

ANTI-SEMITIC
HATE CRIMES AND INCIDENTS
IN HUNGARY

2018. ANNUAL
SHORT REPORT



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One

of the most important parts of the fight against anti-Semitism is precise information about the causes and extensiveness of anti-Semitism. For this reason, the main

aim of the Action and Protection Foundation is to provide more information about this issue. Monthly, the Foundation observes public events and the press and records any incidents. Analyzing the information

gained by monthly monitoring activity is of great help in protecting the community. We have summed up our 2018 monitoring this annual report.

The report covers two kinds of actions: anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents motivated by hate, both of which we will now refer to as a “hate crime”. In both cases, anti-Semitic motivation must be proven.

METHODOLOGY¹

The report deals with two types of offence: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by OSCE as follows² (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 people³
- hate-motivated incident: an offence, also based on prejudice against a certain group of people, but not reaching the level of criminal conduct.

The report presents hate crimes and hate incidents motivated by anti-Semitism, wherever perpetrator, target, means or message of a case suggest it. The target may be a person, a group, an event, a building, a monument or other property. It is impor-

tant however, that anti-Semitic motivation can only be spoken of if the perpetrator chose the given target expressly because it was assumed to belong to Jewry. In this context it is not finally relevant whether the assumption is correct: the belief of the target's connection to Jewry is sufficient.

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 environs in which they occur. The dynamics of these incidents is also of importance: often processes, rather than separately occurring events can be spoken of (Perry 2001, 8). Apart from the static data, short descriptions of each event are also published, which aid understanding of the environment surrounding the incident.⁴ In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

¹ Our methodology remains the same since we started our monitoring in May 2013. The methodology was elaborated by Ildikó Barna, her text was integrated in this chapter. Small modifications are marked separately.

² The scientific definition of hate crimes is extremely contradictory and divergent (for more on this, see Chakraborti and Garland 2009, 4–7). These definitions can serve as important agenda 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.

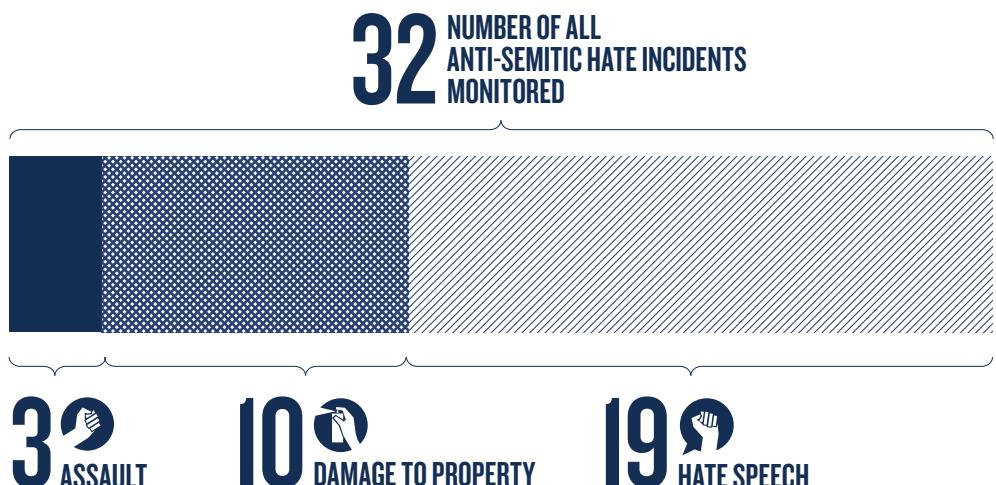
³ For example, on these grounds the OSCE does not consider hate speech a hate crime, since the given behavior would not count as criminal without the motive of prejudice (OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 24).

For our approach in dealing with this, see below.

