

ANTISEMITIC HATE CRIMES
AND INCIDENTS REPORT
IN HUNGARY

DECEMBER 2019



ACTION AND PROTECTION
LEAGUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Excecutive Summary	5
Action and Protection League	7
About the Report	8
Methodology	10
Antisemitic Hate Incidents – December 2019	13
Hate Speech	13
Further Hate Incidents	15
Community News and Civil Respones	16
News and Opinions About Antisemitism In Hungary	18
Other News	19
Action and Protection Foundation Legal Actions	20
The Month's Chronicle	21
Contact and Support	23
References	23
Contributors and Publisher Information	25

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 are published in monthly reports, and a summary of the findings is published for the individual countries/regions in a yearly report.

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 is 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.

Action and Protection Foundation (APF) identified three incidents of antisemitic hate crime this month. All three incidents are classified as hate speech. In the first case, Lajos Kósa, in his speech at the renewal congress of Fidelitas, made antisemitic remarks. His comment, “*the Jews were compelled to and might have even enjoyed voting for the ‘knight’ of the Arrow Cross, thus delegating him to the General Assembly of Hajdú-Bihar County,*” referred to Gergely Kulcsár, a right-wing representative who was known for his antisemitic remarks. In the second case, the author of a newspaper article stated, “*Let’s admit, this is the well-structured plan of the Rothschilds, the Goldsmiths, the Soros, etc. - that is, the global elite.*” In the third case, someone scribbled “*Jews are murderers*” on the pedestal of Makó’s Jewish monument,

resembling the Star of David.

This month, there is one news item in the *Further Hate Incidents* section. This section includes news items and events that are hate crimes, however, because their time of occurrence is unknown, or due to insignificance or lack of clear antisemitic intent, they are not part of the statistics.

This month no new legal proceedings were initiated by the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), and no progress was made in previous cases.

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 Antizionism 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.

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 fac-

³ See detailed definitions in the *Methodology* section.

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

tor 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

⁵ 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.

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

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 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 as-

sumed 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 antijewish 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

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.

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.

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.

¹⁰ CEJL 2012, 10–12

¹¹ These descriptions, in particular, are held to be the most positive aspect of the Anti-Defamation League reports by Perry (2001, 18).

ANTISEMITIC HATE INCIDENTS

– DECEMBER 2019

Action and Protection League found three antisemitic hate incidents over the course of its monitoring activities in December. The incidents are classified as hate speech.

HATE SPEECH

APF and Slomó Köves responded to Lajos Kósa's speech – the politician finally apologized

Source: neokohn.hu;

Action and Protection Foundation; MTI; facebook.com; atv.hu

1-3 December 2019 As we related in our November report, Lajos Kósa analyzed the results of the municipal elections in his speech delivered at the Fidelitas Congress. He engaged in a lengthy discussion about how the political conditions had changed, saying that *“the Jews were compelled to and might have even enjoyed voting for the ‘knight’ of the Arrow Cross, thus delegating him to the General Assembly of Hajdú-Bihar County.”* He went on to name Gergely Kulcsár, a right-wing representative who was known for his antisemitic remarks.

Our foundation also issued a statement: *“75 years after the Holocaust, remarks on issues concerning Jewry should only be made with thoughtfulness and due regard, no one should use the Jewish community as a tool in their daily power struggles!”* Furthermore, it is crucial that Kósa's statement is *“in many aspects, offensive to the Jewish community, inaccurate and contains unhealthy political connotations. (...) The ‘Jews’ in Hajdú-Bihar County could not vote for anyone, as they were deported to the death camp by German Nazis and Hungarian collaborators precisely 75 years ago. It violates their memory to speak of the martyrs in such a voice these days”.*

Slomó Köves, the chief rabbi of EMIH, condemned Kósa's statements in his article in Neokohn. *“It would be quite sad if it would not be possible to criticize the post-liberalism undermining European civilization with great*

vigor, without antisemitic clichés,” he wrote. He added, *“it is known that there are no Jews in Hajdú-Bihar County: There are none because they were deported to death camps and murdered within a few days to 75 years ago. Given this fact, they could not have voted in the last local elections in October 2019. So far, it's as trivial as it is sad.”* Finally, he also voiced his opinion that, as a Jew, he did not vote and would not vote for any ‘knights’ of the Arrow Cross. *“I reject, not just as a Jew, but as a rabbi, that the immorality or even just the burden of inconsistency of any Hungarian political party be collectively transferred to the Jews by anyone,”* he added.

