

Experiences and perceptions of antisemitism

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

Factsheet – United Kingdom

“I feel very safe in the UK. I have been living outside of London as well but it was never a problem to be openly Jewish.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, the United Kingdom)

“The survey asks if I have personally been a victim of antisemitism, which I have not, but I feel it’s important to add that I have a strong feeling of unease at the moment regarding the level of antisemitism in the media and online which makes me feel unsafe.” (Woman, 40–44 years old, the United Kingdom)

“Some forms of antisemitism (especially in Social Media) have become so commonplace that they are almost accepted. These are the sort of things that you can’t report to the police or even to the media platform, but strengthen a hostile culture. For example, references to Jewish bankers, Rothschild cults, etc etc.” (Man, 40–44 years old, the United Kingdom)

“I have had anti-Semitic comments made to me at work such as ‘all Jews are rich’” (Woman, 20–24 years old, the United Kingdom)

“It’s about perceptions. I have not personally experienced anti-Semitism nor seen attacks on Jewish buildings etc. However, I read about them in the media. But I like to judge on what I have experienced myself not just on what I read.” (Woman, 60–69 years old, the United Kingdom)

“We can, and many choose to, hide or draw attention away from our identity. Therefore, people are reluctant to discuss antisemitism as they cannot see how a Jew can possibly be discriminated against, therefore Jews must be over-emphasising it.” (Woman, 16–19 years old, the United Kingdom)

“Two years ago I thought maybe at some stage I might need to emigrate. I have taken no steps to do this, but before I would not even have imagined leaving the UK.” (Man, 50–54 years old, the United Kingdom)

“I walk down a main street every Shabbos day I don’t think a week goes by that I don’t get a hoot or middle fingers. It’s very intimidating.” (Man, 30–34 years old, the United Kingdom)

“Most Jews that I know are not visibly Jewish, and the people who are visible (e.g. wear Chasidic regalia, a kippa or religious jewellery) are, in my experience, the ones who attract the most attacks.” (Woman, 16–19 years old, the United Kingdom)

“I am regularly abused by right wing Jews on line who call me self hating, Kapoor, and have posted my name and address on a public list on line and encouraged others to attack and harass me. They got the information from the election information when I stood for election locally.” (Woman, 60–69 years old, the United Kingdom)

“You helpfully asked about ‘hiding’ Jewish identity which is something I definitely do, but not only for personal safety, I do it to avoid discrimination or inappropriate scrutiny at work, and when I meet new people, so that I am not unduly ‘judged’ in any prejudicial way before they get to know me.” (Woman, 60–69 years old, the United Kingdom)

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 the United Kingdom, 4,731 respondents filled in the online survey.

Selected results for the United Kingdom

Manifestations of antisemitism

- According to the survey findings, 75 % of the respondents in the United Kingdom consider antisemitism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 85 %)
- 88 % of the respondents in the United Kingdom consider antisemitism has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- 79 % of the respondents in the United Kingdom consider racism to be a very big or a fairly big problem in their country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 84 %)
- 65 % of the respondents in the United Kingdom 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 77 % of the respondents in the United Kingdom consider intolerance towards Muslims has increased over the past 5 years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 72 %)
- A large majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (84 %) consider antisemitism expressed online as a problem in the country (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 89 %)
- A large majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (85 %) believe that antisemitism online has increased over the past five years (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 88 %)
- Most survey respondents in the United Kingdom say they are regularly exposed to negative statements about Jews. A large majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (77 %) 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 the United Kingdom is according to the respondents the statement: *Israelis behave "like Nazis" towards the Palestinians* (42 %)

Safety and security – in the United Kingdom

- Almost a third of the respondents (29 %) worry about becoming a victim of an antisemitic verbal insult or harassment in the next 12 months, almost a quarter (20 %) worry about being physically attacked in that same period (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 47 % and 40 %, respectively)
- More than half of respondents (58 %) 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, the majority (61 %) at least occasionally avoid doing so (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 49 % and 71 %, respectively)
- Almost a third of the respondents have considered emigrating (29 %) in the past five years because they did not feel safe as a Jew in the United Kingdom (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 38 %)
- A majority of respondents (68 %) believe that the United Kingdom government's efforts to combat antisemitism are not effective. Meanwhile, a large majority of the respondents (75 %) positively assess

the United Kingdom government's efforts to ensure the security needs of the Jewish communities (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 70 % and 54 %, respectively)

- 55 % of the respondents said that the Arab-Israeli conflict impacts their feeling of safety in the United Kingdom (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 69 %)

Violence against Jews: experiences of harassment

- More than a third of the respondents in the United Kingdom (34 %) experienced some form of antisemitic harassment in the five years before the survey. A quarter of the respondents (25 %) 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 – 16 % and 13 %, respectively, of the respondents in the United Kingdom said they were faced with these forms of harassment in the 12 months before the survey. 8 % 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 the United Kingdom, respondents in 29 % of the cases identified the perpetrator as someone they could not describe, 25 % – someone with a left-wing political view, and 22 % – someone with a Muslim extremist view (averages in the 12 surveyed countries: 31 %, 21 % and 30 %, respectively).

Reporting

- The majority of respondents in the United Kingdom (76 %) 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 the United Kingdom are aware of legislation that forbids discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion – 92 % of the respondents indicated knowing about antidiscrimination law when applying for a job (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 87 %)
- In the United Kingdom, less than half of respondents (37 %) are aware of legislation that forbids denial or trivialisation of the Holocaust (average in the 12 surveyed countries: 65 %).