⁴ These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

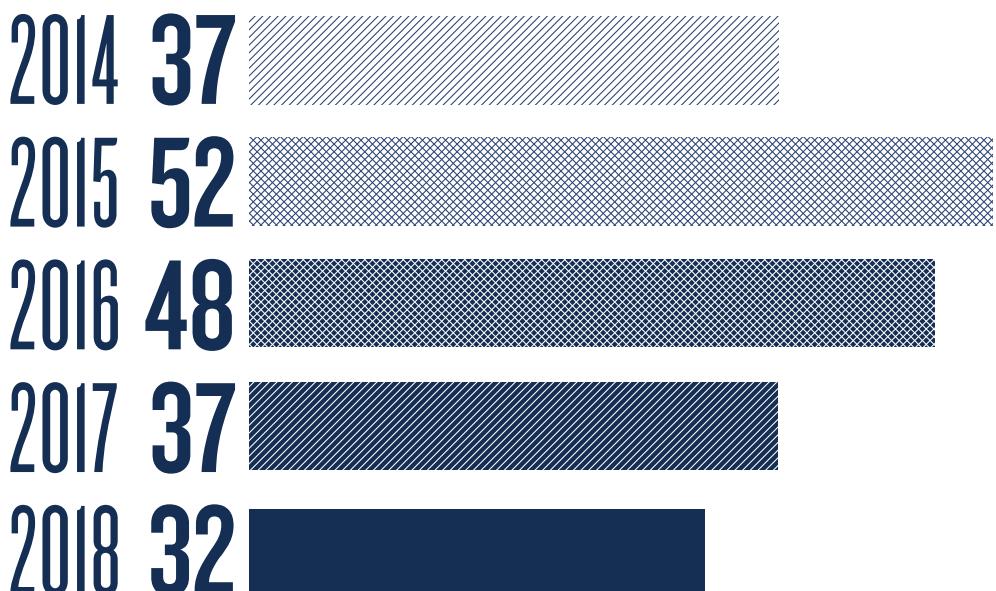
DATA

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified 32 incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime in 2018. Three incidents were classified as assault, 10 incidents fell into the category of damage to property, and 19 were identified as hate speech.



Compared to previous years, this shows a slight decrease in the number of incidents. APF identified 37 incidents in 2017, while the results of our monitoring activities in previous years were the following: we de-

tected 48 incidents in 2016, 52 in 2015 and 37 in 2014. It is important to note that APF started its suited monitoring activities in May 2013; therefore, we only started making year-on-year comparisons in 2014.



In contrast to previous years, we were notified of 3 assaults in 2018, which is the highest number we have encountered since we launched our monitor-

ing activities. Beyond the other 10 incidents of damage to property and 19 cases of hate speech, we were not notified of any threats or discrimination.

3 
ASSAULT

10          
DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

19                        
HATE SPEECH

In cases of *damage to property*, there had been an increase in the number of incidents identified up until last year, which then decreased slightly last year – to the same number of cases as monitored in 2016. APF identified 2 incidents in 2014, 5

in 2015, 10 in 2016, 13 in 2017 and 10 again in 2018, such incidents included damage to property against the Jewish community or its institutions – mainly discriminatory, anti-Semitic graffiti and damage done with other surfacers.

2014 **2** 

2015 **5**   

2016 **10**    

2017 **13**      

2018 **10**     

With regards to *hate speech*, the number of incidents identified decreased in 2018, this downward trend started in 2016 as APF detected 24 cases in 2017, 37 in 2016, 43 in

2015 and 32 in 2014. In comparison to previous years, the lowest number of incidents categorized as hate speech were identified in 2018.

