

ANTI-SEMITIC HATE CRIMES  
AND INCIDENTS REPORT

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JULY 2019



BRUSSELS INSTITUTE



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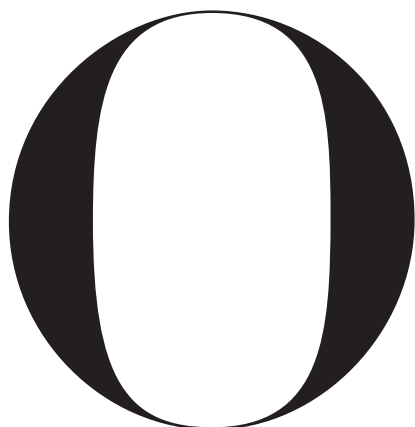
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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One of the most important requirements for the struggle against anti-Semitism is an investigation of the actual prevalence of anti-Semitism. One of the aims of Action and Protection Foundation is to eliminate ignorance of this issue. Instrumental in achieving this objective is the continuous professional monitoring of hate crimes that occur public life. The community cannot really be protected unless current information on anti-Semitic acts and other hate crimes are collected and analyzed. Results of the monitoring are published, monthly by the Foundation.

The reports deal with two forms of behavior: anti-Semitic hate crimes, and hate-motivated incidents. The report refers to both types of behavior as "*hate incidents*". An anti-Semitic hate crime is distinguished from other hate crime by possessing an anti-Semitic motive. Anti-Semitic hate crime is a violation of criminal law, yet not all hate-motivated acts

are regarded as criminal. Nevertheless, a record of both types of hate incidents is necessary in order to gain a general overview.

For the monitoring to have the widest possible scope, it is required that a variety of sources are used simultaneously. Apart from registering the incidents, it is important to record their particular characteristics. Data recorded includes the incident's location, perpetrator, victim, consequences. Also the types of the various incidents are differentiated.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified four incidents of anti-Semitic hate crime this month. The first two incidents are classified as hate speech. A graffiti saying "*Fags, pedophiles and George Soros should be in gas chambers where they belong*" was painted on the Monument to the Roma Victims of the Holocaust. A leader of Our Homeland Movement (Mi Hazánk Mozgalom) branded the European Maccabi Games "*discriminatory and racist*" while a leader of the Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIÉP) said this sporting event held in Budapest this year was the game of "*deviants and perverts*". The third case is classified as vandalism. Swastikas were painted on the building of a former synagogue and the wall of the local Fidesz seat in Tapolca. Leader of the political party in Tapolca filed a complaint, proceedings for damage to property were opened at the local police station. The fourth case is classified as assault. APF was notified of the incident through our hotline. The notifier shared they had been insulted,

threatened and physically attacked for their Jewish origin. The victim has daily contact with the offender as they live in the same building. The notifier also told us they had filed a complaint, but it had been dismissed. He or she then contacted Action and Protection Foundation and received legal assistance. The victim completed their complaint and proceedings are ongoing now, APF provides help to the victim of the incident.

The section titled Further Hate Incidents presents one case this month. A news portal reported about a video recording taken of a gas balloon with a swastika flag flying at the main entrance of Nyugati railway station in Budapest.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION

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The phenomenon of anti-Semitism is by no means new to Hungary. The hate speech encountered earlier has, however, become increasingly dominant in public life. The situation has improved since the Jobbik party, which openly declares anti-Semitic and racist views, only has twenty-five Members of Parliament as opposed to the forty-three they used to do. Yet, anti-Semitic hate speech is still uttered at their events. These circumstances brought Action and Protection Foundation into being. Among the forms of civil association offered by Hungarian law, Action and Protection Foundation chose the form of foundation; it was registered in November 2012. The Foundation seeks to provide an alternative to the ineffectual legal steps taken against deteriorating standards of public discourse, exclusion, and the ignorance in which

anti-Semitism is rooted, as well as atrocities and hate crimes.

### UNITY

Action and Protection Foundation is a registered civil organization. Among those actively participating in the work of the Foundation are status-quo/Chabad EMIH, the reform oriented Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation, as well as socially recognized emblematic personalities independent of these movements. Trustees of the Foundation represent the most important Jewish religious and cultural movements in Hungary, a symbolic expression of the fact that action on anti-Semitism is a cause shared by all.