“We surely cannot talk about Jews as a homogeneous entity; belonging to a specific party; having a specific opinion that they all share,” said Slomo Köves in ATV's Straight Speech program. *“It would not be good if language identifiers were reintroduced,”* the rabbi added. In his view, a party that based its entire existence on a racist ideology in Hungary was rightly condemned in the past. However, the fact that the Left and the Liberal parties were allied with them legitimized these views. *“Even in Lajos Kósa's case, if someone allows himself to use such tone and language, it derives from the fact that the clear-cut boundaries have been removed,”* he said. He believes that to have clear boundaries, there should have been a clear separation from parties that represent unacceptable ideologies. *“Asking for an apology*

does have some consequences after all,” he added. He called it sad that the participants of the congress were laughing and applauding the words of Lajos Kósa.

The president of Mazsihisz (Federation of Hungarian Jewish Communities) asked three questions on his Facebook page. In these questions, he asked whether Lajos Kósa knew that Jews had been deported from his county to Auschwitz in 1944. And that with a few hundred people, the descendants of the remaining Jews, it was impossible to win or lose municipal elections. *“Or has the proclaimed ‘zero tolerance’ been simply publicly*

denounced?” he asked finally.

Lajos Kósa eventually apologized on his community site. *“In my speech at Saturday’s Fidelitas event, I was referring to, in an ambiguous way perhaps, to how cooperation within the opposition also extends to the right-wing, legitimizing those who previously ridiculed our Jewish compatriots lost in the Holocaust. If I have insulted even one single Hungarian Jewish fellow citizen by my words and phrases, I apologize to them,”* he said in the statement.

Open antisemitic incitement in an article published in the Magyar Nemzet

Source: 444.hu; atv.hu; magyarnemzet.hu

9 December 2019; 13 December 2019 Political scientist Tamás Fricz attacked Greta Thunberg with a classic antisemitic topos in Magyar Nemzet. Fricz analyzes a paragraph of the article published by climate activist Greta Thunberg and two other colleagues on the news site Project Syndicate at the end of November.

In his opinion piece, Fricz writes, *“if Greta Thunberg speaks from this sacred position in the next period, and the cosmopolitan Y and Z generations of the world will listen to her from New York to Budapest as if she was indeed telling truths that were truly irrefutable. (...) Let’s admit, this is the well-structured plan of the Rothschilds, the Goldsmiths, the Soros, etc. - that is, the global elite.”*

Few have elaborated on an old antisemitic conspiracy theory about the world government more clearly and by listing more Jewish names. What’s unique about Fricz’s writing is that he tries to base the ancient accusation on a quote that is simply not about what he claims it is, added the 444.hu publicist.

Jewish monument scribbled over in Makó

Source: delmagyar.hu

17 December 2019 In Csanád vezér Square, someone scribbled *‘Jews are murderers’* on the pedestal of the Makó Jewish mon-

ument, resembling the Star of David, reports *delmagyar.hu*. The antisemitic inscription was removed the same day, because of the newspaper’s report.

The Jewish monument of Makó stands at the site of the former Neolog synagogue on Csanád vezér Square, directly in front of the Makó police headquarters building. In black letters, presumably in graphite, someone wrote *“Jews are murderers”* on the pedestal that is shaped like the Star of David, and that has a sculpture resembling the building of the synagogue in its center. This had not been the first case, nevertheless, the inscription was quickly removed.

The county police headquarters informed the newspaper that the Makó Police Department initiated the prosecution of the case for criminal damage to property. The police have pledged to pay even more attention to the immediate surroundings of the memorial.

In 2013, an association named after the highly respected rabbi Dr. Ármin Keckeméti, currently operating as a group of friends who revere the traditions of the Mako Jewish community. It was initiated the

creation of a memorial to honor the demolished temple and the Jewish community of the past in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Neolog synagogue and the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in 2014.



source: delmagyar.hu

FURTHER HATE INCIDENTS

During the December 2019 monitoring, Action and Protection Foundation identified one incidents. We did not include them in our most recent statistics due to their insignificant nature, the lack of clear antisemitic motive or because the time of the incident is unknown.

Mazsihisz Rabbi (would have) organized a common prayer evening with antisemitic Palestinian

Source: neokohn.hu; facebook.com

22 December 2019 There was an event on the social media page of the Hunyadi Square Synagogue listing a “*prayer evening of Abrahamic religions*” to be organized in January 2020. The organizers included Gábor Fináli, rabbi of the Hunyadi Square Synagogue, and Basil Hararah, a Palestinian activist in Hungary, reported Neokohn.

In 2016, Hararah already caused a minor scandal, when during a demonstration in Budapest, where participants spoke in favor of receiving refugees, he stepped on stage and accused the State of Israel of aimlessly killing Palestinians. At the event, a poem by the Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish was also recited. The poet is known for fantasizing in one of his poems that “*the meat of the usurpers (that is, the Israelis) will be my food.*”

In April 2018 APF also reported on Hararah for posting antisemitic content, and his activities.