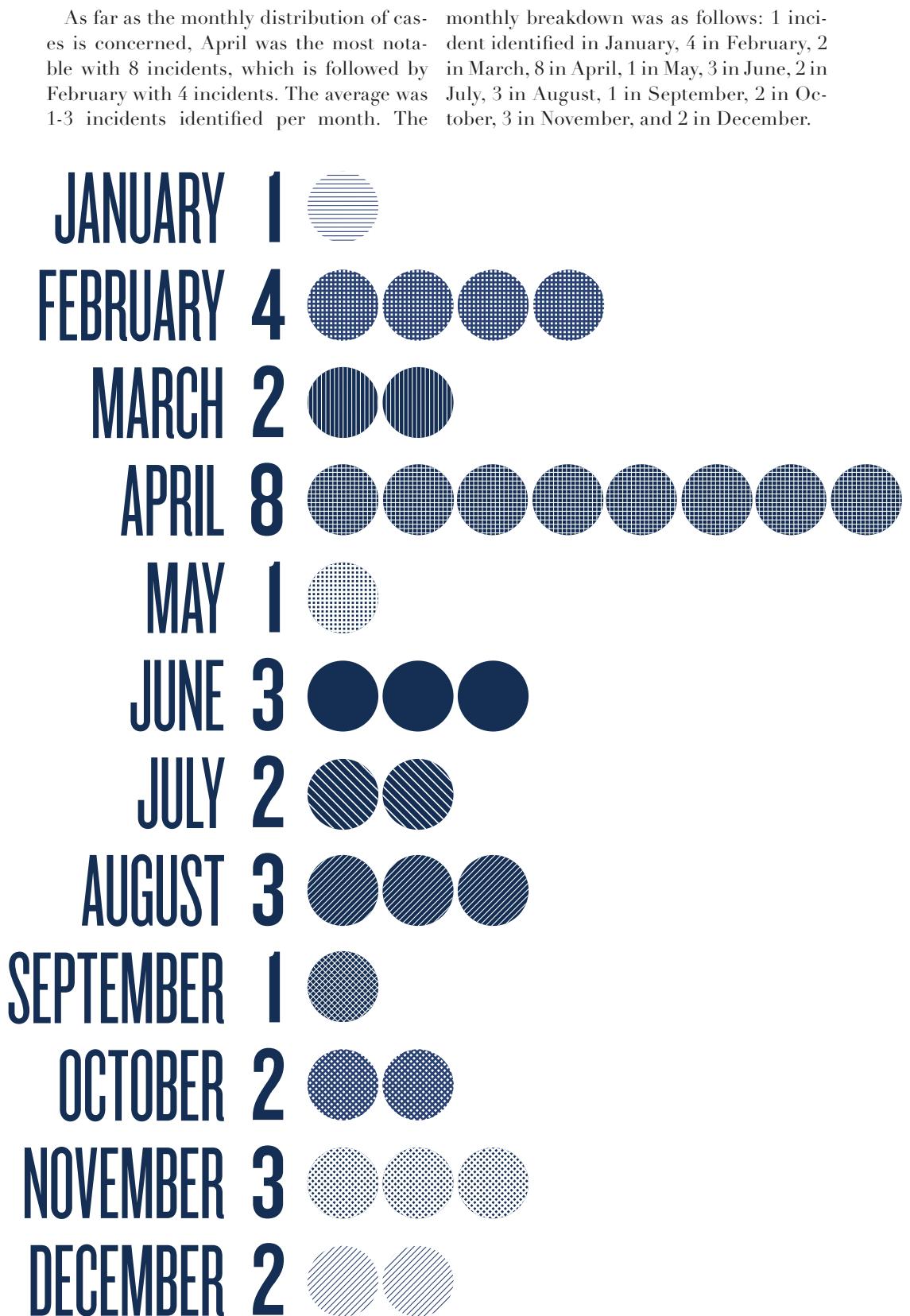
2014 32 

2015 43 

2016 37 

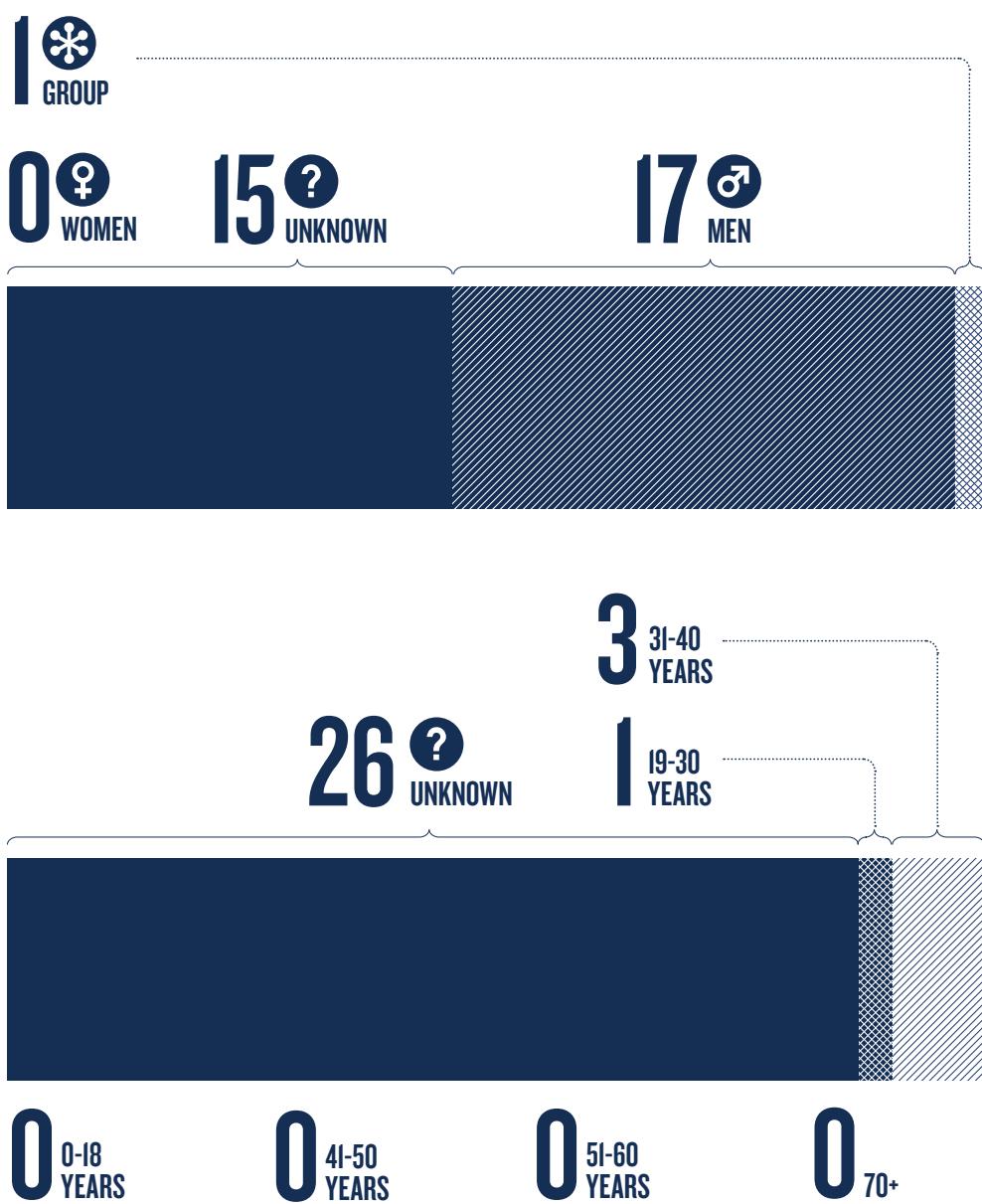
2017 24 

2018 19 



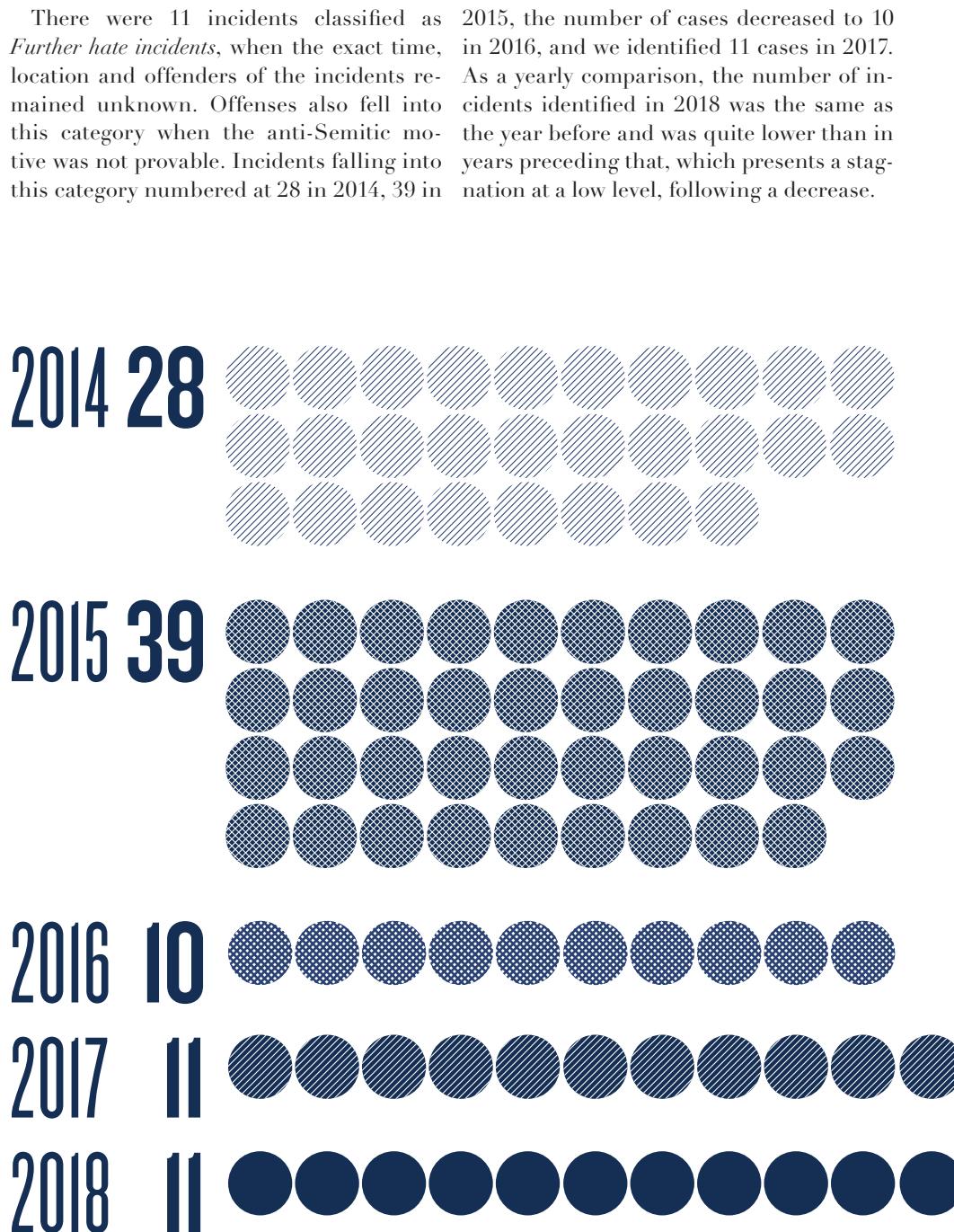
In 15 out of 32 cases, we were unable to identify offenders. Among known offenders, there weren't any women identified, the offender was a man in 17 cases, and a group of offenders were identified in one case. Based on an age-wise distribution, the age of the offenders remained

unknown in the majority (26) of the cases. There was 1 offender identified who was aged between 19-30, 3 individuals of 31-40 years of age, and statistically there were 3 individuals identified between the age of 51-60, yet it was the same person in 3 different cases – publicist Zsolt Bayer.



Most incidents identified were committed spontaneously. Some preparation could be presumed in certain cases – including, for ex-

ample, the cases of graffiti classified as damage to property, but none of the cases were detected as previously organized offenses.



There were 11 incidents classified as *Further hate incidents*, when the exact time, location and offenders of the incidents remained unknown. Offenses also fell into this category when the anti-Semitic motive was not provable. Incidents falling into this category numbered at 28 in 2014, 39 in