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## BRUSSELS INSTITUTE

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The **Brussels Institute**, founded by **Action and Protection Foundation**, carries out monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crime in accordance with methods worked out and proposed by the **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**. In monitoring anti-Semitic phenomena the Institute records and analyzes them on the basis of information delivered by various standardized sources. The monitoring process, which categorizes incidents into seven different groups, relies on the following sources: the sources of the Institute's own Research and Incident Monitoring Group, information available in the press and public media, and relevant data to be found in judicial, criminal and other state administrative records in the framework of an agreement with these branches of government. The institute has

set up a now operational **HOTLINE** that can be reached by dialing the number (+36 1) 51 00 000, where incidents of anti-Semitic and anti-Jewish behavior can be reported.

Beyond regular publication of the monthly monitoring reports the Brussels Institute's research plan incorporates a comprehensive research project related to Jewry—using both quantitative and qualitative methods—, as well as a survey on the current situation concerning anti-Semitism that encompasses society as a whole. Furthermore, the program includes development of a differentiated training program that prepares different levels and participants of state administration for action and appropriate procedure on racist and anti-Semitic phenomena, in the form of teaching materials for the educational system and further training.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

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General opinion on, and treatment of Hungarian anti-Semitism is often unusually extreme. Voices are heard on the one hand, that belittle the importance of such offenses and manifestations. On the other hand, on occasion it may be the case that in relation to one-off incidents the image registered is of a public life deluged by such incidents. Knowledge of the actual situation is an indispensable condition for treatment of the real problems, which is why Action and Protection Foundation considers it its duty to provide as comprehensive an overview of the scale of anti-Semitism in Hungary as possible. Monitoring of anti-Semitic hate crimes and incidents<sup>1</sup> is one of the tools of achieving this objective. The monitoring results are published by the Foundation on a monthly basis. Apart from the monthly report, an annual summary review including more detailed analyses on the offenses committed in the course of the year is also prepared.

The fight against hate crimes bears exceptional importance, because they differ from other forms of criminal conduct. These crimes may be considered messages of a kind, and thus point beyond private actions. This additional import becomes manifest in various social realms: on the level of the individual, the group attacked, and of society as a whole. The victims may suffer a greater psychological and emotional trauma. In the case of these crimes not “only” the property, or physical integrity of victims is endangered, but also their self-respect. These offenses question the right of the individual to equality, even of belonging to society itself. It is important that in the course of such crimes the victims are the target of attacks because of some unchangeable characteristic, and for this reason may well feel more defenseless. The victims are often afraid that they may again become victims of further atrocities. Inappropriate

handling of such incidents can easily lead to a secondary victimization of the targeted person. This type of criminal act also has a strong effect on the group to which the victim belongs. The victims of such crimes are often interchangeable, because in countless cases the attack does not target a certain individual, but anyone who, in the given instance, is a member of the group under attack. In the event, members of the group also become involved emotionally, and might live in fear of the future when they themselves may become the target of such prejudice-motivated crimes. This is especially true of groups, which have been exposed to prejudice for a long time. There is no need to justify at length that Jewry belongs among such groups. These crimes violate the norm that holds the members of society equal. Inadequate handling of such incidents can have grave consequences for the whole of society. It may on the one hand, encourage the perpetrators, or even others to commit further crimes in the same mold. On the other, it significantly diminishes the cohesive power of society (Levin and McDevitt 1999, 92–93; OSCE/ODIHR 2009a, 19–21; OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 17–18; Perry 2001, 10).

It may be stated in general that fewer hate crimes are reported, and in the event documented, than are committed. Victims often do not report them to the police. A number of reasons may cause this implicitly. Firstly, many do not feel assured that the authorities will treat these incidents adequately, either because they are not sufficiently prepared, or due to prejudice. Certainly there are many victims who are not clear about the applicable legal regulations. Victims may feel shame, or fear that one of their concealed traits will be exposed. Lesser categorizations of the crimes are also frequent, where official authorities do not establish the hate-crime motivation. It is

<sup>1</sup> See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.



civil organizations that can help remedy these problems. Cooperation with state organs—such as the police, or the Public Prosecutor’s office—may be particularly beneficial.<sup>2</sup> Reports prepared by civil organizations can be expedient in alerting the official authorities to hate motivated crimes in the country. Long-term

tendencies can be outlined on the basis of the collected data. Civil organizations can help in setting particular cases on track for legal process, may provide legal defense for the victims, and give various other forms of aid. These organizations may also serve as intermediaries between the victims and the police (OSCE/ODIHR 2009b, 34–36).

