellent example of how this "antisemitic tradition" is still alive in Europe today. For example, he cites the appearance of posters depicting George Soros in Hungary during the immigration crisis back in 2015. Also, a youth organisation of Fidesz in 2017 distributed a Nazi caricature depicting Soros as a giant puppet master.

According to the article, the anti-Soros campaign took place despite Viktor Orbán now being one of Israel's most loyal allies. The article comes after the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung recently removed an article by the author entitled "Double measures for peace", which, according to the self-correction published, contained more than 10 errors. The piece had reported on the EU's alleged ambivalent attitude towards Israel.

OTHER NEWS

Hungarian number plate law may be amended due to the use of Nazi symbols

Source: telex.hu, vezess.hu

3 January 2023 The issuing of a controversial registration number and the rejection of another application may lead to a review of the rules on registration numbers, Telex and vezess.hu report. Previously, the combinations HH-AA-001, 002 and 003 were allowed. At the same time, on 17 November 2022, the application of someone who wanted to have a new individual number plate for his car with the same letters but ending in 004 was rejected.

According to the decision, which referred to the opinion of the Centre for Linguistic Research, the "first two characters of the requested number plate may be capable of evoking, from a linguistic point of view, abbreviations and acronyms used by authoritarian regimes and may also directly refer to authoritarian regimes of the 20th century." It later emerged that the government department needed to consult the Centre for Linguistic Research.

In July 2022, the Research Centre wrote to the Office that it needed to clarify whether the character sequence HH-HH-888 in the licence plate application had authoritarian content.

According to a Telex reader, this number plate was requested for a car that previously bore the number plate SSI-488, and the owner of the car wrote on Facebook, "Loyalty is my honour 88/14". "Loyalty is my honour" was the motto of the Nazi SS and the title of a 1998 volume of memoirs of former SS soldiers by Gordon Williamson. The 88 is a duplication of the 8th letter of the alphabet, HH, or Heil Hitler!, while the 14 refers to a 14-word sentence by a neo-Nazi ideologue.

The Ministry of Construction and Transport finally answered Telex's questions.

"The registration numbers referred to in the article, for those who know their symbolism, are undoubtedly offensive to the masses. While prohibiting violating public order or morality in the case of number plates, the cited legislation governing current practice has not considered the code system and the strange symbols of the 'celebrants' of totalitarian dictatorships."

The ministry said that Germany was involved in the issue and had regulated it on many occasions. If Germany has indeed been able to deal with this issue reassuringly, and if it can apply those legal solutions in Hungary, they will clarify the rules in the German way, as there are other interpretations of this character sequence.

The ministry's press officer, Ákos Krakó, pointed out that Germany prohibits the registration of specific individual and unique number plates and combinations of letters and numbers, especially those that refer to slogans and symbols used during the darkest period of the country's history.

Yair Netanyahu: Attacking Soros does not mean antisemitism

Source: tev.hu

27 January 2023 The "attacks on Soros" do not represent antisemitism, radio broadcaster and Israeli political influencer Yair Netanyahu said at an international media conference of the Mathias Corvinus Collegium (MCC) in Budapest, reports MTI.

The panel discussion participants recalled that Hungary was labelled antisemitic because of posters linking George Soros to illegal migration. In response, the son of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the "attacks on Soros" were not antisemitic because George Soros caused severe damage to "the only Jewish state", for example, by funding anti-Jewish, anti-Zionist and pro-Palestinian NGOs that are destroying Israeli society from within.

On the relationship between money and the media, Yair Netanyahu explained that in the Western world, "especially in Israel", left-wing media are predominant. In the Jewish state, for example, a large part of the population is conservative, and there is a demand for right-wing content.

The presenter also met Shlomo Köves, Chief Rabbi of the EMIH-Association of Hungarian Jewish Communities, in whose Budapest office they discussed possible cooperation.

THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

All the incidents to be found in the report are presented chronologically in the table below. The *Category* column shows which part of the report deals with the given case in greater detail.

| No. | Date | Incident | Category |
|-----|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | 3rd of January | Hungarian number plate law may be amended due to the use of Nazi symbols | Other News |
| 2. | 6th of January | The Wall Street Journal: Viktor Orbán considered an opponent of Jewish power | News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary |
| 3. | 6th of January | Day of Honour: far-right organisations announce their programme as an anti-fascist commemoration | Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech |
| 4. | 13th of January | Jászberény mayor who posts Hitler quotes flees from journalists' questions | Further Hate Incidents |
| 5. | 13th of January | Teenagers who desecrated Dohány Street Synagogue may be sentenced to community service | Official and Civil Responses |
| 6. | 15th of January | Tamás Róna: It is a serious factual error to speak of systemic antisemitism in Hungary | Community News and Responses |
| 7. | 16th of January | Berliner Zeitung: There is antisemitism in Hungary despite its friendship with Israel | News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary |
| 8. | 19th of January | APF: Another prestigious award for the notorious antisemite Mihály Takaró | Further Hate Incidents |
| 9. | 19th of January | Tikvah Fund Israel CEO meets with Viktor Orbán | Official and Civil Responses |
| 10. | 19th of January | Shlomo Köves: Viktor Orbán is not antisemitic | Community News and Responses |
| 11. | 24th of January | Hungarian Jewish organisations unite for a strategy against antisemitism | Community News and Responses |
| 12. | 25th of January | Holocaust survivor Edith Bruck says communication between generations has become impossible | Community News and Responses |
| 13. | 25th of January | European survey on antisemitism launched | Community News and Responses |
| 14. | 27th of January | Viktor Orbán: On this day, we pay tribute to the victims of the Holocaust | Official and Civil Responses |
| 15. | 27th of January | Eszter Vitályos: The loss of Hungarian Jewry is the loss of the entire nation | Official and Civil Responses |

| No. | Date | Incident | Category |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 16. | 27th of January | Yair Netanyahu: Attacking Soros does not mean antisemitism | Other News |
| 17. | 30th of January | Tamás Róna: Jewry is flourishing in Hungary | Community News and Responses |

CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection League is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread antisemitic manifestations.

The Action and Protection Foundation is the partner of the Action and Protection League in Hungary.

In case anyone faces insults or antisemitic abuse due to a supposed or real Jewish background, do not remain silent, let us know, so that we can forward the case through the appropriate channels to the official organs required to take measures!

Notifications of such incidents are received by the Foundation through any of the following means:

HOTLINE (+36 1) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection League: www.apleu.org

The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection League's undertaking can only be successful if great numbers share in our commitment to prepare the grounds for the right to fair process for all those who have suffered offenses. In aid of this cause please support the work of the Foundation with your contribution! Donations can be made to the Foundation on the following bank account:

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