Finally, the event was cancelled, and also deleted from the social media page.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND RESPONSES

Kálmán Szalai: “Under the name of Action and Protection League, a new international organization was formed.”

Source: zsidó.com

16 December 2019 In 2019, Action and Protection Foundation moved its operations to the international arena and began to establish offices in European Union countries.

News about the foundation has increasingly featured countries joining the international activities of APF, and new places APF has introduced its educational projects in. *Zsidó.com* interviewed APF secretary Kálmán



forrás:tevh.hu

Szalai about APF’s new role and experiences on the European Union scene and their work in Hungary.

In the report, Szalai recounts that in recent years, as a result of the changing demographics of Europe and the intensification of migration processes, violent antisemitic incidents have intensified. It has become necessary to set up a European organization based on unified professional standards capable of investigating, researching, and developing effective responses to 21st-century European antisemitism. Per APF’s Hungarian practice, the operation of the Action and Protection League is based on three core activities: education, legal protection, and monitoring research.

“First, we will be preparing the antisemitic incident monitoring report for European countries, and we will conduct research on antisemitic prejudice in 16 countries in the first half of next year,” stated Szalai. He also added that they planned to enlarge the scope of the League with an office representing it in Brussels and an organically expanding the European network. *“Preparations for this*

have already started, first, we are working on the already mentioned monthly incident reports in six other European countries: in addition to the Visegrád countries, Austria, Romania, Norway, and Sweden are included,” he added. He also said that professional management is based on APF’s Hungarian practice, *“but we have trained local experts everywhere, naturally involving the local Jewish communities.”*

“The mission of the League is to ensure the protection of Jewish communities by using the European legal system, the results of science and the means of education to take action against antisemitic hatred at both EU and Member State level.” He added that the League is

cooperating with the European Jewish Association, a European Jewish advocacy organization based in Brussels that shares this mission. *“We are building on them to expand our network and we are also cooperating in organizing a curriculum review project that is managed by the Action and Protection League, and no longer by the foundation. So, it is a project of our European organization.”*

Jewish leaders met in Paris for a conference on countering antisemitism

Source: huppa.hu; covingtonjournal.com

18 December 2019 The World Zionist Organization’s (WZO) Paris Conference had been convened because of rising antisemitism around the world and was attended by 130 representatives from Jewish organizations of 16 different countries.

Aliza Bin-Noun, Israel’s Ambassador to France, Joel Margui, Head of the Consistoire (French Jewry) and Boaz Bismuth, Editor-in-Chief of *Israel Hayom* were also present at the meeting. Hungary was represented

by Kálmán Szalai, President of the Likud Hungary Association and Secretary of APF, who attended the conference and held bilateral discussions with organizations discussing the future framework of cooperation and operational activities.

Yaakov Hagoel, Chairman of the WZO, stated that *“the existence of this conference demonstrates that through unity, we can show the biggest strength and prevail.”* He stated that the ratio of antisemitic hate crimes had increased, but he believed the real number to be higher since many victims did not report the atrocities they had suffered. He added that social media was one of the most popular platforms to spread hate speech.

Yaakov Hagoel, Chairman of the WZO in closing the conference, gave the floor to Boaz Bismuth, who said that *“the world respects those who respect themselves. Jewish pride and Zionist identity are the tools we need to fight antisemitism.”*

The Zalaegerszeg Holocaust Monument was re-established

Source: zaol.hu

21 December 2019 Those who do not know history are doomed to relive it. This common saying was quoted in his speech by Deputy Mayor Zoltán Bali, who emphasized that we must remember the dark times of our past, and teach its history to our young people because that is the only hope that the dark-age will not be repeated. It is possible to create a constructive society through cooperation and the co-existence of nationalities, churches, and denominations.

This is what Zalaegerszeg’s local municipality believes in and promotes, and the restoration of the monument is also a symbol of

this, he emphasized.

The memorial was erected in honor of Jewish victims on the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust in 2005 in a park. The park has been called Park of Hope since November 2011. The bronze monument features two stone blocks evoking Moses’s stone tablets and bare the name of the 878 citizens

of Zalaegerszeg deported to concentration camps in 1944. The jacket, hat, and shoes lying orphaned in front of the stone blocks indicate destruction, the extermination of the innocent.