<sup>2</sup> A great example of the above can be found in the Community Security Trust (CST) and cooperation between the London and the Manchester police forces. (CST 2013)

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## METHODOLOGY<sup>3</sup>

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The report deals with two types of offense: hate crimes and hate motivated incidents. These are defined by EBESZ as follows<sup>4</sup> (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 people<sup>5</sup>
- hate-motivated incident: an offense, also based on prejudice against a certain 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. Hungarian criminal legislation identifies two forms of hate crime: violent offenses committed against the member of a group, and incitement to hatred of a community. The recently adopted Criminal Code (Act C of 2012) deals with these in Chapter XXI, Paragraph 216, on crimes against human dignity and certain basic rights, as well as Chapter XXXII, Paragraph 332, on crimes against public peace. The crime of violence against a member of a group may be established if the perpetrator assaults or otherwise coerces the victim, because they belong to a protected group. Additionally, this is also the case if the perpetrator demonstrates provocative behavior against a community that is apt to cause alarm. The crime is only affected if there is a concrete victim. Incitement against a community most often means hate speech, and it can only be defined as such on the condition that it is committed in public. Incitement to hate crimes does not target concrete individuals but a group of people. It is important to add that other crimes may also be categorized as having been committed

on racist motives. In such cases the courts must pass a heavier sentence<sup>6</sup> (TASZ 2012, 3–4). Apart from these, Paragraph 333 of the Criminal Code also describes the crime of denial of the crimes of the National Socialist regime. Furthermore, Paragraph 335 bans the distribution and use in wide public, or public display of the symbols of various autocratic regimes (among them the swastika, the SS insignia, arrow-cross).

Our report contains detailed descriptions of the definition of hate incidents and our approach to solving the problem. The report also cites a variety of international, independent sources. The present 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 important 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. In the course of monitoring, on one hand, all incidents that fall in the category of hate crime are considered hate incidents. These may be crimes identified as such by the Criminal Code (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), 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 recorded during the monitoring period<sup>7</sup> are used as the basis for examining whether the given action could have been motivated by anti-Semitism.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> The Criminal Code does not include racist motives verbatim, but for example the case of "contemptible motive" is fulfilled, if someone commits a crime out of such a motivation.

<sup>7</sup> These are described in the *Methodology* section.

For the widest possible scope in monitoring anti-Semitic hate incidents the simultaneous use of a variety of sources is required. The victims' filed reports are of especially great importance to this study. If the victim cannot, or does not want to file a report with the Brussels Institute, the involvement of an intermediary may be facilitated to gain information. Such an intermediary may be a family member, acquaintance of the victim, a witness of the incident or another civil organization. The earlier mentioned 24-hours-a-day Hotline operated by the Foundation serves to ease the passage of reports. Additionally there are options for on-line filing of reports, which allow even greater anonymity for the person placing the report.

It is a declared objective of the Foundation to keep in touch with the authorities, since they are the most likely to be first approached by victims or witnesses.

A variety of media channels also represent important 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, so called, online hatred, which seems currently to have become an ever-increasing threat.

Monitoring of these media channels is covered in part by a paid team of experts within a professional framework, while volunteers are involved additionally in the media watch, sending information gained on to the Brussels Institute for processing. It is an aim to cover an 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 networking pages and extreme, hate inciting websites. The monitoring process is carried through systematically, according to precisely prepared standards.

Among the monitored hate incidents there are some that are considered a part of the statistics, but there are also some that are recorded, though not counted as part of the statistics<sup>8</sup>.

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

- Only hate incidents that occurred in Hungary; no matter whether the victim is a Hungarian citizen or not
- Any action, incident, atrocity that is aimed at Jewish individuals, organizations or property where an anti-Semitic 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, explicit anti-Semitic message was paired with the vandalism [for example, a Jewish synagogue's window is broken with a stone])
- Anti-Semitic comments that have been reported to Action and Protection Foundation appearing on blogs, fora, community pages
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material delivered to particular Jewish individuals, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi material deposited at Jewish-owned property, Jewish organizations, institutions
- Criticism related to Israel and Zionism, if they go beyond a political statement and serve to recall traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes
- Events apt to raise fear among Jews.