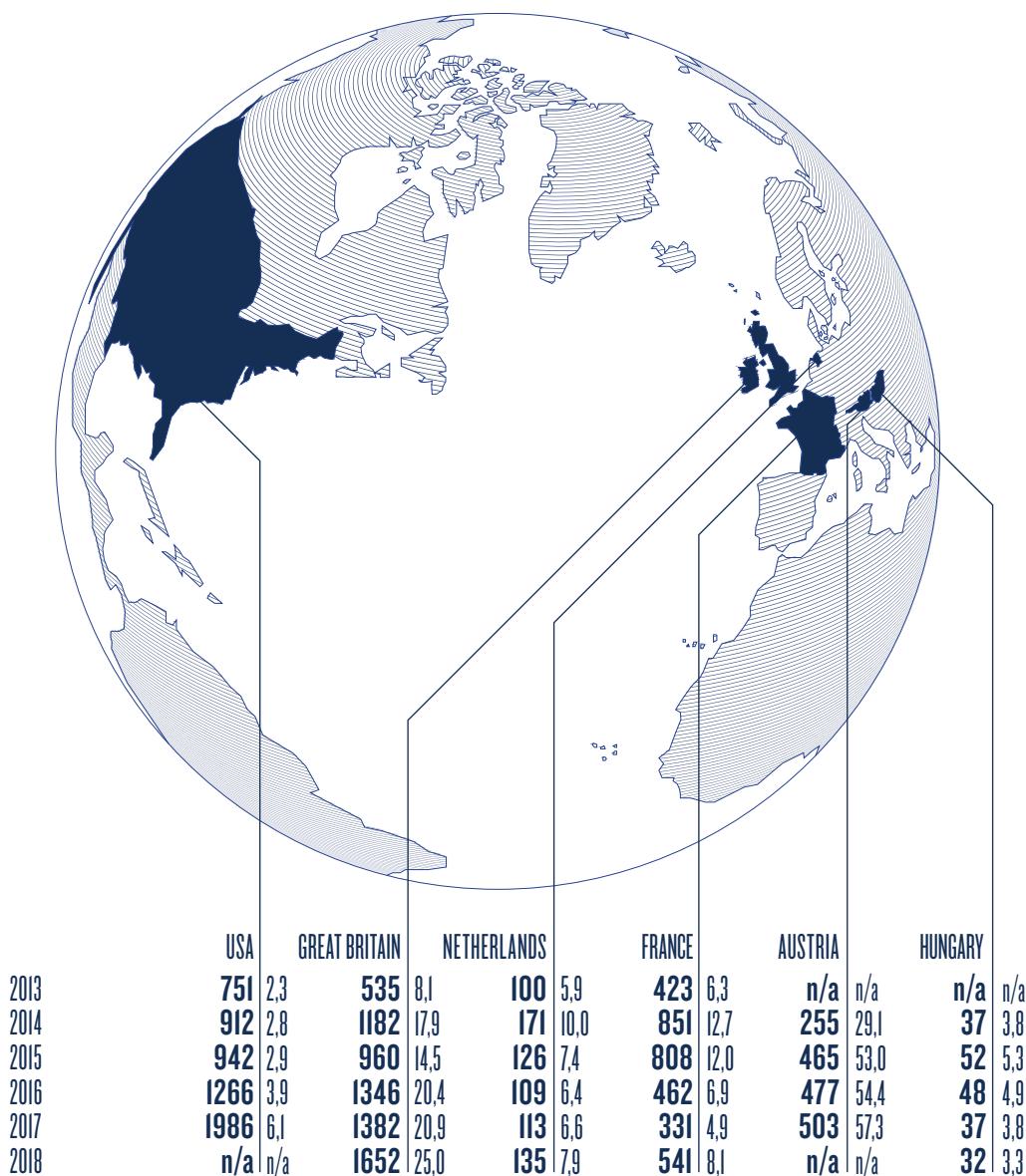
2015, the number of cases decreased to 10 in 2016, and we identified 11 cases in 2017. As a yearly comparison, the number of incidents identified in 2018 was the same as the year before and was quite lower than in years preceding that, which presents a stagnation at a low level, following a decrease.

APF initiated one legal proceeding in 2018, while one of our proceedings initiated in 2013 was suspended, and two others (initiated in 2011 and 2013) were terminated. There were no indictments made in 2018 in any of our legal proceedings initi- ated either this year or previously. Neither the court or the public prosecutor's office reached a final decision or imposed any. It is, however, important to mention that there is no uniform application of the law in the regard that although APF pressed

charges in a given case, we are not necessarily notified because the victim was the community. We began a judicial review proceeding regarding a foundation named after Bálint Hóman, and we pressed charges against a misleading business called the Shoah Cellar Museum. Both of the latter two initiatives were accepted and official procedures have begun.

Finally, we would like to present comparable data from countries which compile

annual statistics on the number of hate incidents. The first part of the table below presents the number of cases, while the bottom part shows the number of incidents per million inhabitants. In Hungary, there were 32 incidents registered in 2018, which means 3.3 cases per inhabitant. This figure is significantly lower than the same data in Western countries. It is the Jewish communities in France and Great-Britain which have become threatened in recent years.



CONTACT AND SUPPORT

Action and Protection Foundation is the civil initiative of a number of Jewish organizations that is ready to take resolute steps to curb increasing widespread anti-Semitic manifestations.

In case anyone faces insults or anti-Semitic 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) 5100 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: www.tev.hu/forrodrot
The Facebook page: www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany

Action and Protection Foundation'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:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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