

EMBARGO: 11 July 2024 06:00 CET

Jews in Europe still face high levels of antisemitism

Antisemitism persists in the EU, affecting Jews both online and offline. Concerns over safety and frequent experiences of harassment force many to conceal their Jewish identity. These alarming insights come from the latest survey by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA). The EU and some of its Member States have put in place measures and action plans to tackle antisemitism. EU countries need to build on these efforts to ensure Jews can live their lives with dignity, free from hate and fear. This is especially important given the impact that the ongoing conflict in the Middle East has had on Jewish communities in Europe.

FRA's [third survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU](#) reveals their experiences and perceptions of antisemitism, and shows the obstacles they face in living an openly Jewish life.

The survey pre-dates the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023 and Israel's military response in Gaza. But the report includes information about antisemitism collected from 12 Jewish community organisations more recently. Jewish people have experienced more antisemitic incidents since October 2023, with some organisations reporting an increase of more than 400%.

The survey results point to:

- **Rising antisemitism:** 80% of respondents feel that antisemitism has grown in their country in the five years before the survey.
- **High levels of antisemitism online:** 90% of respondents encountered antisemitism online in the year before the survey.
- **Antisemitism in the public sphere:** in the year before the survey, 56% of respondents encountered offline antisemitism from people they know and 51% in the media.
- **Harassment:** 37% say they were harassed because they are Jewish in the year before the survey. Most of them experienced harassment multiple times. Antisemitic harassment and violence mostly take place in streets, parks, or shops.
- **Safety and security concerns:** Most respondents continue to worry for their own (53%) and their family's (60%) safety and security. Over the years, FRA research has shown that antisemitism tends to increase in times of tension in the Middle East. In this survey, 75% feel that people hold them responsible for the Israeli government's actions because they are Jewish.
- **Hidden lives:** 76% hide their Jewish identity at least occasionally and 34% avoid Jewish events or sites because they do not feel safe. As a reaction to online antisemitism, 24% avoid posting content that would identify them as Jewish, 23%

say that they limited their participation in online discussions, and 16% reduced their use of certain platforms, websites or services.

The EU and its Member States have put in place measures against antisemitism, which have led to some progress. These include the [EU's first ever strategy on combating antisemitism](#) and [action plans in some EU countries](#). The report suggests concrete ways for building on that progress:

- **Monitoring and adequately funding antisemitism strategies and action plans:** This includes adopting plans in those EU countries which do not have them and developing indicators to monitor progress.
- **Securing the safety and security of Jewish communities:** Countries need to invest more in protecting Jewish people, working closely with the affected communities.
- **Tackling antisemitism online:** Online platforms need to address and remove antisemitic content online, to adhere to the [EU's Digital Services Act](#). They also need to better investigate and prosecute illegal antisemitic content online.
- **Encouraging reporting and improving recording of antisemitism:** National authorities should step up efforts to raise rights awareness among Jews, encourage them to report antisemitic incidents and improve the recording of such incidents. Greater use of third-party and anonymous reporting could help.

The survey covers Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain and Sweden where around 96% of the EU's estimated Jewish population live. Almost 8,000 Jews aged 16 or over took part in the online survey from January to June 2023. This is the third survey of its kind, following those of [2013](#) and [2018](#).

Quote from FRA Director [Sirpa Rautio](#):

"Europe is witnessing a wave of antisemitism, partly driven by the conflict in the Middle East. This severely limits Jewish people's ability to live in safety and with dignity. We need to build on existing laws and strategies to protect communities from all forms of hate and intolerance, online as well as offline. In an increasingly polarised society, we urgently need to spread the message of tolerance and ensure respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all."

For more, please consult our [press pack](#) or contact: media@fra.europa.eu / Tel.: +43 1 580 30 653