Hate incidents that are not accounted for in the statistics<sup>9</sup> :

- Anti-Semitic hate incidents that are related to Hungary and Hungarian Jewry, but for some reason do not belong to the scope of the statistics (e.g., they did not occur in Hungary, anti-Semitic intent cannot be proven, or the circumstances are unclear)
- Expressions of hate that appear regularly on homepages, in comments and online fora, and have not been personally reported to Action and Protection Foundation.
- Other news that is only indirectly linked to anti-Semitism

A number of the aspects of the registered in-

<sup>8</sup> The following were used to develop these criteria: ADL 2012, CST 2013

<sup>9</sup> 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.

idents are recorded. The indicators that help decide whether a given incident was motivated by prejudice have been mentioned earlier. 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—possibly legal—consequences.

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 follows (CEJI 2012, 10–12):

- 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 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<sup>10</sup>. In presenting time lines, attention will always be given to showing the dynamics of the events.

<sup>10</sup> These descriptions in particular are held to be a most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

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## ANTI-SEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

### – JULY 2019

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Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified four anti-Semitic hate crimes over the course of its monitoring activities in July. The incidents are classified as hate speech, damage to property and assault.

#### HATE SPEECH

*Hateful graffiti on Monument to the Roma Victims of the Holocaust*

Source: facebook.com

**9 July 2019** Graffiti with hate speech was painted on the Monument to the Roma Victims of the Holocaust. Unknown offenders painted



source: facebook.com

"Fags, pedophiles and George Soros should be in gas chambers where they belong" on the monument symbolizing a burning furnace of the crematoria in concentration camps. Roma rights advocate Jenő Setét reported the incident on his social

networking site and warranted they would remove the graffiti as usual.

*Our Homeland Movement and MIÉP protested "discriminatory and racist Jewish Olympics"*

Source: MTI

**31 July 2019** Two extremist parties, Our Homeland Movement (Mi Hazánk Mozgalom) and the Hungarian Justice and Life Party (MIÉP) said they found it unacceptable Hungarian taxpayers' money goes to organize and hold the European Maccabi Games in Budapest. They believe the "Jewish Olympics"

are "discriminatory and racist". Vice-President of Our Homeland Movement Előd Novák and President of MIÉP Tibor Nagy talked about this in their speeches given at a press conference in front of Ludovika Campus hosting the Games.

Előd Novák said that if the Jewish community has enough money to acquire Hungary, as former President of Israel Shimon Peres once stated, their "discriminatory event" should not be financed by Hungarian taxpayers.

President of MIÉP Tibor Nagy stated that the Maccabi Games was not a sporting event but a week-long rampage openly featuring deviants and perverts and denying European Christian values. Therefore, it seriously provokes the Hungarian nation – claimed the politician. MIÉP will bring the matter to the European Court of Human Rights and the UN because of the "apartheid" committed, and they call for every decent sportsman and their supporters to boycott the Games.

During the press conference, activists of Our Homeland Movement were holding a banner saying "Maccabi = publicly funded discrimination".

#### VANDALISM

*Swastikas painted on former synagogue and party seat in Tapolca*

Source: nepszava.hu; 888.hu; police.hu; veol.hu

**9, 23, 29 July 2019**

During the night of 8 to 9 July, swastikas were painted on the building of the former synagogue and the wall of the local Fidesz seat in Tapolca. Leader of the local Fidesz committee filed a



Wall of Fidesz seat in Tapolca: source: nepszava.hu

complaint and proceedings were opened for damage to property.

President of Fidesz-KDNP in Tapolca



László Császár told MTI that Fidesz-KDNP condemns all such actions and they distance themselves from individuals using totalitarian symbols and damaging the town.

The press service of Veszprém County Police said to MTI that Tapolca Police Station began proceedings against an unknown individual on suspicion of damage to property. According to information received on the spot, offenders painted one swastika on the wall of the Fidesz seat and three swastikas on the building of the former synagogue, but all four are now painted over with finishing paint.

A few days later, Tapolca Police Station issued a statement saying they caught two 29-year-old men, one of them is a resident of Tapolca and the other is of Zirc. The two men were caught in their homes on 22 July 2019 and were interrogated as suspects at Tapolca Police Station. The man from Tapolca was detained. Criminal proceedings are ongoing against both men on reasonable suspicion of damage to property.

On 29 July, the association called Szeretem a Városom Egyesület (I Love My Town Association) commemorated local victims of the Holocaust by lighting candles

and protested peacefully against hatred, discrimination and the use of swastikas. Secretary of APF Kálmán Szalai said at the event that this incident of people painting the terrible symbol of the past century on

a synagogue means that darkness can still sneak into our lives. Everyone needs to take responsibility for this and fighting against such incidents is everyone's duty.