Under the Hebrew inscription of the column that holds the candlestick, the menorah reads *“Even the stone cries out of the wall.”*

The monument has been damaged in 31 cases since it was erected, parts have been broken, items stolen, and trash dumped on it, wrote zaol.hu. The municipality has restored the troubled memento, the security of which is already monitored by cameras. István Goldschmied of Keszthely, whose family had been locked up in the ghetto of Egerszeg and then almost annihilated in the death camp, said two prayers at the unveiling.



source: tev.hu

NEWS AND OPINIONS ABOUT ANTISEMITISM IN HUNGARY

According to the Washington Times, antisemitism in Hungary is misunderstood

Source: washingtontimes.com;
neokohn.hu

9-10 December 2019 Ironically, both the ADL and international media frame Hungary as being a particularly sinful environment, writes Lee Cohen, a former visiting research fellow of the Danube Institute in Budapest. In his view, in the interest of intellectual honesty, it is essential to set the record straight concerning Hungary and the global misperception of its level of antisemitism.

In his description, during his stay in Hungary, he was fortunate to witness firsthand the many ways Hungary is combatting antisemitism through education, legislation, the attitudes and actions of its leaders, and through its efforts to strengthen Hungarian Jewish communities. *"Hungary has one of the most positive governments in Europe where Israel is concerned and is one of the safest places for Jews in Europe today,"* he added. In his article, he described and quoted concrete examples and statements, among others, from a report Rabbi Slomo Köves, head of the United Hungarian Jewish Congregations, gave to *The Jerusalem Post*.

In its November report, our foundation also reported on the research results of the New York-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

According to the *Washington Post* publicist, the ADL's findings and reality are quite far apart. ADL's research has shown that Hungary is the fourth most antisemitic country in the world, and 42 percent of the population holds antisemitic views.

"To its credit, the current leadership in Hungary has moved laudably beyond the sins of its antecedents. It is high time the world realizes that today's Hungary boldly rejects antisemitism and strives to safeguard and support its Jewish communities," added the author.

OTHER NEWS

Ursula von der Leyen: "Antisemitism is toxic to society"

Source: MTI, welt.de, 168ora.hu

10 December 2019 *"Antisemitism is a poison for our community, and for that reason, everyone must fight it,"* said Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels at a conference organized by the European Jewish Congress (EJC) and the European Parliament Working Group on Antisemitism. Ursula von der Leyen stated in her speech that the attacks on Jewish communities were *"attacks on all of us."* Therefore, the European Commission will step up its fight against antisemitism and provide more robust support for the Jewish people.

Referring to the antisemitic attack claiming the lives of two people in Halle, Germany, in early October, the chairman of the committee called it regrettable that Jews were being attacked almost every day in Europe, and the number was increasing. *"This creates an atmosphere in which Jews no longer feel safe and start to doubt their future in Europe. Without Jews, there is no Europe,"* the politician said.

She announced that Margaritis Schinas, the European Commissioner for the European Way of Life, would be the European Commission Coordinator for combatting antisemitism.

In the article published in connection with the conference, *Die Welt* also addresses the fact that many studies suggest that antisemitism is on the rise in Europe, wrote *168ora.hu*. A poll by the European Commission's Fundamental Rights Agency found that 39% of Jews in the European Union have been subjected to religious harassment, hostility, or assault over the past five years. In 79 percent of these cases, no report was made to the public safety authorities or other organizations. As according to the majority of respondents, the complaint would not change anything anyway.

As the German weekly newspaper writes,

six EU Member States - including Finland, Ireland, and Hungary - do not even have accurate surveys of antisemitic cases. In contrast, in Hungary, the Action and Protection Foundation has been monitoring and conducting surveys of antisemitic incidents since 2013, which the OSCE also publishes on its European antisemitic incidents database.

**ACTION AND PROTECTION
FOUNDATION
LEGAL ACTIONS**

This month no new legal proceedings were initiated by the Action and Protection Foundation (APF), and no progress was made in previous cases.

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.	1-3rd of December	APF and Slomó Köves responded to Lajos Kósa's speech – the politician finally apologized	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
2.	9th of December; 13th of December	Open antisemitic incitement in an article published in the Magyar Nemzet	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
3.	9-10th of December	According to the Washington Times, antisemitism in Hungary is misunderstood	News and Opinions about Antisemitism in Hungary
4.	10th of December	Ursula von der Leyen: "Antisemitism is toxic to society"	Other News
5.	16th of December	Kálmán Szalai: "Under the name of Action and Protection League, a new international organization was formed."	Community News And Responses
6.	17th of December	Jewish monument scribbled over in Makó	Antisemitic Hate Incidents – Hate Speech
7.	18th of December	Jewish leaders met in Paris for a conference on countering antisemitism	Community News And Responses
8.	21st of December	The Zalaegerszeg Holocaust Monument was re-established	Community News And Responses
9.	22nd of December	Mazsihisz Rabbi (would have) organized a common prayer evening with antisemitic Palestinian	Further Hate Incidents

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.

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:

The Facebook page:

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:

13597539-12302010-00057157

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ACTION AND PROTECTION LEAGUE

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