

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

Second survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews in the EU

Factsheet – France

“At work and in the media and social media, antisemitism is a daily and unrepressed occurrence.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, France) // Au travail et sur les réseaux et dans les médias, l'antisémitisme y est quotidien et décomplexé.

“Some news outlets publish misinformation, the internet is polluted by antisemitism. The situation gets worse every day.” (Man, 60–69 years old, France) // Certains médias pratiquent la désinformation, Internet est pollué par l'antisémitisme. La situation s'aggrave jour par jour.

“Social media dramatically amplifies and spreads antisemitic hate quickly.” (Woman, 60–69 years old, France) // Les réseaux sociaux sont des amplificateurs et accélérateurs dramatiques de la haine antisémite

“Trivialising the shoah is very serious and yet so many things turn up on social media our young people have to live through this all the time.” (Woman, 50–54 years old, France) // C'est très grave de banaliser la shoah et pourtant trop de choses circulent sur les réseaux sociaux nos jeunes vivent cela tout le temps.

“As far as I'm concerned I hide my Magen David according to the situation I'm in. It's shameful...” (Woman, 45–49 years old, France) // Quant à moi je planque ma magen david selon les circonstances. C est honteux..

“Due to antisemitism at our children's school, and in the [REGION] where we live, we have had to move to a different town where the costs are much higher. Financially, life is more difficult and we can't leave France because of our jobs.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, France) // A cause de l'antisémitisme à l'école de nos enfants, et dans le val d'oise ou nous vivions, nous avons dû déménager dans une autre ville beaucoup plus chère. La vie est plus difficile niveau financier, et nous ne pouvons pas quitter la France par rapport à nos emplois.

“Laws and actions against antisemitism are not effective at all; even at the higher levels of State, nothing seems to be successful in fighting antisemitism.” (Man, 70–79 years old, France) // Les lois et les actes contre l'antisémitisme ne sont pas du tout efficaces ; au plus haut niveau de l'état rien ne paraît être efficace pour lutter contre l'antisémitisme.

The survey in a nutshell

The report presents the main findings of FRA's second survey on Jewish people's experiences and perceptions of hate crime, discrimination and antisemitism. It analyses data from the responses of 16,395 self-identified Jewish people in 12 EU Member States – Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These Member States are home to over 96 % of the EU's estimated Jewish population.

The survey was open to individuals aged 16 years and over who consider themselves Jewish – based on religion, culture, upbringing, ethnicity, parentage or any other reason – and who, at the time of the survey, were living in one of the survey countries. The largest samples were obtained from the two countries which, according to estimates, have the largest Jewish populations in the EU – France and the United Kingdom (over 3,000). Samples over 1,000 respondents were obtained in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. For the remaining seven countries, the sample sizes ranged from 400 to 800 respondents.

In France, 3,869 respondents filled in the online survey.

Selected results for France

Manifestations of antisemitism

- According to the survey findings, 95 % of the respondents in France consider antisemitism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 85 %)
- 93 % of the respondents in France consider antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- 90 % of the respondents in France consider racism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 84 %)
- 52 % of the respondents in France consider intolerance towards Muslims to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 57 %), and 66 % of the respondents in France consider intolerance towards Muslims being increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 72 %)
- A large majority of respondents in France (95 %) consider antisemitism expressed online as a problem in the country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- A large majority of respondents in France (93 %) believe that antisemitism online has increased over the past five years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 88 %)
- Most survey respondents in France say they are regularly exposed to negative statements about Jews. A large majority of respondents in France (80 %) identify the internet as the most common forum for negative statements (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 80 %). The most frequent comment made by non-Jewish people in France is according to the respondents the statement: *Israelis behave "like Nazis" towards the Palestinians* (53 %)

Safety and security – in France

- More than half the respondents worry about becoming a victim of an antisemitic verbal insult or harassment (60 %) or being physically attacked (58 %) in the next 12 months (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 47 % and 40 %, respectively)
- More than one third of respondents (38 %) at least sometimes wear, carry or display items that could identify them as Jewish. Of those respondents who at least sometimes carry or display such items, majority (82 %) at least occasionally avoid doing so (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 49 % and 71 %, respectively)
- Nearly half of the respondents have considered emigrating (44 %) in the past five years because they did not feel safe as a Jew in France (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 38 %)
- Two thirds of respondents (67 %) believe that the French government's efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, a half of the respondents (51 %) positively assess the French government's efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 70 % and 54 %, respectively)
- 85 % of the respondents said that the Arab-Israeli conflict impacts a great deal their feeling of safety in France (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 69%).

Violence against Jews: experiences of harassment

- Over one third of the respondents in France (37 %) experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey. One quarter (27 %) encountered such harassment in the 12 months before the survey (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 39 % and 28 %, respectively)

- Comments made in person, and offensive gestures or inappropriate staring, are the most common forms of antisemitic harassment personally experienced by respondents – 15 % and 16 %, respectively, of the respondents in France said they were faced with these forms of harassment in the 12 months before the survey. 10 % said that antisemitic offensive comments were posted on the internet (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 18 %, 16 % and 10 %, respectively)
- When asked to describe the perpetrator of the most serious incident of antisemitic harassment experienced in the five years before the survey – to the extent possible and based on their perceptions – in France, respondents in 40 % of the cases identified the perpetrator as someone they cannot describe, 33 % – someone with Muslim extremist views, and 21 % – someone with a left-wing political views (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 31 %, 30 % and 21 %, respectively)

Reporting

- The majority of respondents in France (80 %) who experienced antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey did not report the most serious incident to the police or to any other organisation (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 79 %)
- In 12 surveyed countries, almost half (48 %) of the respondents who did not report the most serious incident to the police said that nothing would have changed had they done so. A similar proportion (43 %) of respondents did not consider the incident to be serious enough.

Rights awareness

- The majority of respondents in France are aware of legislation that forbids discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion – 90 % of the respondents indicated knowing about antidiscrimination law when applying for a job (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 87 %)
- In France, the majority of respondents (82 %) are aware of legislation that forbids denial or trivialisation of the Holocaust (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 65 %).