## ASSAULT

*APF notified of assault with ant-Semitic motive*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation

**29 July 2019** APF received notification of an assault with anti-Semitic motives through our hotline. The notifier told us they had been insulted, threatened and physically attacked, partly because of their heritage. The victim of the incident has daily contact with the offender as they live in the same building. The notifier informed us they had filed a complaint, but it had been dismissed. It was after this they contacted us, and APF now

provides legal assistance to the victim, who completed their complaint and proceedings are now ongoing for assault.



Mayor candidate Róbert Bognár and Kálmán Szalai lit candles together

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## FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

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During July 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incident of anti-Semitic hate crime, which is classified as hate crime but we do not include it in our most recent statistics due to its insignificant nature, the lack of clear anti-Semitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

*Gas balloon with swastika flag noticed at Nyugati railway station*

Source: 444.hu

**16 July 2019** 444.hu news portal reported that one of their readers sent them a video recording he or she had taken of a flying swastika flag at the main entrance of Nyugati railway station.

We do not have further information about the incident.



source: 444.hu/youtube.com

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## COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

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*Young Jewish Europeans concerned about growing anti-Semitism*

Source: MTI

**4 July 2019** Over 80% of young Jews living in the European Union say anti-Semitism is a problem in their countries – revealed a survey published by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).

83% of young Jewish Europeans (aged 16-34) living in EU member states believe anti-Semitism has grown in the past five years. Respondents see online interactions and environments particularly problematic: 89% think anti-Semitic manifestations on the internet and social media are concerning. Four in five respondents believe racism to be a problem in their countries.

*"We must fight anti-Semitism more effectively by tackling it at its roots, no matter how difficult that is"* – says Director of FRA Michael O'Flaherty in his foreword to the report. O'Flaherty also wrote *"We hope this report encourages policymakers to intensify their efforts in these areas"*.

Researchers studied data accumulated from 2,707 individuals. At the time of data collection, most respondents lived in France (436) and Germany (397). The survey was also conducted in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland, Latvia, Hungary, Italy, Spain and Sweden.

Based on the report, approximately a million Jews live in the countries of the European Union today.

*APF research: Anti-Semitic prejudice in contemporary Hungarian society*

Source: Action and Protection Foundation; atv.hu

**9 and 12 July** The proportion of Hungarians agreeing with anti-Semitic prejudice has not changed significantly but the number of those who deny or relativize the Holocaust grows year by year – stated

the report of Median Public Opinion and Market Research Institute after they conducted a survey on behalf of Action and Protection Foundation on *"Anti-Semitic prejudice in contemporary Hungarian society"*. The results of the survey were published by most Hungarian press organs, too.

It was the seventh time APF prepared an annual research report. Results of our research revealed that between 2017 and 2018, the judgment of Israel improved among Hungarians. It was also shown that the proportion of people who think positively about Israel grew (from 3% to 9%), while the increase among those with negative attitudes towards Israel was negligible (from 4% to 5%).

The proportion of people who agree with statements saying the Jews living here are more loyal to Israel than to Hungary and that Israel is an aggressor against Palestinians decreased in the overall population. Yet, the number of respondents who believe Israel is a legitimate and rightful prosecutor of a self-defending war grew. Besides all this, half of the population agree that Jews are more threatened in certain countries of Western Europe than in Hungary. Another intriguing conclusion of the research, which needs to be studied further, is that moderately anti-Semitic respondents were the most accepting towards Israel's self-defending war.

It is an ongoing and common debate whether the so-called anti-Soros campaign caused a rise in anti-Semitism. It has not changed that only 1% of the overall population associate George Soros with the Jewish community. Interestingly, this proportion is only marginally higher (2%) among strongly anti-Semitic respondents and Jobbik supporters.

One question asked, *"What comes first to your mind when you hear George Soros's name?"* Just like last year, 2% of the overall population said it was the Jewish community. The highest proportion is



among people who have prejudice against the Jews, but even among them, only 5% associated it with Jews when they heard the businessman's name.

On the other hand, the popularity of statements denying or relativizing the Holocaust shows rather negative tendencies. Since 2006, the proportions have never been as high as they are today: 15% believe there were no gas chambers in the death camps, 21% think that a great majority of horrifying stories of the Holocaust were made up by the Jews afterwards, and 26% agree that the number of Jewish victims was a lot lower than it is generally stated. All three categories have record number of respondents compared to previous years.

