

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

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

Factsheet – Spain

'The media are providing fake news to the citizens, creating prejudices in this way.' (Woman, 16–19 years old, Spain)

'I am not scared when I leave onto the street, as my mezuzah is next to the inside of my house and cannot be seen. So, only those that come into my flat can see it. I am scared to put the mezuzah in the outside part.' (Woman, 30–34 years old, Spain)

'The looks in the community center, I feel them as the worst part I experienced, because they have potential for physical violence; however, of course I get uglier comments in the social media.' (Man, 30–34 years old, Spain)

'The lack of antisemitic incidents in the public space is due mainly to the fact that a lot of Jews, we decide not to use the Kippah or to talk much about the topic, in order not to be discriminated. We are not discriminated, because we are 'hiding'.' (Man, 35–39 years old, Spain)

'I never identify myself in public in order to avoid discrimination. Spanish society is not exposed to many religions and does not understand Judaism and I am afraid to be seen as 'strange'. I prefer to integrate in society in my day-to-day.' (Woman, 30–34 years old, Spain)

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 (3,869 respondents) and the United Kingdom (4,731 respondents). 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 Spain, 570 respondents filled in the online survey.

Selected results for Spain

Manifestations of antisemitism

- According to the survey findings, 78 % of the respondents in Spain consider antisemitism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 85 %)
- 73 % of the respondents in Spain consider antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- 67 % of the respondents in Spain consider racism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 84 %)

- 37 % of the respondents in Spain 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 51 % of the respondents in Spain consider intolerance towards Muslims has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 72 %)
- A large majority of respondents in Spain (86 %) consider antisemitism expressed online as a problem in the country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- The majority of respondents in Spain (79%) believe that antisemitism online has increased over the past five years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 88 %)
- Most survey respondents in Spain say they are regularly exposed to negative statements about Jews. A large majority of respondents in Spain (82 %) 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 Spain is according to the respondents the statement: *Israelis behave “like Nazis” towards the Palestinians* (68 %)

Safety and security – in Spain

- Less than half of the respondents (42 %) worry about becoming a victim of an antisemitic verbal insult or harassment in the next 12 months, and a similar amount (39 %) worry about being physically attacked in that same period (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 47 % and 40 %, respectively)
- Over half of respondents (60 %) 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, two thirds (67 %) at least occasionally avoid doing so (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 49 % and 71 %, respectively)
- Over half of the respondents have considered emigrating (65 %) in the past five years because they did not feel safe as a Jew in Spain (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 38 %)
- A majority of respondents (82 %) believe that the Spanish government’s efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, about half of the respondents (55 %) positively assess the Spanish government’s efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 70 % and 54 %, respectively)
- 84 % of the respondents said that the Arab-Israeli conflict impacts their feeling of safety in Spain (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 69%)

Violence against Jews: experiences of harassment

- Half of the respondents in Spain (46 %) experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey. A third (32 %) 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, 18 % of the respondents in Spain said they were faced with these forms of harassment in the 12 months before the survey. 13 % 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 Spain, respondents in 34 % of the cases identified the perpetrator as someone with a left-wing political view, 28 % – as an acquaintance or friend, 24 % – work or school/college colleague (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 21 %, 15 % and 16 %, respectively).

Reporting

- The majority of respondents in Spain (85 %) 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 Spain are aware of legislation that forbids discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion – 70 % of the respondents indicated knowing about antidiscrimination law when applying for a job (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 87 %)
- In Spain, the majority of respondents (27 %) are aware of legislation that forbids denial or trivialisation of the Holocaust (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 65 %).