Similar to previous results, 55% think that so many decades after the Holocaust, this issue should now be removed from the agenda. It is interesting to note, however, that while 42% said in 2017 that more should be taught about the Holocaust in schools, 50% of respondents agreed with this statement last year.<sup>11</sup>

APF Secretary Kálmán Szalai was interviewed about the research in the program entitled 'Start' on ATV. *"Xenophobia would find fertile ground in Hungary and this may affect a number of minorities. Anti-Semitism is difficult to be defined, it is usually general xenophobia that manifests as anti-Semitism"*, said the Secretary.

Szalai also said the number of people denying or relativizing the Holocaust has indeed doubled in the past ten years. With regards to education, the Secretary stated that some think more while others believe less should be talked about the Holocaust, so our lesson is we talk about it in a wrong way. Szalai also mentioned that the past four years was a waste of time, even regarding the debate around the House of Fates, which should now be opened as soon as possible.

Szalai was asked whether the anti-Soros campaign had an effect on anti-Semitism. In his reply, the Secretary recalled the results of our research and shared that

only 1% of respondents associated to Soros when hearing the word 'Jew', and 2% associated to the Jewish community when they heard Soros's name. *"Even if many of us dislike the campaign, the type of anti-Semitic motivation we hear from many people especially in other countries, cannot be found in it."*

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## OFFICIAL AND CIVIL RESPONSES

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*New protocol on tackling hate crime incidents*

Source: kozlonyok.hu; merce.hu

**16 July 2019** A new police protocol will enter into force on 1 Aug 2019 to make it easier for policemen to effectively carry out their tasks when they are faced with hate crime incidents – reported Magyar Közlöny.

*“Criminal penalties for hate crimes are important because prejudice motivated crimes not only traumatize victims but threaten their whole community. Offenders are held liable only in a small minority of hate crime incidents committed in Hungary, and even in such cases, penalties are usually much less severe than the offenses themselves. Tackling hate crimes is also greatly hindered by the lack of trust in authorities because of which victims usually do not report incidents.”* – highlighted the Gyűlölet-bűncselekmények Elleni Munkacsoport (Task Force on Hate Crimes), which has been cooperating with human rights civil society groups since 2012 to take more and more effective actions against hate crimes.

The task force hopes 10 years after the racism-motivated series of murders against the Roma, the very first Hungarian hate crime protocol will help to prevent serious racist, homophobic or any other prejudice motivated crimes. Or, in case such crimes are committed, investigating authorities will be able to identify them and take effective action against the offenders.

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## ACTION AND PROTECTION FOUNDATION LEGAL ACTIONS

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*Complaint filed for physical assault*

Source:

Action and Protection Foundation

**29 July 2019** APF received notification of an assault with anti-Semitic motives through our hotline. The notifier told us they had been insulted, threatened and physically attacked, partly because of their heritage. The victim of the incident has daily contact with the offender as they live in the same building. The notifier also informed us they had filed a complaint, but it had been dismissed.

Action and Protection Foundation provides legal assistance to the victim, who completed their complaint, and proceedings are now ongoing.

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## THE MONTH'S CHRONICLE

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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.	4th of July	Young Jewish Europeans concerned about growing anti-Semitism	Community News And Responses
2.	9th of July	Hateful graffiti on Monument to the Roma Victims of the Holocaust	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	9; 23; 29th of July	Swastikas painted on former synagogue and party seat in Tapolca	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Vandalism
4.	9 and 12th of July	APF research: Anti-Semitic prejudice in contemporary Hungarian society	Community News And Responses
5.	16th of July	Gas balloon with swastika flag noticed at Nyugati railway station	Further Hate Incident
6.	16th of July	New protocol on tackling hate crime incidents	Official and Civil Responses
7.	29th of July	APF notified of assault with anti-Semitic motive	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Assault
8.	29th of July	Complaint filed for physical assault	APF Legal Action
9.	31th of July	Our Homeland Movement and MIÉP protested “discriminatory and racist Jewish Olympics”	Anti-semitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech



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## 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) 5 1 00 000

The website of Action and Protection Foundation: [www.tev.hu/forrodrot](http://www.tev.hu/forrodrot)  
The Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/tev-tett-es-vedelem-alapitvany](https://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

Contact details for Action and Protection Foundation  
Address: Baross utca 61, 1082 Budapest, HUNGARY  
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2019 Budapest

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